



FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1897.

The Democratic Civil Service Plank.

After three years' discussion, the civil service plank adopted by the national Democracy in 1894 has been the subject of official interpretation by an important Democratic body, the Democratic State Convention of Kentucky; and the result can hardly fail to be useful to statesmen who have labored under a misconception of its meaning.

"We favor an honest civil service reform" was all that the Democracy said, and several theories as to their meaning have been advanced.

The Republicans who voted for CLEVELAND said that it was the expansion of the principle of the FREDERICK civil service statute over all departments of the Government. The Hon. GEORGE CLEVELAND himself, after he had been elected President, expressed a similar view, or at least outlined in that sense his intended policy, in a letter to Mr. GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS. He was for the expanded application of the statute, so that officeholders "disconnected with the policy of an Administration" should not be removed for partisan grounds.

But now the Kentucky Democrats, in their State Convention, under the guiding inspiration of JOHN G. CARLISLE and HERBERT WATKINSON, have taken the national civil service plank, full and entire, and have added to it their understanding of its intention:

"We favor honest civil service reform, by which we mean the enforcement of the faithful performance by all public officials of the duties of their offices, and to this end, as well as to the maintenance of the spirit of our representative form of government, we demand the strictest measure of personal and party responsibility."

It will be observed that the only spirit spoken of here is not that of the Civil Service law, but the spirit of "our representative form of government." They do not call for the enforcement of the statute that has so absorbed the mind of the President, but they demand the strictest measure of personal and party responsibility.

In other words, these Blue Grass Democrats take this weighty occasion to declare, as THE SUN has frequently declared, that the expansion of the statute, put forth by the National Democratic Convention of 1894, was squarely and uncompromisingly opposed to the declaration on that subject adopted in the same year by the National Republican Convention.

This fact will doubtless furnish food for useful reflection to those individuals who have thought they knew the temper of the Democratic camp because they had followed GROVER CLEVELAND to its threshold. They will also do well to consider the stress of politics that has elicited from a Democratic State Convention such a manifesto as this for the Kentuckians. It may shed some light for them upon the political future of Mr. CLEVELAND.

Mr. Dillon and the London Times.

It is clear from the report of Tuesday's and Wednesday's proceedings in the House of Commons apropos of the charges brought against Mr. DILLON by the London Times, that the Orangemen set a trap, and that, instead of the Parnellites, the Tory Government fell into it. Then, perceiving their predicament, the Ministers set a second trap for the Home Rulers, which the latter, however, detected and avoided.

The Times had accused Mr. DILLON of uttering deliberate falsehoods in Parliament, and the motion of Mr. LEWIS, the Tory member for North Antrim, was evidently made upon the theory that the Parnellites would oppose it, thus subjecting themselves to the suspicion of preferring to rest under a grave imputation because they knew themselves unable to refute it. But to the disgust of the proposer and the manifest annoyance of the Ministers who beheld the progress of their Crimes bill interrupted for an indefinite period, the Parnellites instantly and strenuously supported Mr. LEWIS's motion, and insisted that the offending publisher should forthwith summoned to bar of the House to answer for his conduct. The Government was thus placed in a perplexing quandary, and in order to gain time and contrive some method of escape, the Ministerial leader moved an adjournment of the House, which was carried by a small majority, and only on the understanding that the question of privilege should be decided the next day.

It was not easy for the Tory Ministry to relieve themselves from the embarrassment caused by the disconcerting reception of the Lewis motion on the part of the Parnellites. They foresaw that if, without offering some specious substitute, they determined to reject the motion, thus virtually declaring that no breach of privilege had been committed, they would irrevocably damage themselves in public opinion. They would at last be recognized for what they unquestionably are, the unscrupulous accomplices and suborners of a newspaper campaign of calumny. Besides, it was not impossible that a brazen attempt on the part of Unionists and Tories to trample on the rights of their fellow members, and sacrifice the most cherished principles of the House of Commons in order to shield a libelous and malicious newspaper, would not be met with a rebuff after all. For Mr. GLADSTONE's words, who doubtless appeal from the collapse of the Ministerial leader to Speaker PENN, who could hardly shut his eyes to such a flagrant breach of precedent and privilege, or fail to best a solemn remonstrance from his father's friend, to whom he is himself indebted for the office he now holds as well as all his former posts of emolument and honor.

