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modification of the ordinance regulating the sale of small wares in the streets by pedlars. It seems that lately the police have prevented the pedlars from selling in the streets, and if they were entirely prohibited from selling their wares at this period of distress the number of dependents upon the city bounty would be multiplied. The paper was referred to the Committee on Ordinances. The Board concurred to request Hon. Murray Hoffman to prepare a revised edition of a treatise upon the estate and rights of the Corporation, and \$2,000 was appropriated for that purpose.

Judge Betts has made an order that the final argument before the Court in the case of the United States against Law and Conover, sureties for ex Postmaster Fowler, shall be heard on Monday morning next. We have five days later news from Port au Prince, up to the 1st inst. The report that Spain had reasserted her claim to St. Domingo was still current, and to this was added a rumor that the Spaniards held the city of St. Domingo, and that the people of the North had risen in revolution. The report is probably false, but caused some alarm in Port au Prince. There is no local news of importance.

The regular monthly meeting of delegates from the various railroad lines was held yesterday afternoon at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Mr. J. E. Thompson, of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, presided, and Mr. Nathaniel Marsh, of the Erie, acted as Secretary. The four great Eastern lines were represented. The principal business of the meeting was the consideration of the difficulties which have existed between the New York and Boston lines in relation to freight rates on goods for the West. The Boston line for some time past has been carrying freights at a rate below that of New York, claiming to be entitled to do so on account of the partial employment of steamboats in transportation. The New York line objected to this, and demanded an increase by the Boston line on account of the more easterly situation of its point of commencement. The difficulty was finally adjusted by the latter line consenting to increase its rates ten, eight and five cents beyond that of the regular New York tariff; and the meeting thereupon adjourned to the third Thursday of March next.

The number of inmates under the care of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction at present is 9,113—an increase of only one for the past week. The number admitted was 1,818, and those discharged, transferred or who died were 1,817. The court martial on Lieut. Barbot, of the Mohawk, was occupied yesterday in taking the evidence of Michael Morissey, Corporal of Marines, and Henry Fauber, Captain of the Forecastle. Both men were on the sick list, and had to be brought to the court, which occasioned some delay. The evidence on both sides being closed, the accused, on application of his counsel, was allowed till eleven o'clock on Monday next to prepare his defence. The court will meet at eleven o'clock to-day for the despatch of other business.

The cotton market yesterday was firmer and more active, the news from the South giving accounts of a falling off in the receipts, especially at New Orleans, while an advancing tendency in prices brought out purchasers, including a number of spinners, who bought quite freely. The Liverpool news was not regarded, and the attention of dealers was drawn to the movements at the South. The transactions, including 500 bales sold late in the afternoon, reached about 4,500 bales, in lots, closing on the basis of 11 1/2c, a 1/2c for middling uplands, and at 12c for strict middling do. It was believed that considerable quantities were being pledged by planters to the Confederate States, with the view of raising funds, and that English capitalists were on hand to make the necessary advances. Should this prove correct, it will tend to divert considerable quantities from the regular channel of trade, and cause shipment to England to be made in the most direct manner. Flour was firmer and more active, with sales for export and home use at an improvement of 5c, per bbl. for some grades. Wheat was also active and firmer. Corn was in better demand, and at firmer prices. Pork was steady, with sales of meat at \$17 1/2c, \$17 1/2c, and at \$15 for prime. Sugar was steady, with sales of 600 casks, 450 boxes and 100 hbls. mchdo, on terms given elsewhere. Coffee was quiet and sales moderate. Freight was in the main firm, but somewhat irregular, while engagements were moderate.

Departure of the President Elect.—The prospect as dark as ever. The President elect has departed on his way to the federal capital to assume the government, of a divided nation; and although we had a great many speeches, and a great deal of fuss and commotion during his visit to the commercial metropolis, yet from all it we cannot extract one ray of light thrown upon the disasters which are overshadowing the country like a pall. The only indication of anything seriously reflecting upon the condition of public affairs is to be found in the remarkable and well timed speech of Mayor Wood, when receiving Mr. Lincoln at the City Hall, and his palpable effect upon the new President. It was perhaps the best speech the Mayor ever made—the briefest and most to the point. It touched to the quick, as was evident from the embarrassment of Mr. Lincoln in the opening sentences of his reply. For a moment he had nothing to say, for the simple reason that he does not know what he is going to do when he takes the reins of government in hand, and therefore he resorted to his old slump speaking dodge, and told an anecdote about a ship and her cargo—a misty allegory, without point or purpose. This will not do. It is not what we want in this terrible crisis. The people will not be put off with dodges and anecdotes.

