thieves, perjurers and forgers and the benefiaries of their crimes to revitalize and turn to their own account the dead and rotten remnants of a power which long ago crumbled about the ears of the braver if not better men who built it up.

Upon this rotten remnant of dead power stands the future of Radicalism; and

THE MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Monday night was to consider whether it was best to knock this last underpinning out and let the whole fabric of concern collapse into one indiscriminate muck heap, or accept a "compromise" offered by the Radicals themselves, the effect of which would be, not indeed to further weaken their poor foundation, but actually to improve it by disinfection.

One would imagine that the Democrats had had their fill of compromises. That sweet scented "compromise," known as the electoral bill, by which Edmunds, according to his own showing, managed to "get the Republican party out of the Valley of the Shadow of Death," ought, it would seem, to be enough of that sort of thing to last for several years.

Well, upon the repeal of the test oath through amendment to the body of a vital appropriati[illegible] the revenue

NO DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

in the Democratic caucus. But when it came to a repeal of the election law itself there were several Democrats who feared the caucus was going a step too far. There was no danger that the Radical would fight a repeal of the test oath, and therefore the several Democrats referred to were leaning in the courage of their attack. But when it was proposed to take a stand calculated to provoke Radical resistance these several Democrats immediately took to the brush. This is a fair sample of the sort of difficulty the Democratic party has to contend with, to wit; the presence in its ranks of a few *dilettanti* who, either through fear of the sharp tongue of Edmunds or from *penchant* for the flattery of the New York *Tribune*, always like to make their Democracy agreeable to the enemy. I am informed, upon what I consider indubitable authority, that

SENATOR BAYARD

was the spokesman in the caucus of that small but select school of Democrats, who would rather sacrifice the rights of the States in this Union, and subordinate the privileges of local self government, than hurt the tender feelings of Edmunds or arouse the ire of Whitelaw Reid! But perhaps this is a vicious way of putting the case. I will, therefore, strike out the above smear, and ask the Senator to consider that I never said it. According to my information Senator Bayard, in caucus, objected to Southard's proposition to force the repeal of the election law by incorporating it in a vital appropriation bill, basing his objection on the ground that the method was in its nature violent, irregular and revolutionary. Senator Bayard has on other occasions allowed what he calls his "instincts of fairness" to cloud his judgment and cripple his action. Radicalism is not a proper subject of fair dealing.

Senator Eaton once remarked *apropos* of one of Bayard's pleas for "fairness," that in "dealing with such an adversary as Radicalism, there was such a thing as being too—d fair;" and added that "he never heard of the laws of civilized warfare being observed in the operation of killing a snake!"

It might do for the English Guards at Fontenoy to waive tactics for the sake of courtesy, and politely request their French adversaries to fire first. But we do not read that similar mitigation of the honors of war was ever extended by any civilized cruiser to a Barbary corsair on the high seas.

It is customary for a sheriff to hang a murderer as tenderly as possible, but I have never known the same consideration bestowed upon the red-handed assassin by officers of the law at the moment of arrest, and in face of desperate resistance by the culprit.

The Radical organization—that is to say, the gang of political highwaymen, partisan pirates and moral desperadoes, who have usurped the sway in its councils, who prostitute its popular forces to the accomplishment of personal ends, and, who, through the agency of its "machines," have well nigh reduced our free institutions to an empty form—this Radical concern, I say, deserves no consideration at the hands of honest men; does not even merit the benefit of clergy. It is the meanest aggregation of the basest men held together by the vilest motives, and employing the most despicable and cowardly methods that ever blotted the page of history on God's earth. This is the concern which, through Edmunds, arch-plotter of his time, and author of the electoral bill, now offers to compromise on a repeal of the juror's test oath, if the Democrats will let the election law stand.

What would Senator Bayard think of a burglar who had broken into his house and stolen his plate, and then, being apprehended, should offer to compromise on the basis of giving up one of his skeleton keys and being allowed to retain all the rest of his tools besides keeping the plate! I venture to say that the Senator would consider that compromise rather liberal to the burglar. But there isn't a cent's worth of difference in character between such a compromise and the one now offered by the Radicals.

