

DAILY DEMOCRAT.

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GEORGE W. DUPRE & CO., PROPRIETORS.

GEORGE W. DUPRE, JOHN AUGUSTIN, M. J. HEARSEY, ALBERT C. JANIN.

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The Weekly Democrat.

The Weekly Democrat, a large eight-page paper, will be furnished to subscribers at the following rates: One Year \$2 00, Six Months \$1 25, Three Months \$0 75, One Month \$0 25.

M. J. HEARSEY, EDITOR. NEW ORLEANS, DECEMBER 18, 1877.

In the case of the Police Jury of Jefferson parish against George Purgatoire, Chief Justice Manning, as the organ of the Supreme Court, yesterday rendered a very important decision, in which the limitations upon the taxing power of police juries are clearly and explicitly defined.

"But," says the court, "as the State levies other taxes than this one of four mills for the support of the State government, viz: the levee tax, the school tax, etc., so the police jury can levy or assess other taxes than this of four mills, but it can do this only where some special law authorizes it."

At a meeting held on the 10th inst., the Property Holders' Union, on a divided vote, adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That this body has received, with unfeigned satisfaction, the action of His Excellency Gov. Nichols, and that of the Hon. Louis Bush, Speaker of the House of Representatives, in the selection of a public printer at the recent sitting of the Printing Board.

This resolution was inferentially a condemnation of the Lieutenant Governor and the other members of the board who opposed awarding the State printing to the lowest bidder. Last night, however, as will be seen by reference to our city columns, the Union, by a unanimous vote, reconsidered the resolution and laid it on the table.

We are very much gratified at this action, for although we differ on many important points with the gentlemen who compose the Union, we are in accord with them upon others of equal importance, and we know them to be men with a conscientious purpose to promote the public welfare.

We think it proper to state that the reconsideration of the resolution was not designed to reflect upon the Governor and the Speaker as its original passage was upon the Lieutenant Governor and others. We understand the position of the Union to be simply this: that, having inquired into the subject, they are satisfied that Gov. Nichols, Lieut. Gov. Wiltz, Speaker Bush, and the other members of the Board, though differing as to the plan of disposing of this contract, were all conscientiously doing what they deemed for the public interest. This is the position the DEMOCRAT has always held toward the Printing Board, and we are sure it is the view of nine-tenths of the good people of Louisiana.

The old Mormon-Gentile squabble has broken out again in Washington. Congress is every year called on to devote a large portion of its time to the discussion of the private affairs of the Mormon prophets, the number of their wives, children and other little domestic concerns of this kind. If anything came of all this talk, it really promised to rid the country of polygamy, it might be excused, but as it is simply a quarrel between the Mormons and Gentiles of Utah for political power in that Territory, the people of the rest of the Union generally feel as little interest in the matter as if it were the question of the Sultan's wives and their troubles. The Gentiles have a large delegation now in Washington working in favor of such legislation as will drive the Mormons altogether out of the United States. They do not complain so much of polygamy; indeed, in their eyes, that is but a small offense. The great crime of the Mormons, in their judgment, is that they "grind down the poor, French tithes from all members of the church, keep the minds of the people in a false and superstitious faith, and by means of this faith control the whole legislation of the Territory."

In answer to this, it might be said that it is no business of the United States what the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints give to their Church; but the Mormons are entitled to the political management of the Territory, inasmuch as they compose nineteen-twentieths of the voters. The Gentiles will not admit this, however, and have, accordingly, sent a number of delegates to Washington to persuade Congress to pass an anti-Mormon law. In a law they propose that the Mormons shall be disfranchised; that polygamy shall be declared a high crime, and to be tried by a Jury.

By means of these and similar but severer relations, the Gentiles hope to crowd the Mormons altogether out of the country. As former, however, amount to less than twentieth of the population, and as the Mormons are the original settlers of the Territory, developed it and made it what it is, so look a little unjust for these Gentile leaders to propose so calmly and innocently to disfranchise nineteen-twentieths of the population and turn the control of the Territory over to an insignificant minority; and Congress to bind the Mormons hand and foot, and turn them over to the tender mercies of Gentile juries. If this be the Gentiles say it will be of great advantage to the country, and they might have put a good deal of money in the pockets of these disinterested Gentiles.

THE DEMOCRACY AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

In the recent struggle between the President and Senator Conkling, over the New York appointments, the Administration was chiefly sustained by the Democratic Senators, and Gen. Gordon, of Georgia, marshaled and led the Administration supporters. Twenty Democrats and only five Republicans voted to confirm the President's appointments, while five Democratic Senators voted with the Republicans to defeat and humiliate the Republican President. These facts certainly present a very extraordinary situation for our consideration.

We are at a loss to understand why Gen. Gordon and the other nineteen Democrats who co-operated with him should have become the champions of a Civil Service policy which, so far as it has been developed, is a disgrace to the country; and we are equally at a loss to understand why Senators Maxey, Eaton, Whyte, Dennis and McDonald should have sided with Conkling and the mass of the Republican Senators to sustain a false and vicious principle for the purpose of humiliating the President.

