

TIDAL WAVE PRO- NOUNCED A HOAX.

The following correspondence from the New Orleans Times, embodying the reply of Professor Forshey to inquiries in regard to the prophesied "tidal wave," will be read with interest:

New Orleans, September 9, 1871. Professor C. G. Forshey:

DEAR SIR—A widely extended apprehension prevails among the people of the gulf and Atlantic coast, produced by a prediction, imputed to Professor Agassiz, of a great tidal wave or inundation of the coast from the sea.

After some conversation with you, we ask, on behalf ourselves and many others we venture to represent, that you give us for publication your views as to the merits of the prediction, and if convenient, your reasons, briefly expressed, for the view you entertain.

We ask this favor, believing that such publication will tend to allay the public anxiety, from your reputation as a man of science.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves very truly your obedient servants,

WILLIAM AUSTIN, M. D., SAMUEL CHOPPIN, M. D., ROBERT W. RAYNE, JAMES DESBAN, A. K. LEE, WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS,

CITY HOTEL, New Orleans, September 9, 1871.

GENTLEMEN: I have the pleasure to acknowledge your card of this day, asking my opinion of merits of the prediction of a "tidal wave," imputed to Professor Agassiz.

The like questions have recently been addressed to me so often and from so many quarters, that I am obliged to you, gentlemen, for furnishing me an occasion, once for all, to answer them, and so far as any word from me may have any value to allay public anxiety in the premises.

Without the pleasure of a personal acquaintance will the great Swiss naturalist, I will volunteer his defense any charge of agency in this most monstrous and cruel hoax.

Professor Agassiz is an illustrious savant in his domain of inquiry, which, I believe, has never embraced the physical sciences. Zoology, geology and the natural sciences generally, as distinguished from the physical sciences, bound the field of his distinctions; and, therefore, he is without authority, should he ever become so unphilosophic as to assume the prophet for the amusement of alarming the unscientific.

With this defense of an illustrious philosopher, now absent, as I learn, on a mission of discovery and collection, you will pardon me if I add a few views, which appear to me worthy the attention and recollection of all persons, humble or lettered.

Science thus far has furnished man no keys to the far future beyond the regular operations of known laws.

The alternation of day and night; the phases of the moon; the regular return of the tides; the seasons of the year, and of the planets to their positions, as well as ascertained periods—long since fully explained—are relied upon as our intuitions, our staple of knowledge. Any accidents relating to any of these are beyond human ken; and the child has as much authority as Herschel, Arago or Leverrier, in predicting them.

No "conjunction of the planets," or combination of causes known to science, can give the remotest guess when an earthquake will occur, or a volcano discharge its lava, at any place on the globe; and nothing short of a considerable upheaval beneath the sea, or disturbance of its bed, can produce any such wave as is fancied in this absurd prediction, or in any way create a greater rise or fall of water than may be due to storm winds, or lunar tides of the ordinary kind.

Spring tides are known as the high and low tides, occurring about the change and full of the moon. At these times the earth, moon and sun are nearly in a right line, and hence the tides, by combined attraction of sun and moon on the earth, increase the common tides by some inches, or even some feet, at special localities. These are all well known and accounted for, and may be predicted, by Mark Twain, or his humblest almanac reader.

No other heavenly bodies are sufficiently near to the earth to affect sensibly the tides of the ocean; so that no "conjunction of the planets," whatever their positions, can appreciably influence the earth's tides. The changes that are taking

place, by the operations of geological causes, are generally so slow as scarcely to be appreciated within any historic period. These, however, are sometimes attended by great and sudden movements called earthquakes and volcanoes. But they occur, as above stated, at such long and irregular intervals that no sane man has ever ventured to predict them. And no better test of fitness for a madhouse could be given, by either a philosopher or a pretender, than the utterance of any such prophesy.

Returning my thanks, gentlemen, for the value you are pleased to attach to my opinion on this as a matter of public interest I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, CALEB G. FORSHEY.

TO THE COLORED VOTERS.

In 1827, when the British abolition of slavery was agitating the world, its fever struck American soil. Prominent among its advocates were Wm. Lloyd Garrison and others. That begins the real history of the Republican party. As the abolition of slavery in the West Indies occurred soon after, which being a national act, it caused the fever of abolition to be enlarged in this country, until it became the object of all deep thinking men; many of whom wrote and lectured upon it. From this, we date the animosity of the Democratic element toward any advancement of the now liberated race. Men who dared to call themselves abolitionists were hung or rode upon a rail, their bodies coated with tar and feathers. Should they be so unfortunate as to be South—unless they were rich—there is no telling what became of them. Thus the Abolition party struggled against every manner of opposition, spurned and rotten-egged in the North, whipped, feathered, or murdered in the South, they gave not up that spirit of conviction, that idea that slavery was wrong. After long years they merged forth, and gained some small elections. The opposition put forth by the Democrats in the West, caused many a noble heart to cease its vibrations, and that for the benefit of our downtrodden race.

In 1856 the Abolitionist became the present Republican party. You all have heard of Fremont. He was the first man the Republicans ever run for President. He was defeated. Thus, after many years of labor, they were yet too weak to carry any National election. With this defeat did their noble effort stop? No; but it regirded its strength; and when men dared not to speak of our republican principles in the South, it put forth one mighty effort and gained the election of 1860.

