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TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisements to insure a proper classification should be brought in before half-past eight o'clock in the evening.

THE NEWS.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday the consideration of the reconstruction resolutions recently passed by the House was called for, and after a short debate on the question the resolutions were taken up. Mr. Fessenden, the chairman of the Reconstruction Committee, being unwell, Mr. Howard, of Michigan, opened the debate and explained the purpose to be served by the passage of the resolutions. Several amendments were offered to the bill and several substitutes for the third section. The consideration of the resolutions was continued until the Senate adjourned.

In the House the bill reported on Tuesday to continue in force the Freedman's Bureau was considered, but no definite action taken, the morning hour having expired during the discussion. The consideration of the Tax bill was then resumed. Among other minor alterations, it was ordered that the lists of incomes shall not in future be published. The tax of five per cent on all incomes of over one thousand dollars was passed.

EUROPE.

Our European files by the Cuba, dated to the 12th of May, reached this city from Boston yesterday evening. The papers contain very important details of the progress of the disastrous money panic in England to the result of the heavy failures announced by telegraph from Halifax. We publish the facts to-day, with the statements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer previous to and when moving the suspension of the Bank of England Charter act. The extension of the panic on the Continent is also reported.

The Paris *Constitutionnel* defends Napoleon's expression of his "detestation" of the treaties of 1815 in a semi-official article, which is, if possible, more significant than the original speech at Auxerre.

Hamill, the American champion sculler, was in training with Harry Clasper for the great international match in England. Hamill, the London men say, moves very rapidly "if he has endurance."

THE CITY.

At three o'clock yesterday afternoon the corner stone of the Women's Hospital, corner of Fiftieth street and Fourth avenue, was laid by Mr. J. W. Beekman. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Beekman, Mr. E. C. Benedict and Erastus Brooks. Between two and three hundred persons assembled to witness the ceremony. A band of music was in attendance.

The New York annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which commenced on Saturday, the 19th inst., at Zion church, corner of Bleecker and Tenth streets, was continued yesterday. The attendance of clerical delegates has been large, and all of the pastorates of this Conference have been represented. Delegations were also present from Maryland, Louisiana and other Southern States. Rev. W. H. Bishop, assisted by Bishop Brooks, presided during the principal session.

The celebration of the anniversary of the Sunday Schools of the Eastern district of Brooklyn yesterday by the scholars was a festive occasion for the children. Ten thousand of them assisted in the exercises and joined in the procession.

No new cases of cholera have been admitted on board the Falcon since May 7. There were forty-five persons under treatment yesterday—none of them, however, for cholera.

The Destitute Children's Home on Staten Island, established especially for the support and education of seamen's offspring, was yesterday the scene of much interest and enthusiasm. It was the twentieth anniversary, and was celebrated in a manner which reflects much credit on the patrons of the institution and all concerned. The proceedings are reported in another column, and will be perused with interest by those who are the friends of our hardy seamen and sailors.

The Seventy-first regiment paraded five hundred men yesterday, and, under escort of the Twenty-third regiment of Brooklyn, proceeded to Greenwood Cemetery for the purpose of celebrating the inauguration of the new monument recently erected to the memory of Colonel Abram S. Vosburgh. Five years ago yesterday his remains were deposited in Greenwood, but the elegant monument which has been raised on Battle Hill being deemed a more fitting place of deposit, they were removed to that place yesterday. An address was delivered by Mayor Hoffman on the occasion.

Mr. Thomas W. Birdsall, President of the Security Fire Insurance Company, living at Yonkers, committed suicide yesterday afternoon by taking strychnine. The deed was prompted, it is supposed, by the derangement of his business affairs, which had been made the subject of investigation by the directors of the company. Another supposition is that private speculations had resulted disastrously. He was about forty-two years of age, and leaves a wife and several children.

In the United States District Court yesterday, before Judge Benedict, the government obtained a verdict condemning a quantity of cigars, worth about one thousand dollars, which had been consigned by Scaini & Co., of Havana, to Guidet, Savoy & Co., and seized at the Custom House for under valuation. Mr. Ethan Allen and Mr. Phelps, Assistant United States District Attorneys, appeared for the government, and Coudert Brothers for the claimants.

The case of M. Lamarande, who is accused of embezzling funds from the Bank of Poictiers, France, was called on yesterday in the United States Commissioners' office, before Commissioner Betts. The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the examination was adjourned till Monday next at twelve o'clock.