It is impossible to believe that Bayard, upon reflection, will adhere to the monstrously absurd policy which he is said to have suggested in the caucus. Whatever may be his faults or his failings, sympathy with crime and usurpation is not among them. And he cannot vote against or otherwise antagonize the repeal of the election law in any manner or under any guise of expediency without either directly or indirectly aiding the one and abetting the other.

A vote against the repeal of this infernal edict of tyranny misnamed an election law is a declaratory act sanctioning the interpretation which infamous judges have put upon it, making membership of the Democratic party constructive felony, punishable by fine and imprisonment!

But let us turn for a moment from the Democracy of Bayard to that of

BECK,

and compare them. Shortly before the caucus I asked senator Beck what was his attitude on this question.

His reply was, "I will never vote another dollar to pay the salaries of Federal officers while that law remains on the statute books. I would block the wheels of government utterly rather than let them crush the rights of citizens. Anarchy would be preferable to a government whose powers are exerted to oppress and destroy individuals through such sickening mockery of justice, and such revolting travesty on forms of law."

"But," said I, "won't it raise a row and cause

AN EXTRA SESSION

if you force a repeal of the election law in the leading appropriation bill?"

"Very well. Let there be a row. I have never believed that the Radical party would go out of power without one, and we may as well have it now as by and by; perhaps it is best to have it now and not be dreading it. Anyhow, I want no more compromises, in any shape or on any pretext."

This is Democracy. It is even more. It is true patriotism, coupled with manly courage of conviction and sturdy hardihood of expression. If the Democratic party will always follow where that burly Scotch head of Beck towers in the van, it will never go astray.

Since this agitation began I have noted a characteristic stratagem on the part of the Radical press.

It is an effort to convey the impression that the Radicals, in view of the approaching ascendency of the Democratic party in all branches of the government, want the election law repealed for fear that it may eventually be turned against themselves if it remains on the books. Of course this is fudge. We all remember how the Radicals secured the passage of the electoral bill by judiciously dividing on it, and thus demoralizing the Democrats. I remember how Morton chuckled in his sleeve at the success of that stratagem. Speaking of it he said it was the sublimation of political art. I called it the last and lowest stage of intrigue, chicane and fraud. Well, the tactics of the Radicals on the election law will be the same. And if the results are similar, the Democrats will wake up when it is too late to the astounding discovery that the Radicals all the time intended to use that law during the coming summer to *prevent the organization of the next House by the Democracy*. If that law is left untouched, while a Democratic House votes Hayes, Devens, and their gang of jail-birds on the bench and elsewhere in the Federal judiciary all the money they want, the Democrats will not organize

THE NEXT HOUSE

for the reason that several of the members will be in the Penitentiary, whither two—Hall, of Florida, and King, of Louisiana—are already on the road and travelling as fast as this engine of satanic Radicalism can haul them! it cannot be possible for the Radicals to outwit the Democrats again in this manner. The stab of the electoral bill was inserted between the Democratic ribs as with the imperceptible point of a rapier. But this attempt of the Radicals to preserve the election law is simply a bungling job of forcing deception and treachery down the Democratic throat with a crowbar. It can't win. There is a limit to even Edmunds' success as a political confidence-man.

A. C. B.

The milliners are busily engaged making costumes for the Y. M. B. A. ball.

DEERBOLD SAFES.—A very large assortment of these justly celebrated safes will be found at the well-known depot, No. 27 Canal street. Mr. Roy, the energetic agent, advertises these safes and declares his ability to put the prices at a figure that will secure a still greater demand for them.

To restore the appetite and purify the blood use Reed's Gilt Edge Tonic.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

THE JUDICIARY.

NO. 1.