The country at this moment is in a fearful plight, with little or no hope in the future to cheer the least despondent minds. Six States have already gone out of the Union, and seven more are making up their minds as to whether they shall follow. In fact, the country is drifting to perdition. There are two Congresses sitting in Washington; but one of them is a body of obstinate, and the other a body of fools and fossils. The only intimation of a future policy, either for good or evil, comes from Mr. Seward, who is supposed to be the Premier of the new administration. Mr. Seward is a practical and shrewd man, who recognizes the full extent of the peril surrounding us. But he is hampered and obstructed by the rabid politicians of the republican party, who are endeavoring to break up the Cabinet which is now partially constructed. The first thing the new President should do when he reaches Washington is to complete the filling up of his Cabinet. But a matter of far more importance than the selection of his constitutional advisers is to give to the country his own ideas and the measures he intends to propose. He will have to take the whole responsibility; and surely never since the early days of the nation's trials and sufferings did a heavier responsibility rest upon any man. Not even had Washington himself a more difficult and important part to play than now falls to the lot of Abraham Lincoln.

The country balances upon the verge of chaos. Throughout the length and breadth of the land the throes of dissolution are being felt. Here in New York—from which, like the blood from the heart, throbs the life that sustains and quickens the whole commercial system—everything is stagnant; trade is paralyzed, merchants are breaking down and mechanics are unemployed. The current of commerce is frozen in

its channel and yet never at any former period did all the elements of flourishing trade and prosperity exist to the same extent as now. There are forty millions worth of merchandise in the bonded warehouses waiting for a market, and nearly forty millions in specie lying in the banks waiting to be employed. In everything that can form the basis of a nation's prosperity there is abundance—in agriculture, mineral products, manufacturing facilities—yet all is reduced to absolute stagnation, and although money was never so plenty, the national government cannot obtain a loan. Government stocks, which used to be run after at twelve per cent premium, are now hawked about at ten per cent discount. What is felt in New York will soon be felt all over the country to its remotest part, and the wheels of commerce everywhere will come to a dead lock.

Unless the President elect abjures anecdotes and pointless speeches, and adopts some measures at once to settle the present difficulty—not a national convention, for that is too slow and too barren of permanent good; but some plan that will operate quickly—the whole country will be gone to ruin—utterly destroyed by a crisis, which the fanatical anti-slavery politicians have been laboring for the last thirty years to bring about.

THE CHEVALIER WEBB'S OPINION OF THE SOUTH.—Dickens, in the very best of his recent works, "Dombey and Son," introduces a queer character, by name Bunsby. Bunsby is a mariner, and is referred to by his friend Cuttle to decide a most important point—to wit, the probabilities concerning the good ship Son and Heir, which has been some time at sea, and is supposed to have been lost. After examining the charts, comparing dates and stimulating his mental faculties with copious glasses of grog, Bunsby declares, first, that his name is Jack Bunsby; second, that what he says he stands to; third, as to the special matter at issue: "Do I believe this here Son and Heir's gone down? Mayhap. Do I say so? Which? If a skipper stands out by Sen' George's Channel, making for the Downs, what's right ahead of him? The Goodwins. He isn't forced to run upon the Goodwins, but he may. The bearings of this observation lays in the application on it. That ain't no part of my duty. Avast there, keep a bright lookout forward, and good luck to you." The novelist proceeds to state that Captain Cuttle was immensely delighted with Bunsby's oracular giving out, which has since been immortalized in the familiar expression of "an opinion as is an opinion." For our own part we had always looked upon Bunsby as an impossible caricature; but lately we have found his actual embodiment in the person of the Chevalier Webb, a collection of whose opinions would be vastly edifying. Here is one about the South:—

Jefferson Davis represents a band of pestiferous traitors in open rebellion against the government—of men who have been degraded and demoralized by slavery—of an ignorant, arrogant, law-despising and God denying people, whose lives are spent in acts of violence and whose boast of their reckless disregard of all that elevate man above the beast.

