

Evening Telegraph

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1870.

NAPOLEON'S SURRENDER.

Whatever else may be said of the Napoleons, history will at least record that they played for desperate stakes. Ambitious, restless, and discontented, no amount of assured power could gratify their insatiate cravings, and they have risked splendid crowns in the wild hope of adorning them with new jewels. As the uncle met his Waterloo, so the nephew has now met his Sedan. All the fading glories of the empire founded on fraud and endowed with a prolonged existence by tyranny disappear with the terse announcement of King William that the Emperor has surrendered as a prisoner, and that a residence will be assigned to him as soon as an approaching interview is completed.

The Emperor is still recognized as Regent; but since all the French armies that pretended to be able to cope with the invaders have been destroyed, resistance, if it is continued at all, must be maintained in a spirit of sheer desperation. If the future of this unprecedented campaign is to be judged by the past, there can be but one result to further contests between armies of such disproportionate strength, and additional bloodshed will only increase the number of victims to the sanguinary fray without affording France a single rational hope of reversing the fortunes of war. It is high time that Paris should abandon the idea of attempting impossibilities, and prepare to make peace on the best terms that the invaders will give. If France must have a political revolution first, to rid herself of the Napoleonic dynasty as well as the Emperor, and to prepare for her new position, let the change be made quickly, decently, and in order—but let some authority that Frenchmen can trust be ready to frame a treaty before the enemy thunder at the gates of her capital.

WANTED—A LEADER.

We are now within six weeks of the annual election. Upon the result depends the political complexion of the Legislature that is to apportion the State anew for Congressmen, Senators, and Representatives, and our delegation to Congress may save or sacrifice Republican supremacy in that body. Although no State or national ticket is to be voted for, the election so close at hand is one of the greatest moments, and may control political events for years in the future. If the Legislature should be lost, Democratic power would be assured in the State until destroyed by Democratic folly.

It is strange indeed that a contest involving so much is entirely without general leadership. A fraudulent attempt was made to usurp the Republican organization by Senator Cameron, through the agency of a so-called Congressional Committee, but the protest of the Republicans of the State was so pronounced that the open effort was abandoned. Mr. Covode, the regular Chairman (who cannot have a regular successor until a State Convention is held), called the State Committee together, and it was generally believed that the campaign was to be taken in hand with energy at once. But the committee did nothing but chill the ardor of the Republicans by formally discarding the issue of constitutional reform; and, having done its utmost to destroy the vitality of the party, the general campaign was abandoned to chance. A sub-committee was appointed to look after the doubtful districts, but, unfortunately, that sub-committee is more likely to promote discord than success. It is mainly managed by a prominent candidate for State Treasurer, who is operating under the shadow of Cameron. The care of the doubtful districts, therefore, means simply to force nominees who will serve the purposes of the "ring," defraud the people out of an honest Republican reform movement, and extend our system of legislative debauchery until another United States Senatorship is auctioned off to perpetuate the blistering shame of the State.

There is no general, responsible head to the Republican party; no plan of organization; no systematic effort to secure unity of action and a full vote. The result is intrigue, corruption, and discord in many sections of the State. In Allegheny county two full Republican tickets are in the field, without any prospect of reconciliation, and a mixed or Democratic delegation in the Legislature is certainly possible. In Washington and Beaver, where there is one thousand Republican majority in a full vote, the legislative ticket is more than doubtful, and a Republican Congressman is likely to be sacrificed in the war of factions. In the Erie and Crawford district, with 6000 Republican majority, the regular Senatorial nominee is likely to be beaten because of the frauds alleged in the primary elections, and the legislative nominees are not entirely secure. In the Lycoming, Union, and Snyder district it is feared that Republican success has been sacrificed to promote personal ends, and a Senator and three Representatives are placed in doubt, where there should be 500 majority. In the double Senatorial district rumors are rife of subordinating the wishes of the people to promote the selfish ends of Senatorial and Treasury rings, and if it be accomplished two Senators and at least two Representatives will be lost. Candidates have been badgered by the corruptors to pledge themselves to become the puppet tools of thieves, under the threat of defeat in case they refused. In Indiana and Westmoreland the same courses are producing like results, and the Legislative ticket is endangered and the Congressman more than doubtful. The same may be

said of the Somerset, Bedford and Fulton, and the Franklin and Perry Legislative districts, and the evil may make Mr. Cassa's re-election to Congress improbable. In this city the rings have their richest harvest, and their frauds hang like millstones upon the neck of the party. Legislative districts are regarded as a legitimate subject of barter, honest men are marked for defeat, and open disorganization is fostered against Mr. O'Neill because he refuses to yield the proper independence of the Representative to political speculators.

Thus is a great party in leading-strings and the prey of political vampires, without a single bold and skilful leader in position to harmonize its internal strife and organize it for victory. Where is Mr. Covode? Has he voluntarily abdicated to Cameron? If he was unwilling to take the helm he should have resigned, and asked the committee to appoint his successor. He cannot escape just and fearful responsibility for disaster, if it shall come by his transfer of his power to irresponsible men who have their own selfish purposes to attain. The Union League still remains an organized political power, and if the appointed general has surrendered his post, let the League come to the front again and drive the money-changers and political brokers from the temple. The time is short, the occasion urgent, and the great want is a competent and faithful Republican leader.

The Reading Convention may or may not have accomplished much in propagating minority representation; but it has performed the good office of presenting to the people of the State the necessity of a radical change in our system of legislation. The resolutions adopted strike at the root of the great cancer that has been gnawing at the vitals of the State when they demand purification by fundamental restrictions. On this point honest men of all parties agree, and it cannot become any sense a party question. The Republican State Committee committed a blunder that can be classed only as a crime by ignoring the question, and the Democracy will doubtless avail themselves of the advantage so foolishly offered them; but the mass of Republicans will act in good faith for restoring our State Government to purity, without regard to the action of interested party leaders.

A HEALTHY SIGN.—The old-line Republican Convention of Allegheny nominated a ticket in the interest of the old Treasury ring, and then declared for a Reform Convention. When tubs are thrown out for whales, there must be whales about that are expected to be fooled by the tubs. When anti-reformers declare for reform, the popular demand for reform must be imperative.

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