To the Editor of the Democrat:

At your request, I propose to offer briefly a few suggestions as to needed amendments to that part of the constitution relating to the judiciary department. No part of the organic law of the State is more defective, though perhaps the faults are not so obvious. Certainly no portion of the constitution more directly affects the interest of every citizen than that relating to the courts. It has been wisely said by a very great lawyer "that the judiciary power interferes more visibly and uniformly than any other part of the government with all the interesting concerns of social life. Personal security and private property rest entirely upon the wisdom, the stability and the integrity of courts of justice."

The defects of the judiciary system in Louisiana result in vexatious delays, excessive costs and uncertainty in litigation. Few suits involving sums exceeding five hundred dollars, appealed to the Supreme Court, are determined in less than three years. The delay is advantageous to the dishonest debtor and often ruinous to the honest litigant.

Much of this source of dissatisfaction is attributable to three things: The election of the judges, the short term of office, and the failure to provide appropriate machinery for the proper trial of appealed cases.

The first requisite for a pure and able judiciary is a system which will procure for the Bench the best men from the Bar. For that purpose no plan could be devised more unfortunate than that which now exists. It is surprising that the courts should be as good as we find them, but with some honorable exceptions they fall short of former standards in this State, and considering its importance, far short of what they should be. Under the present constitution, with the annoyances connected with nominations and necessity for electioneering and the short terms of office, it is often impossible to get leading lawyers, men of ability, to accept nominations for judgeships. The practice of the average lawyer pays better, and, what is of much more importance, is generally permanent, while a judgeship not only offers poor pecuniary compensation, but, at the end of a brief term, leaves the incumbent without office or business. Hence the advantage of a life term, or at least a term of many years. We rarely see now in our district courts such men as Buchanan, Kennedy and Lea, nor on the Supreme Bench judges like Martin, Eustis, Porter and Rost.

The principal cause of this unfortunate change in the material results from the change in mode of selection and term of retention.

Under the constitution, prior to 1845, the judges were selected for life, and not only the Supreme Court judges, were appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate. Under the constitution of 1812, which existed without amendment to 1845, the decisions of the Supreme Court of Louisiana were regarded as among the very ablest in the Union. Chancellor Kent, in a letter written in 1841, to the late Gustavus Schmidt of this city, justly said: "I always read the Louisiana reports as fast as they appear, and consider them the *most learned and interesting decisions in the United States*." Such a compliment, to the results of the old system, from so high a source, should not be disregarded.

The conclusion is that from 1812 to 1845 we tried one system that produced the most beneficial results. From 1845 we have experimented on a different plan, and have met with mortifying and disastrous failures. If experience teaches anything, we ought by this time in this matter to have learned a very valuable lesson. If public sentiment is adverse to a life tenure of judicial office, let us at least make the term reasonably long.

The greatest cause of delay and costs and uncertainty in the administration of the law results from defective appellate machinery. Under the system existing in Louisiana, by which the Supreme Court decide questions of both fact and law, that tribunal is unable to do the work required of it. In spite of the industry of the present court it is obvious that they do not make any decided progress in their efforts to decrease the mass of work that has been accumulating for years. The cases, we are told, are three years in arrear. For this evil there are two obvious remedies:

First—That adopted by the State of New York, of creating a temporary appellate tribunal to dispose of back business, and to that extent to relieve the present court, and by giving to the Legislature power to create such courts hereafter when an emergency demands it.

Second—It is imperatively necessary that the Supreme Court should be permanently relieved of a good deal of the work now required of it. This would produce dispatch in business, and by enabling the judges to prepare their decisions with care, would prevent uncertainty in the settlement of principles and often actual injustice to litigants.

How this may be best done, presents questions of some difficulty, upon which, it must be confessed, able men appear to differ.

I propose to continue this subject in a future communication.