That is "an opinion as is an opinion;" but the difficulty is that Webb, like Bunsby, is not original in his idea. Garrison, Phillips, Parker, Pillsbury, Samner and all the abolitionists of the Massachusetts school have used the same language for the last thirty years. It is well to know, or at least to believe that Mr. Lincoln and his Prime Minister, Mr. Seward, do not entertain the opinions of the Chevalier Webb. They will fortify their positions by keeping in view the fact that the North and the South are united by the ties of kindred, by matrimonial alliances and a thousand bonds which cannot be severed by the sword. Our opinion is that the Chevalier Webb's views will be materially changed in the course of a month or two. In the meantime the new Bunsby should keep cool.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND MAYOR WOOD.—The speeches delivered at the City Hall on the occasion of the official reception of the President elect are eminently suggestive and characteristic. The Mayor stated that it became his duty to tender to the guest of the city an official welcome, and then brought in a graceful and well timed allusion to the distracted condition of the country. The city of New York, he said, was deeply interested in the matter, and looked to Mr. Lincoln for "a restoration of fraternal relations between the States—only to be accomplished by peaceful and conciliatory means." It is quite evident that the President elect had received a hint that the Mayor intended to refer to the direct question before the country, but the adroitness with which the allusion was made evidently embarrassed Mr. Lincoln. He declared that he was not behind any man in devotion to the Union, and referred in an ambiguous way to the "commercial greatness" of New York. His figure—comparing the Union to a ship, and the people, with their material interests, to its cargo—was witty in its inception and clumsy in its manner of application. The words did not flow glibly from the new President, and he seemed very glad to arrive at the last sentence, "allow me to come to a close." It is to be sincerely hoped that Mr. Lincoln will profit by his metropolitan experiences, and will understand that the heart of the country, as well as New York, beats strongly for the Union, and that the Mayor's suggestion (that the fraternal relations between the States can only be restored by conciliatory measures) is the sentiment of all good citizens in the Empire State.

THE BEST PLATFORM AFTER ALL.—It will be noticed in the speeches of the President and Vice President elect that they have no faith in the Cabinet which is shortly to assume executive powers, in the new Congress, the fossil Peace Convention or the politicians. The fossil put their trust in Divine Providence, and we presume, take the New Testament for their platform. The doctrine there inculcated, "peace on earth, good will to men," is just the very best for the present crisis. Mr. Lincoln and his advisers will find that it will work much better than the Chicago platform. So let them stick to Divine Providence, and cut the politicians altogether.

THE COLD SHOULDER FOR GREELY & CO.—We have noticed among the political features of Lincoln's reception at Albany and New York that he has been surrounded by republicans of Thurlow Weed's way of thinking. Greely met the President elect on the railway; but after the party reached this city the Spruce street philosopher subsided. Weed was constantly on hand, and at Grinnell's breakfast the guests were all of the Seward and Everett stripe. Straws show which way the wind blows.

The Force Bill in Congress—Its Atrocious Object and Purpose Revealed. The speech of Mr. Boocock, of Virginia, in the House of Representatives, which we published yesterday, contains a searching analysis of the provisions of the Force bill now before Congress, well calculated to alarm the community. He shows clearly that it is not only unconstitutional and in conflict with those sections of the fundamental law which limit the purposes for which the militia are to be used, and limit the power of the President as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, and of the militia when the latter is called out to suppress insurrection, but it invests the President with dictatorial powers, and gives him at the same time an unlimited control of an unlimited army, to be used at his discretion in the invasion of any sovereign State in the Union. It is an attempt to subvert the constitution by an act of Congress, and to create the incoming President a military dictator.

The constitution gives the President power to call out and to use the militia for the suppression of insurrection in any State on the call of the Legislature of that State, or on the call of the Governor if the Legislature should not be in session, and the reason of the provision is assigned—namely, that the constitution guarantees to every State a republican form of government, and the federal power is bound to interpose, when legally called upon by the authorities of the State, to prevent its overthrow by physical violence. There is only one other case where the President has any constitutional authority to use the militia, and that is in repelling invasion in the event of foreign war. But this new Force bill, in the face of the article of the constitution which limits the powers of the President by declaring that what is not expressly granted is reserved to the States and to the people respectively, authorizes the chief magistrate to call out the whole power of the army and navy, together with the militia, and volunteers in any numbers, to invade a State and subjugate it, under the pretext of "enforcing the laws of the Union," not merely without the invitation of the Legislature or Governor of such State, but in express opposition to their authority. The new bill gives him authority not merely to enforce the laws in aid of the courts and the civil power in a State, but to employ the whole military power to enforce any order he or his agents may choose to issue, however arbitrary and despotic. A postmaster, for example, could embroil the whole country in civil war in pursuance of this bill. And furthermore, to cap the climax of the tyranny, all the military force of the land is to be put under the articles of war, and should any member of the militia make any harsh comment on the measures of Congress or the proceedings of the President ("speak disrespectfully of the court"), he is liable to the tender mercies of a court martial. What more, we should like to know, is necessary to the completion of a military despotism? And if such a power is now permitted to be employed to crush the people of the Southern States, how long will it be till its iron heel is planted on the necks of the freemen of the North?