But suppose that the Tories, in the face of Mr. GLADSTONE's protest, had shrunk from suppressing a time-honored prerogative of members of the House of Commons, or that Speaker PENN had refused to connive at the denial of Parnellites of rights of excusation and defence never before disputed? Then, upon the select committee of inquiry which would have been appointed to examine the publisher of the Times, places would have been assigned to the Gladstonians and Parnellites, who constitute two-fifths of the House. Mr. DILLON would thus be certain that his own counter testimony would be fairly weighed and the grounds and motives of the accusation duly sifted and exposed, and a committee of investigation from a picked jury of hostile Londoners or a commission of Judges artfully chosen for their known Tory or Unionist predilections. The Parnellites would have advocates of surpassing ability in the committee and on the floor of the House, and they would compel a hearing, if they could not extort justice from the prejudiced majority. Above all, no matter what might be the technical outcome of the inquiry, no matter how unreasonable and iniquitous might be the partisan report of the Tory members of the committee, Mr. DILLON's side of the case would be spread before the British people, who are to be the

final arbiters between one of the most upright, high-minded, and stainless men that have ever sat in Parliament, and his anonymous defamer.

So that the Tory Ministers after a night's consultation decided to do this: They would refuse to treat the attack of the Times on Mr. DILLON as a breach of privilege on the ground of some words in law and technical distinction between the libel uttered by that newspaper and other publications of which in times past the House has taken cognizance. They would thus prevent an investigation of the charge by a Parliamentary select committee on which precedent would compel them to give Mr. DILLON's friends, the Gladstonians and Parnellites, adequate representation. Lost, however, the British instinct of fair play should revolt against the stifling of an investigation which the Home Rulers have hitherto been taunted with shunning, the Ministerial leaders obligingly offered to let the Tory Attorney-General bring an action at law against the Times. There was a refreshing coolness about this proposition that a litigant should select his leading counsel from the enemy's camp. We need not say that the proposal was declined with thanks, and when the debate resumed this evening the Tories will be forced back upon the alternative of granting or refusing the traditional protection to which every member of the House of Commons is entitled at the hands of his colleagues.

Reforming New York.

We are told that Police Superintendent MURRAY has received many commendations from clergymen and others for his energy in enforcing the law requiring the closing of liquor saloons on Sunday. The police have certainly done their work pretty thoroughly in this respect of late, and for several Sundays to come it will probably be hard to buy a drop of New York on the day of rest.

Next Sunday the difficulty will be even greater, for according to the opinion of Corporation Counsel LACOMBE, hotel keepers have no right under the law to furnish intoxicating beverages even to their "guests," as his lodgers and boarders are euphemistically described in the opinion, though the expression of a country boarding-house keeper who felt above her honorable business seems to us nearer. She called her boarders "remunerative guests."

At any rate, a man who comes to New York and puts up at a hotel is debarred by law from enjoying his glass of beer, wine, or whiskey on Sunday unless he takes the precaution to bring a bottle along with him or lays it in beforehand, and does his drinking in the privacy of his own room, for the hotel keeper would hardly permit him to carry it to the public table, and so give occasion for an arrest.

Now, all this may elicit total abstainers who want to compel everybody to follow their example, but how will it strike travelers? Will they not be likely to avoid a city where their liberty is thus restricted? The total abstainers are in the minority. The great majority of men are accustomed to drink more or less, and many of them feel the need of alcoholic stimulants because of habituation to their use. Perhaps some of them have become too dependent on their beer, wine, or whiskey for their good, but they do not come to New York to be reformed or to be put under temperance discipline. They come here because it is a great city, where they can buy what they want, and where, presumably, they can enjoy themselves according to their tastes, so long as they keep the peace. If, therefore, they are persistently meddled with, even in so small a matter as the quiet gratification of their appetites for alcoholic beverages, they are likely to stay away, unless absolutely obliged to visit the middlemost town. Everybody who comes to New York is not satisfied to spend Sunday at Dr. Choisy's church, and very few of them get an invitation to partake of the wine on his Sunday dinner table, or at the clubs frequented by his parishioners.