LEO.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

To the Editor of the Democrat:

As any other citizen who feels an interest in the welfare of his fellow-citizens and of his State, I have been closely watching the course of events as touching the so-called prosecutions under the Federal statutes, of citizens of the State, for the crime of working and voting for the success of the anti-Republican ticket in the recent election. It was a matter of surprise to me to see until so late a date the seeming indifference, or else the blindness, on the part of our legislators and public journals to the immense results which will come out (to our utter undoing) of the *persecution* and *conviction* of the gentlemen who are to-day illegally and without any warrant of LAW unjustly held before a partisan and perjured court, under charges which, if criminal, are offenses against the State and not against the United States, and over which, therefore, the Federal court has no rightful jurisdiction whatever.

It is unnecessary for me to seek to establish this assertion by reference to decisions of the United States Supreme Court upon the question of suffrage, or its decision in the Grant parish case. Your own editorials, recently published, show your coincidence of opinion with me on the matter; and there is not a man within the borders of our country who has ordinary intelligence who does not feel and KNOW that these so-called prosecutions before Billings and Woods are infamous partisan persecutions for political purposes to subserve the ends of the 8 to 7 administration in the interest of the Republican party.

Some time since, when the Legislature had been in session some two weeks, seeing that nothing had been done by them in the way of calling the attention of the Executive and law officers of the State to the outrages which were being perpetrated against the dignity of the State, by the arbitrary and illegal arrest and dragging from their homes in distant parishes, citizens of the State, to be tried before the Federal court for matters which, if offenses, were against the State, and subject only to her jurisdiction, I published a communication in the DEMOCRAT, directing the attention of the Legislature to the action of the Virginia Assembly in the same premises, as also to a much more speedy action in Alabama, where the judge and marshal were clapped into jail, hoping that our Legislature would take such action as would cause an immediate cessation of the outrages and the relief of our citizens.

The statesmanship and backbone of the Legislature were sufficient to pass a windy protest—nothing more; and the dignity of the State and the personal rights of her citizens continue, from day to day, insulted and trampled upon by perjured and hireling United States officials. And now what should be done? You are as well aware as am I that any defense or argument before Billings or Woods, or both, is as idle as it would be if addressed to Clay's statue on Canal street. I do not believe that any one has the slightest hope or expectation that the fixed purpose of the Federal court in this city to convict will be moved by any amount of argument or of proof that the law and evidence is all in favor of the prisoners at the bar. A party that will override the constitution and set at naught the will of the whole people to steal the government and its offices is not going to stop at any such small matter as that of outraging the liberty and constitutional rights of individuals, to maintain or subserve party ends, unless the individual stands upon his own inherent and God-given rights (to protect and secure which governments are formed by the individual), and defends himself and his rights from assault and outrage.

U. S. before an official's name does not give the said official any privilege whatever to wrong or outrage the rights of even the humblest citizen; and a United States judge, marshal, commissioner or deputy is just as amenable to State law as any citizen of the State. The misfortune with our people has been that they have always acted under the belief that anybody with U. S. prefixed to his official title had a perfect right and title to do according to his own sweet will, or at the bidding of the party on whose pap he flourished, just what *he* chose to do, or the *party* ordered done. In our own State experience has shown that U. S., in the vast majority of cases, stands entirely appropriate for Unmitigated Scoundrel; and yet with all their sad experience, with their consciousness that in their persons, and in their constitutional rights, both as citizens of the State and of the United States, they are being outraged, with courts open and with officers of the law, whose duty is to vindicate, under the law, the rights of every citizen from assault and outrage from any quarter, our citizens tamely submit to usurped authority perpetrating every outrage and indignity upon them.

There is no necessity for them to endure one hour longer these indignities. The State *should not permit* its rights and authority to be so infringed and trampled upon. Argument before a *fixed* court is money and time wasted and more than useless, and trial before a packed jury a tragedy. What should be done? Whether the State takes action in the premises or not the remedy is in the hands of these victims of outrage themselves. Simple, easy, effectual. What is it? If the gentlemen interested wish to know I will be pleased to inform them.

Respectfully, F. R. S.

SIMPLE JUSTICE.