Nothing can better illustrate the folly and the desperate wickedness of the republican members of Congress than this bill. It proceeds entirely upon the principle that the Southern States are a foreign enemy, and that Congress has a right to wage war against them. Immediately after Mr. Doocock's speech, Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, in the course of the debate on the Navy bill, declared that it was the design of his party, by means of that bill, to invade the Southern States and take the forts. The Force bill, therefore, is plainly intended for the raising of an army of invasion. And if the opinions of the organ of a party be any evidence of its designs, we have abundant testimony in the columns of the New York Tribune as to the atrocious purpose for which the invading army is to be put in motion. One of the editors and proprietors of that journal, writing from Washington, asks (a Wednesday number)—significantly asks—"Cannot everybody see how easy it will be, if hostilities between the sections arise, to make the destruction of slavery the issue of the war? We are in conflict on the question. If we come to blows it will be still about slavery. And what then is inevitable? Why simply this, and nothing more, and nothing less—a fight to see whether slavery shall go up or go down. The issue cannot be escaped. The war will be waged to crush the eggs of the reptile that has hatched the brood of traitors and revolutionists."

Here then is boldly avowed the design of the bill, which is the first overt act of a fiendish, diabolical conspiracy to send an army into the Southern States in order to raise a servile insurrection and to exterminate the white men of the South—in fact, to make it another St. Domingo, with all its bloody horrors. This has always been the confessed purpose of Garrison, Phillips and the other leading abolitionists. The organ of the radical republicans now proclaims that such is the design of its party. Nor is this a mere broken falcon. Thousands upon thousands of fanatics can be found at the North to volunteer their services to the new President to carry out the provisions of the bill. Thus, instead of protecting States "against domestic violence," which, according to the constitution, is a main design of that instrument, the declared object of the Force bill is to create domestic violence in the Southern States, destroy their institutions and the property guaranteed to them by the constitution, and lay waste the whole land with fire and sword. And, therefore, it is that Jefferson Davis is raising an army to defend the South, and will probably be in command of 100,000 men by the 4th of March.

Now, we submit that this Force bill is not the way to deal with citizens of the United States, who are not a foreign enemy. It is not the way to bring back the seceding States, or prevent the border States from following their example. Instead of adopting this bill, the proper course for Congress is to concede to the Southern States the full measure of their constitutional rights; to adopt immediately the Crittenden or Bigler resolutions by a majority of both houses, and send them to the people to be voted on in every State. Let Congress try that plan, and the people, we pledge ourselves, will endorse the resolutions by overwhelming majorities—in this State, for instance, by not less than 150,000. Thus in ten days the question might be virtually settled, for the basis would be laid for embodying those compromises in amendments to the constitution. The border States would be satisfied, the revolutionary abolitionists of the North and the revolutionary fire-eaters of the South would be put down together, and in six months the

whole of the seceding States would be restored to the Union without the shedding of one drop of blood. But let Congress refuse or neglect to do this, and let them pass the Force bill, and they dig a bloody grave for democracy, in which will be buried the hopes and liberties of countless millions of the human race.

MASSA GREELY ON PLATFORMS.—The elder Disraeli, in his "Curiosities of Literature," which may be almost ranked with Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy" in its range of subject, has given us some pretty fair instances of the working of diplomacy, and the subtle means which diplomatists employ to secure all the advantages, real and possible, of their position. They wisely provide against every contingency, and whenever a treaty is to be framed, a despatch written or an act done, their great study is to make it read both backward and forward with equal gain to themselves. Hence it is that their constructions are found to be not unfrequently left open to misconstruction, always, of course, in their own favor. They are educated in the art of circumlocution and stratagem, and in their official language double meanings constitute the rule rather than the exception.