Look at the Democratic party? Cast from their pinnacle of power, their right to maltreat every human being, and be protected in it, they went to war, as the Rescue, the last court of nations, to maintain their position, that you and I had no rights that white men were bound to respect. After a long and disastrous war, in which the shackles of slavery were broken, we find that party, with its old prejudice, arrayed against any law that would secure to our race their inherent rights. Who gave us those rights? The Republican party, amid the uproar of heavy taxation, the effect of a late war, hoisted on its banner the Constitutional Amendments, at the risk of their party eminence, and losing several States. By the unrelenting efforts of the Democrats to crush our race—to forever bury their rights in the reconstruction of the Southern States—we find that they persist, wherever in power, to make unequal laws. Look at the Georgia Legislature! The Democratic members, after being elected by colored majorities, hold a meeting and expel all of its colored members! Yet, with the sang froid of the Angel of Darkness, they tell us here, in Texas, to vote for them! Will we do it? No, never while the sun its daily course performs, or till earth ceases to exist! Our people have felt the lash—which brought blood more precious than gold—the sting of which has not yet departed, or ever will until this generation shall have passed away. And until then, at least, may Democracy "depart" in vain. No; while the Democrats oppose our education, our rights with public carriers, they have still that spirit of animosity which has ever distinguished itself against our race. Let us ever oppose Democracy, and teach our children to regard the name of Democrat as synonymous with all that is contemptible.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

Call for a Southern States Convention.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted by the State Convention of Georgia, held in Atlanta, February 3, 1871:

WHEREAS, The peculiar condition of the colored people in the Southern States, growing out of a combination of local cause, does, in the judgment of this Convention, demand a more practical understanding and mutual co-operation, to the end that a more thorough union of effort, action, and organization may exist; and

Whereas, We believe a convention of the Southern States would most happily supply this exigency and receive the cordial endorsement of the colored citizens of said States; Therefore,

Resolved, That we, the members of the Georgia State Convention now assembled, do authorize the President of this Convention to issue a call, in the name of the said Convention for a Southern States Convention, to be held at such time and place as he, and those with whom he may advise, shall determine best adapted to the public convenience.

The above is a true extract from the minutes of the Georgia State Convention.

J. S. STOKELY, Secretary of the Convention.

To the Colored Citizens of the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia:

Having been deputed, in pursuance of the above resolution, as President of the Georgia State Convention, and by the endorsement of the distinguished gentlemen whose names are subscribed, we do hereby call the above named Convention to meet in the city of Columbia, South Carolina, on the 18th day of October, 1871, at twelve o'clock M.

As the Convention did not advise as to what should constitute the ratio of representation, we suggest that the respective States be representatively apportioned the same as they are in the Congress of the United States, to wit, One delegate from each Congressional District, and two from the District of Columbia. The several Congressional Districts will elect their own delegates, which elected delegates may meet and elect two for the State at large, unless the respective States shall otherwise provide by State Conventions.

Those who may be accredited as delegates, should meet the Convention prepared to remain in session one week, if necessary, as questions requiring mature deliberation will doubtless come before it, and should not be disposed of precipitantly.

Most Respectfully, H. M. TURNER, President Ga. State Convention, Macon, Ga., May 29, 1871.

A few of many gentlemen endorsing the call:

Alabama—Hon. James T. Rapier.

Arkansas—Hon. J. T. White.

Delaware—Howard Day, Esq.

Florida—Hon. Johnathan C. Gibbs, Secretary of State; Hon. Josiah T. Wall, Hon. H. S. Harmon.

Georgia—Hon. J. F. Long, Hon. Edwin Belcher, Hon. T. G. Campbell, Hon. J. M. Simms, J. F. Quarles, Esq.

Kentucky—W. H. Gibson, Esq., G. W. Dupee, Esq.

Louisiana—Hon. P. B. S. Pinckback, Lieutenant Governor O. J. Dunn.

Maryland—Isaac Meyers, Esq., W. M. Perkins, Esq., John H. Butler, Esq.

Mississippi—Hon. James Lynch, Secretary of State; Hon. E. Scarborough.

North Carolina—Hon. James H. Harris, Hon. George L. Mabson, J. T. Schenck, Esq.

South Carolina—Lieutenant Governor A. J. Ransier, Hon. R. C. DeLarge, Hon. R. H. Cain, Hon. Jos. Rainey, Hon. R. B. Elliott, Hon. F. L. Cardoza, Secretary of State.

Tennessee—Abram Smith, Esq., Alfred E. McKinney, Esq., Henry Harding, Esq., M. R. Johnson, Esq.

Texas—Hon. Richard Nelson, Esq., Hon. J. T. Ruby.

District of Columbia—Hon. Frederick Douglass, Hon. James A. Handy.

TO THE COLORED CITIZENS OF LOUISIANA.

Whereas we favor the Convention contemplated in the above call, and are desirous of having the colored people of our State represented in the same, therefore we issue this call for a State Convention of the colored citizens of Louisiana to meet on the 11th day of August next, in the city of New Orleans, for the purpose of electing delegates to the Southern States Convention. The basis of representation in said convention to be the same as that to the lower House of the General Assembly.

P. B. S. PINCKBACK, C. C. ANTOINE, A. E. BARBER, OSCAR J. DUNN, J. W. QUINN, GEORGE Y. KELSO, EDWARD BUTLER, F. C. ANTOINE.

* * * Republican papers of this State lose copy.

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