One of the Natchitoches political prisoners, in a letter to the Alexandria *Democrat*, makes the acknowledgment, found below, of the generosity of the proprietors of the City Hotel, and of Capt. Jos. A. Aiken, President of the Red River Transportation Company, and Capt. Dick Sinnott, of the Bart Able. It is not the custom of the DEMOCRAT to publish senseless puffs of any and every body, but we would be guilty of gross wrong were we to fail to reproduce in our columns this notice of the generous and patriotic conduct of the parties mentioned. The correspondent says:

The citizens, so far, have been very kind to us, particularly in paying our board at the City Hotel, which, to the praise of those big hearted and generous Southern men, Mumford & Watson, was reduced to half price. Just to think, that elegant *table d'hote*, with elegant rooms and servants to attend to our every want, for the sum of one dollar and a quarter a day! Does not such unpurchased generosity deserve the gratitude, yes, the support, the patronage, not only of all Louisiana, but of all Southerners who visit the Crescent City for either pleasure or business? I am certain that when it becomes known how generously the proprietors, Messrs. Mumford & Watson, acted toward their persecuted fellow-citizens, thousands, prompted by the hallowed feeling of gratitude, will seek the City Hotel, with its table of luxuries and magnificent rooms, to repay them for their unbought hospitality and their manifestation of sympathy for those persecuted men, who had been torn from their families and friends by the iron hand of Radical tyranny.

I cannot close this hastily written letter without alluding to those two noble, generous and patriotic gentlemen, Capt. Jos. A. Aiken and Dick Sinnott. The kindness manifested towards all the prisoners by these gentlemen, and I may say by all the captains of the Red River Transportation Company, should forever silence all croakers against the "Pool Line" as a monopoly, and every citizen of the Red river parishes should consider it his sacred duty not only to patronize it, but urge others to do so, as long as that company turns a wheel in the waters of "Old Red." This may be considered by some as an advertisement, but if it is they deserve it, and I am proud to be the advertiser through the columns of the *Democrat*.

VERITAS.

The National Surgical Institute

Will send one of its most experienced and popular surgeons to New Orleans on the fifth of March, 1879, to remain one month.

Bringing assistants, workmen and material, from the Home Institute, he will be fully prepared for fitting up and applying the various kinds of apparatus so successfully employed by them all over the Union. These braces and appliances are invented by Dr. H. R. Allen, the founder of the institute, and are manufactured from actual measurements of the patients and applied only by duly authorized surgeons of the institute staff.

At the late Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia these braces, instruments, receivers and other appliances, came into competition with apparatus for like purposes from all parts of the world.

The following is the report of the awarding committee:

The United States Centennial Commission, after a thorough examination of all the exhibits made at the Centennial Exhibition, have decreed an award of the highest premium, medal and diploma to the National Surgical Institute, for the following reasons:

1. It was found that the collection contained many hundreds of most valuable apparatus and appliances, of original invention and design, which by actual trial had proven to be the best in use and greater in number than all other exhibits combined.

2. It was also found that they were of superior workmanship, the metallic portions being highly wrought in steel, nickel, silver and gold, with the most beautiful trimming, padding and upholstering, making them exceedingly light, comfortable and beautiful, far surpassing everything on exhibition.

3. And above all was their peculiar and ingenious adaptability for each and every deformity and deficiency of the human body; for in this alone is the secret of their great success in the cure of cases requiring them, anticipating, as they do, every conceivable requirement and complication, combining ease with comfort to the patient, while correcting the deformity, for which the following is a brief synopsis:

1. For originality of invention or orthopedic appliances.
2. For beauty of workmanship.
3. For adaptability to all purposes designed, and for variety of appliances for meeting different indications.
4. For a very ingenious bath chair, for administering hot air and medicated vapors.

Signed by group of judges:

J. H. THOMPSON, A. M., M. D.
C. B. WHITE, M. D.

Signature of the judge:

DR. ERNST FLEISCHEL, Austria.