Just as diplomatists construe and trim every thing, and change their tactics according to expediency so nicely in their own behalf, so do the politicians in this country in the pursuit of a party purpose. The card which Massa Greely published in the Tribune on Wednesday last, in which he defends himself from the aspersions cast upon him chiefly in reference to his share in the Chicago platform, affords us an instance of how platforms are constructed. The philosopher of the Tribune says:—

Some bright genius has made a revelation of my alleged agency in so-called down the republican platform at Chicago. I certainly had long and earnestly the platform committee to devise that platform of all necessity, and I have no recollection of any such thing. I am sure that Congress shall positively prohibit slavery in every Territory, whether there be or be not a possibility of its being abolished.

It is a diplomatic axiom that every negotiation should be so conducted, and every treaty and provision so worded, that, while securing the most advantages to its framers, it should at the same time present as few unpalatable features to the opposite party as possible. All asperities should be carefully smoothed over, so that a loss might almost appear a gain, and thereby the loser be reconciled to his loss, or the negotiators won over to mutual concessions. That Massa Greely is a believer in this line of policy is evident; for by his own admission he sought to make the platform offensive to as few and acceptable to as many as possible.

ENERGETIC MEASURES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN MEXICO.—The firmness and moderation with which President Juarez and his advisers are proceeding in the reorganization of the central government augur well for the future of Mexico. Whilst they are carefully avoiding all appearance of vindictiveness in their measures, they are striking at the root of all those anarchical influences which have hitherto defeated the efforts of the liberals to carry out the reforms necessary to restore peace to their unhappy country. They have begun by expelling the Pope's Nuncio, the Spanish and Guatemalan Ministers, the Archbishop of Mexico and five of his dioceses, who were the soul and centre of the reactionary party. The next step, we trust, will be the confiscation of the overgrown revenues of the church, with a view to their appropriation to charitable and educational purposes, after the clergy are decently provided for. It was the failure of energy in carrying out this programme which caused the fall of the Comonfort administration. The new government would appear to be sensible of this from its preliminary measures, and if it only has the firmness to persevere as it has begun, there is hope that tranquility and prosperity are about to dawn upon a country which has never yet, since it has fallen under the rule of the Latin race, had a fair chance of developing its resources. It is a sad reflection that, whilst the Mexicans are consolidating their government and attaining that unity which was alone wanting to their welfare, we should be drifting back upon the very evils from which they have had such difficulty in emancipating themselves.

CRIMINAL MATTERS.—The "Balls in Masseters," with a sequel, a new play, will be acted at the Metropolitan, and at Brooklyn on Saturday for the benefit of St. Vincent's Hospital. During next week the new opera will be withdrawn temporarily in order to give the principal artists some rest, and Miss Louisa Kellogg will make her debut in "Violetta."

CITY INTELLIGENCE.—FIRE IN GREAT GUYAN STREET.—Between 10 o'clock and 11 o'clock on Thursday morning a fire originated on the second floor of the dwelling house No. 17 Great Guyan street, owned and occupied by J. T. Lord. The fire was caused from the heat of a grate in the back room. The building was built by William S. Wright for his own residence. There was no brick and woodwork in the grate, and the fire spread rapidly, and in a few minutes had reached the ceiling. The fire was extinguished by the fire engine, and the damage to the building was estimated at about \$100. The fire was caused by the heat of a grate in the back room. The building was built by William S. Wright for his own residence. There was no brick and woodwork in the grate, and the fire spread rapidly, and in a few minutes had reached the ceiling. The fire was extinguished by the fire engine, and the damage to the building was estimated at about \$100.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.—ALLEGED ROBBERY OF A GUN FOR \$400.—Charles Whelpley was brought before Justice Osborne, at the Lower Police Court, yesterday, on a charge of forging a check for \$400 on the Chemical Bank, under the following circumstances:—Francis Tumbulty, 24 D, of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, deposited that he kept an account in the Chemical Bank on the 26th of December last he drew a check for \$100, the filling up of which was executed in his room by the present robber, and which he has since cashed by the bank, and is now in the hands of the bank. The robber is a man of about 30 years of age, of a dark complexion, and is supposed to be a native of Ireland. He was arrested on the 26th of December last, and is now in the custody of the police. He is charged with the robbery of a gun for \$400, and is also charged with the forgery of a check for \$400 on the Chemical Bank.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.—Capt. Ben Whiting, of Hempstead, L. I., is staying at the New York Hotel. Mr. S. H. Bates, of Charleston, S. C., is staying at the Philadelphia Hotel. Mr. J. B. Forrester, of New York, is staying at the Philadelphia Hotel. Mr. W. H. Smith, of New York, is staying at the Philadelphia Hotel.

COURT CALENDAR.—This day, 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th,