There is so much of wrong, so much of political littleness, so much of mere personal jealousy and antagonism on the side of both the President and Conkling in their squabble, that it is clearly the duty of the Democratic Senators to have nothing to do with it. The Civil Service Policy of the Administration which Gen. Gordon, in the debate, so warmly commended, is probably the most arrant and contemptible political fraud which any Administration ever spawned upon the country. The removals and appointments in the New York offices, over which the fight was made, it is now as clear as the noonday sun, were designed to serve strictly partisan and personal ends, and that the efficiency of the service was not in the remotest degree concerned.

In the prosecution of this remarkable policy the President has found no persons worthy to fill Federal offices in Louisiana outside of the Returning Board ring of rascals, or the old Warmoth gang of public robbers, while in South Carolina his Administration is sending all its energies to make that arch thief, Corbin, who has just been kicked away from the doors of the Senate, United States District Attorney. In many instances, in other States, men have been retained in office whose records are exceedingly objectionable, while worthy men have been displaced and others appointed whose selection would have been regarded as indecent, even under Grant. We submit that such a civil policy was not entitled to the laudation of Gen. Gordon or of any other Democrat. Nor had the Administration any claim to personal consideration from the Democratic Senators. When this fight between Conkling and the President occurred, the insult offered Louisiana, and indeed the whole country, by the admission of that ring of honor, Kellogg, into the Senate, was still fresh and rankling hot in our hearts, and the fact was notorious that the President and his friends had not lifted a finger to prevent the disgrace of the Senate, the humiliation of Louisiana and a flagrant and detestable wrong to the Democratic party.

Upon the other hand, it is impossible for us to understand the motives which prompted five Democrats to vote on the case in question with Conkling and the Republicans. Mr. Bayard and several other Democratic Senators laid down the correct theory of Federal appointments. Those appointments do not of right belong to the Senators of the several States. More has been done to corrupt the Civil Service by the custom of permitting Senators to control the appointment of Federal officials in their respective States than by all other agencies combined. The tenure of office act, designed to destroy the influence of President Johnson, was a revolutionary and perilous act, and should receive no countenance from Democrats. Upon general principles, therefore, the five Democrats who voted with Conkling committed a grievous wrong; they violated Democratic principles and committed themselves to a precedent fraught with incalculable ill to the country.

Neither was their course wise if it was dictated by policy. No more impolitic course could be adopted by Democrats than a support of Roscoe Conkling against the imbecile and already prostrate Administration of Mr. Hayes. Yet in the first year of its existence, the foundations of that Administration are so rotten with fraud that it trembles and rocks to its very base at every demand for the prosecution of its architects, the Returning Board; and such is its imbecility that it has become the foot ball of its own friends. It is unfit to be supported and unworthy of attack. It is helpless and contemptible at the feet of every party, and depends for the success of even its most insignificant measures upon the aims and policies of such factions as arise out of personal aspirations in either party. No more humiliating example has ever been presented to the world than the folly of an administration attempting to govern without the aid of a united party.

Conkling, upon the other hand, is one of the ablest and most powerful leaders in the Senate. His power only may be capable of controlling the State of New York against the Democratic party; indeed, he is one of the few men who are capable of holding the old Radical Republican party together as a national organization. If the action of the Democrats in their participation in the fight between the Administration and Conkling was prompted by policy, they should have united solidly, not to support the Civil Service fraud of Mr. Hayes, but to break down the pernicious power and influence of the most dangerous man to the country and the Democratic party—Senator Conkling.

We do not condemn the action of the Democrats who voted to confirm the New York nominations because they voted that way; indeed, we do not see how they could have voted otherwise. What we censure was the commendation of the Civil Service fraud with which they accompanied that particular act. The action of those Democrats who supported Conkling, it seems to us, is open to unqualified condemnation, for it had neither sound principle nor wise policy to justify it. It is quite humiliating to the members of the Democratic party at large that their representatives seem to think that it is their chief duty to interfere in the squabbles between the Administration and the men who created it, and to meddle in every act and appointment of the President. It is time that this was stopped. The Administration is a Republican Administration, and, until it is prepared to appoint Democrats to office, it is exceedingly undignified and dangerous for Democratic Representatives and Senators to take part in its appointments. Their duty ends with voting to confirm such appointments as are proper in the North and the least objectionable in the South, and to reject such as they regard as unfit to be made.

A REMARKABLE INCIDENT.

The late Alexandre Grailhe, whose remains were brought to this city from Europe in the steamship Nuremberg, had a singular and rather unpleasant experience on the field of honor in his younger days. Like all adventurous young Frenchmen forty years ago he could not avoid involvement in some of those numerous personal affairs which were then so frequent between Frenchmen and fiery young Cavaliers. With two very prominent and gallant gentlemen of the latter race Mr. Grailhe became engaged in controversies which led to meetings on the field of honor.