Surgeons, physicians and delegates from France, Prussia, Brazil, Australia and other foreign countries, give voluntary and highly complimentary testimonials to the National Surgical Institute, not only for superiority of apparatus, but for originality, practicability and success of the methods of treatment, as witnessed by them at the Eastern division, in Philadelphia.

The coming visit to New Orleans is in fulfillment of an implied promise, made on the occasion of our last visit, in February, 1878, and also in response to numerous letters and personal appeals from friends and from persons who wish to avail themselves of the benefits, at home, of the special treatment of the Institute. The length of the visit will enable the surgeon to receive and treat to a successful termination, cases of piles, fistula, many diseases of the eye and ear; cases requiring plastic operations, etc.; paralysis and resulting deformities; club-feet, hip-joint diseases, curvature of the spine, diseases of the joints and deformities in general will be treated. We urge the importance of calling early. Will occupy the same rooms as last year, No. 166 St. Charles street.

Let everybody try and go to the Y. M. B. A. ball Mardi Gras night.

We are indebted to Mr. Louis Grunewald for a splendid march, dedicated to the Macon Volunteers, of the Second Georgia Battalion. This piece of music has been received with general favor, over 250 copies having been sold in less time than five days.

Get ready for a good time and go Mardi Gras night to the Y. M. B. A. ball.

GOODS FROM THE GREAT FIRES IN NEW YORK.—In another column of this paper will be found an advertisement of Messrs. Max Beer & Co., No. 167 Canal street. These damaged goods are from the large fire of J. F. White & Co., North street, New York, and will be sold on account of board of underwriters. The goods are but slightly damaged, but will be sacrificed—as all damaged goods are. So for bargains drop in at Max Beer & Co.'s next week, and avail yourself of the opportunity offered by them.

A glorious time anticipated Mardi Gras night. The Y. M. B. A. give their fancy ball on that night.

To give tone to the stomach and stimulate digestion there is nothing like Reed's Gilt Edge Tonic.

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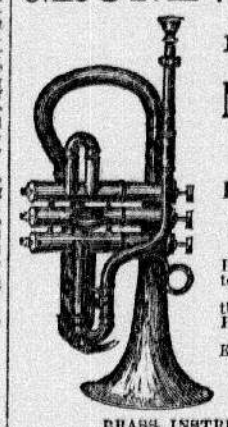

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Experience has afforded the most ample proof that this wine possesses all the fine aromatic and stomachic properties for which the plant has been esteemed. Its benefits are decided and healthful. Its use is strongly recommended to persons attending sick rooms, as it is believed to be a preventive during prevalence of fever and other infectious diseases.

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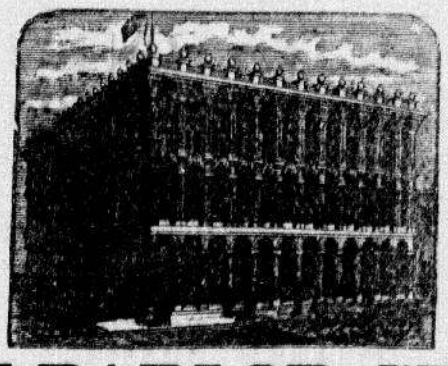

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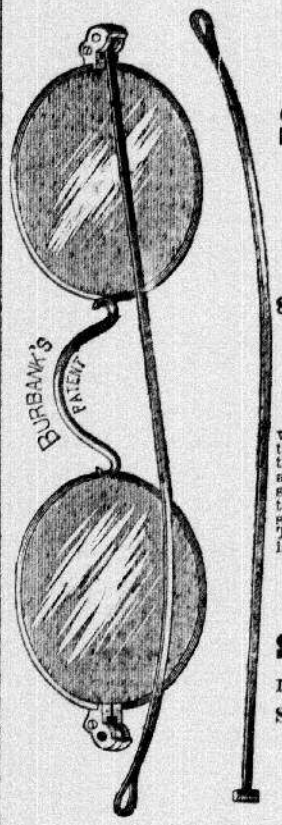

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