As to the people who live in New York and who do not have wine cellars of their own, what are they to do on Sunday if they want to take a drink? They must abandon the dry city and fly to other places on the day of rest to get their enjoyment and spend their money. Is that desirable for New York?

If, too, it is reasonable to shut off the liquor supply on Sunday, why is it not reasonable and advisable to shut it off on other days? It is true that Sunday is a holiday, and that people may be inclined to drink more when they are at leisure than when they are at work; but if the inclination is an evil which should be put down by law, it should be put down at all times, for drinking goes on at an enormous rate throughout the week, and those on whom it has the worst effects so far as they themselves and other people are concerned, are as likely to get drunk on Monday as on Sunday. If they have not much time for gazing during working hours, they are usually at leisure in the evening, and it is for the sake of the drunkards that the law should be put down at all times, for drinking goes on at an enormous rate throughout the week, and those on whom it has the worst effects so far as they themselves and other people are concerned, are as likely to get drunk on Monday as on Sunday. If they have not much time for gazing during working hours, they are usually at leisure in the evening, and it is for the sake of the drunkards that the law should be put down at all times, for drinking goes on at an enormous rate throughout the week, and those on whom it has the worst effects so far as they themselves and other people are concerned, are as likely to get drunk on Monday as on Sunday.

That able statesman and brilliant orator, who, of course, to the Hon. THOMAS C. PLATT, who has as long and level a head as any of the scientific politicians of the old Republican school, whose election he expects as a result of Democratic defections to the Labor party.

But suppose that the Democrats once get it into their heads that they must put up a candidate who can hold the Democratic Labor vote, or at least a large part of it? Suppose that DAVID B. HILL or SAM RANNEY or WILLIAM TELL COLEMAN should receive the Democratic nomination?

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personal or his representative character. To him the Holy Father was like any other man who had got into his dotage, for the terms "old gentleman" were used in a spirit akin to derision, as one might apply them to a man who had outlived his usefulness and inculcated false ideas.

LOUISVILLE, May 5.—In the course of his speech last night, as Chairman of the State Democratic Convention, Mr. Carlisle said: "I believe, gentlemen, that a large majority of the people of the United States are now looking to the Democratic party to protect them and their property from the encroachments of the Eastern States, and from the paternal government on the one side, and from the threatened depredations of agrarianism on the other. It is the only practical organization that has witnessed and held to the sacred principles of growth and prosperity of the country during the whole course of the Government's existence. It is the great conservative force of the country, and it is stronger in numbers today than it ever was before, while its purpose are as patriotic and the political front as sound as they were in the days of Jefferson and Madison and Jackson. (Continued applause.)

If the people cannot rely upon the strength and courage and prestige of this party for the protection of their rights of property and the preservation of their political franchises, where shall they look for safety? Can they trust the Republican party, with its long and dangerous record of consolidation and annexation? Has it not been the cause of the loss of territory and the degradation of the colored race? (Continued applause.)

Mr. Carlisle then spoke of the feeling of the people like a Protestant and not a Catholic, and throughout his present course he has shown that at heart, even though he may not have confessed it to himself, he is in reality not a Catholic, but an out-and-out Protestant, and he may be though he clings so fondly to his old faith in the efficacy of the sacrament of the Holy Communion.

At any rate, he appears to be getting further and further away from the Roman Church, and to be burning the bridges behind him.

Stop Making Laws and Repeal a Few.

The popular pressure upon a Legislature for more laws is always enormous. There is always a pile of bills waiting for passage, backed up by an unremitting lobby declaring that the more laws and regulations we have the better.

But times come when it becomes the duty of the Legislature to lay aside the business of making new laws in order to do away with old laws that have proved objectionable.

Such an occasion is before us now. Let the new schemes go, and wipe out the absurd enactments that forbid beer at a Sunday dinner, and beer with music. Before anything else comes on the statute books, these two laws should go off.

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MR. CARLISLE'S SPEECH.

He Denounces the Issues of the Day at the Kentucky Conventions.

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THE EARTHQUAKE.