In the first instance the duel was fought with swords and the unfortunate Frenchman was run through the body, and not only suffered greatly from his wound, but exhibited for years afterwards the effect of the injury in a certain inclination of his body, which was not natural, owing to an internal abscess resulting from the wound. Some time after he engaged in his second rencontre, in which he received the bullet of his adversary right through the body. Strange to say the beneficent missile passed through the former wound, opening the abscess which threatened the estimable gentleman's life, and by inflicting a new, severe and painful wound, not only cured him, but had the effect of straightening his person to a rigid and exact perpendicularity, so that his carriage appeared even unnaturally stiff and haughty.

Quite a similar experience of the effect of wounds is related by Dr. Guthrie in his celebrated work on gunshot wounds, of that distinguished British chieftain who received his death wound on the plains of Chalmers, in the memorable battle on the 8th of January, 1815. We refer to Lieut. Gen. Sir Edward Pakenham. In the attack by the British at the close of the last century, on the French fortifications on the Island of Martinique, Col. Pakenham, who led the storming party, received a musket ball, which passed through his neck. He recovered from the wound, but was for some years afterwards very marked by it, bearing his head with a strong inclination to one side of his body. Seven or eight years subsequently Pakenham was the second man to ascend the ladders of Badajoz, in Spain, in the brilliant assault of the British on that fortified town, and was again shot through the neck, the ball entering on the opposite side to that of his old wound, and passed apparently through the same track. On recovering, his neck was brought into its original erect and natural position.

Of all things in this world, the verdicts of juries are the most uncertain and incomprehensible; there is no counting on them, no prophesying what verdict a lot of intelligent jurors may not bring in. We have had some rough surprises in verdicts in this city lately, but St. Louis is slightly ahead of us in this line.

In 1873 Bell Barber brought suit for libel against two of the St. Louis papers, the Globe and Dispatch for publishing an item in the court column relative to a divorce suit. This item was really nothing more than a condensation of the allegations in a bill filed before the courts, such as is usually printed in the court proceedings of all newspapers. It contained no editorial remarks of any kind, and was, of course, wholly devoid of malice. On the first trial of the case Mrs. Barber recovered a verdict of \$3500 against the Dispatch. The proprietors of that paper appealed; a new trial was granted, in which the jury reduced the damages to \$1.

On the first trial of the case against the Globe that paper was even more successful than the Dispatch, the jury giving a verdict of only \$1000 against it, or \$2500 less than that given against the Dispatch. The proprietors, however, were not satisfied with this leniency, and seeing the success of the Dispatch in the new trial, wherein the damages were reduced to \$1, determined on a similar line of action. An appeal was accordingly taken and a new trial obtained. On this trial, however, the jury instead of reducing the verdict to \$1, as the Dispatch jury had done, took exactly the contrary line of action and increased the damages against the Globe from \$1000 to \$5000, the full amount claimed. Strange to say, that paper is not satisfied with our jury system. "Now, here are four intelligent juries," it remarks of these cases, "sitting on precisely the same facts, listening to almost the same arguments and guided by almost the same instructions and yet bringing in verdicts ranging from \$3500 to \$1 in the case of the Dispatch, from \$1000 to \$5000 against the Globe. It is folly to speak of this as justice, because justice implies some degree of exactness. It is a mere caprice—the whim or fancy of the moment as it happens to strike the twelve peers who are invested with the power of decision."

DIED. GRAILHE—In Paris, France, in September, 1876. Mr. Alexandre Grailhe, formerly a resident of this city.

His remains have been brought for interment here. The funeral will take place on Tuesday, the 18th inst., at 4 o'clock p. m., from the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. L. D. Saroy, No. 123 Burgundy street, between St. Peter and Orleans. His friends, and also the members of the bar are respectfully invited to attend.

Hall Eleventh Ward Central Democratic Conservative Club, NEW ORLEANS, December 18, 1877. According to instructions from the Democratic Conservative Parish Committee, a special meeting of the Eleventh Ward Central Democratic Conservative Club will take place at the Wikwam corner Magazine and Sixth streets, on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1877, at 7 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of making arrangements for the election of eleven delegates to the District Convention, to be held on Monday, December 24, to nominate a candidate for Senator.

J. R. ALGER GAUTHREAU, President. M. A. McDONNELL, Secretary. deis 22

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NOTICE TO BONDHOLDERS.

BOARD OF LIQUIDATION, State of Louisiana, New Orleans, December 17, 1877. I hereby give notice that a SPECIAL MEETING of this Board will be held on THURSDAY, December 27, 1877, at 12 o'clock m., at the Speaker's Room, State House. ALLEN JUMEL, Auditor and ex-officio Secretary of the Board. deis 10t

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LADIES WATCHES. Solid Gold Watch, 14 karat case, \$15 00; Solid Gold Watch, 14 karat case, \$15 00; Solid Gold Stem-winder, 14 karat case, \$15 00; Solid Gold Stem-winder, 18 karat case, \$15 00.

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