An Ancient Mexican Town Nearly Shaken Up—Five Shocks at El Paso.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., May 5.—This town seems to have been at the northeast extremity of the earthquake wave which nearly spent its force before reaching here. The shocks at Sabinal, about forty miles south of here, were much more severe than at this place. Two tremors were felt, both in a northeast and southwest direction. The first occurred at 1 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, producing a slight oscillation. Then came a pause of nearly a minute, and then a terrible vibration, which created the utmost consternation among the inhabitants. Men, women, and children rushed into the streets, in many cases only in time to escape with their lives from tottering buildings.

Sabinal is one of the relics of New Mexican antiquity, and the adobe dwellings of the natives were so weakened by age as to fall an easy prey to earthquake. A number of them were leveled to the ground, and many of the poorer families whose homes were ruined. The Board of County Commissioners at the session of the 4th inst. reported that they had been unable to get out by the door, but got out through the windows.

At 8:15 P. M. on Tuesday, there is ample testimony that at least four other shocks have been felt. The first occurred at 8:15 P. M. on Tuesday, there is ample testimony that at least four other shocks have been felt. The first occurred at 8:15 P. M. on Tuesday, there is ample testimony that at least four other shocks have been felt. The first occurred at 8:15 P. M. on Tuesday, there is ample testimony that at least four other shocks have been felt.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—Gen. Miles has forwarded a despatch from Lieut. Col. Forsyth, commanding the 1st Cavalry, reporting that a severe earthquake passed through the Huachuca range on Tuesday afternoon, following the eruption of the volcano of Parí, thirty minutes. A heavy fall of smoke hung over the mountain, and a heavy shower of stones and cinders fell from the highest peak of the Whetstone range, the top of the cone becoming Adams. There is no trace of fire in the Huachuca range, but the eruptions are covered with lava. It is thought the volcano will become an active volcano. An exploring party will be sent to the volcano.

SAILING THROUGH THE AIR.

Big Trees Make a Journey on the Wings of a Hurricane.

PITTSBURGH, May 5.—A terrific thunder storm, accompanied by heavy hail and wind, equal to a hurricane, passed over the Allegheny Mountains in eastern Somerset and western Bedford counties, between 7 and 8 o'clock last evening. A few moments before the storm came, a roaring like the discharge of many cannons was heard in the distance, and as soon as the clouds rolled across the sky the wind increased. The storm struck the mountains moving in a northwesterly direction, and was about a quarter of a mile wide.

For two miles the large trees were twisted or like some of the instances, many of the trees were caught up and carried several hundred feet into the air, and hurled back again with terrific force. The lightning struck the trees, and the lightning did not stop. The hail was so heavy that it was impossible to see the trees, and the lightning did not stop. The hail was so heavy that it was impossible to see the trees, and the lightning did not stop.

MARQUETTE, Mich., May 5.—A terrific wind swept over the upper peninsula on Monday evening, blowing across the sky telegraph and telephone wires and doing great damage. Many buildings were unroofed, chimneys demolished, and trees blown down. The wind was so heavy that it was impossible to see the trees, and the lightning did not stop. The hail was so heavy that it was impossible to see the trees, and the lightning did not stop.

HUDSON COUNTY FROEHLERS. Officers A. reported the Year-end of the Hudson County Board of Chosen Froehlers yesterday appointed these officers: Hugh Dugan, County Collector, salary \$2,500; Edward Kelly, County Superintendent, salary \$3,500; Charles B. Converse, County Physician, salary \$4,000; John P. Noonan, Assistant Clerk, salary \$1,200 per year. The Board also appointed John A. McGrath, county clerk, to succeed Mr. Noonan.

McGrath's appointment was unexpected. In caucus on Tuesday last, the nine Democratic members of the board of chosen froehlers, Messrs. Dugan, Kelly, Converse, Noonan, McGrath, and Kilroy and Griffin, were decided upon by Lawyer William Blair, who is believed to be the real power behind the two Republican members, and Kimmerly, Democrat, bolted the caucus and voted for McGrath.

Under a law passed at the last session of the State Legislature the members of the present board of chosen froehlers will hold office for two years. These Froehlers got the two-year term. John P. Noonan, County Physician, salary \$4,000; John P. Noonan, Assistant Clerk, salary \$1,200 per year. The Board also appointed John A. McGrath, county clerk, to succeed Mr. Noonan.

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