A case in reference to the seizure of a large quantity of cotton in Georgia by Treasury agents came up for hearing yesterday in the United States Circuit Court. The plaintiffs, Messrs. Denistoun and others, who have brought actions in the Supreme Court of this city against Mr. Simeon Draper, cotton agent, for the recovery of the property, appeared, by their counsel, to quash a suit of certiorari, by which the government seeks to remove the proceedings from the Supreme Court to the United States Court. The case is still on.

Among the indictments brought in by the Grand Jury of the General Sessions yesterday was one against Henry E. Moring for an alleged violation of the recently amended auctioneer act. The indictment was found at the request of Mr. Moring, in order that the constitutionality of the act might be determined. His counsel entered a demurrer to the indictment, and, on motion of the District Attorney, Judge Russell granted judgment *pro forma* against the people, in order that the case might be brought to the Court of Appeals without delay. The City Judge refused the application to bail D. E. Ferguson, who is now under arrest charged with complicity in the robbery of bonds at Exchange place.

The *Sun* libel case went on yesterday before Judge Brady, in the Court of Common Pleas. A number of witnesses were examined, but their evidence was not important. The case was adjourned till this morning.

A prize fight was discovered in progress on the Hudson yesterday by two of the Metropolitan police, who with some difficulty arrested the principals, and turned them over to Justice Dowling.

The stock market was unsettled yesterday morning, but closed firm, with an improving tendency. Governments were heavy. Gold, after selling at 139, closed at 138¾.

Commercial affairs continued unsettled; but the market remained firm under the high rate of gold. Prices were, to a great extent, nominal, the violent fluctuations rendering it quite impossible to fix values. Cotton ruled decidedly higher. Petroleum was irregular. Sugar was held higher. Coffee was quiet and nominal. On 'Change flour was higher. Wheat and corn were also higher. Oats were firmer. Pork was steady. Beef steady. Lard firmer, and whiskey nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The National Union Club at Washington serenaded the President last evening. A large concourse of citizens attended with the serenading party. The President made a few remarks in answer to the compliment, and said all that is necessary is persistence in the support of their principles, and the day would soon come when the people would satisfy them they were right. The serenaders then called at Secretary Seward's; but as he was absent Mr. Frederick Seward responded for him. Secretary Welles declined making a speech, and contented himself with thanking them. Mr. Stanton was next called upon, and in response he made a somewhat lengthy speech. He said that the President was cordially supported by every member of his Cabinet in his purpose to secure the prosperity of the country. The plan of the Reconstruction Committee was unwise and impolitic. The third section was an especially obnoxious feature. He thought every incitement to union should be cherished and fostered. Secretary McCulloch, in his remarks, said, if there was a policy of reconstruction presented better than Andrew Johnson's, there would be no one who would more gladly embrace it than Andrew Johnson; but until there was a better one he would not be Andrew Johnson if he did not cling to his own, and sink or swim with it. Postmaster General Dennison also delivered a short address, but Secretary Harlan declined to express himself, and Attorney General Speed was not at home. They both sent letters to the committee, Secretary Harlan saying that his political opinions were well enough known by his former course, from which he had not swerved. Attorney General Speed pleaded want of time as his excuse for not addressing the serenading party.

The President has approved the bill to prevent and punish kidnapping. It entails a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both, on any person convicted of kidnapping any other person for the purpose of selling him into involuntary servitude; any vessel carrying such person away for the same purpose is forfeit to the United States, and the master or owner subject to the above punishments.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury in regard to the number of clerks in his department was furnished the House yesterday. One clerk is mentioned who served in the rebel army, having been conscripted.

Our correspondence from Mexico comes by way of Havana, and is dated Vera Cruz May 12, and City of Mexico May 10. The contemplated withdrawal of the French troops caused considerable excitement in the capital. The probabilities are that Maximilian will abdicate before they withdraw. Mr. Corwin, the Charge d'Affaires had sailed for the United States. The report of the departure of a thousand French troops and the arrival of a battalion of the Foreign Legion, was confirmed. The concentration of French troops preparatory to withdrawing is currently reported. A colonel and lieutenant colonel of the imperial forces were murdered by their own men at Rio Verde, it is believed because of the strict discipline he attempted to introduce. Official despatches received by the minister at Washington, confirmed the liberal victory at Magdalena, on the 6th. A victory had also been gained in Sinaloa, by General Cardoza.

The news from Havana is to the 19th instant. A grand review of the troops by General Dulce took place on that morning. A special messenger from Maximilian, on his way to Europe, had reached Havana on the 16th. Three slavers were discovered on the coast. Orders were transmitted to the Spanish cruisers to make diligent search for them. A cattle disease, said to be the rinderpest, had broken out among the cattle near Cardenas and Matanzas.

The International Tribunal of Colombia and the United States, convened at Washington for the purpose of adjusting and settling the claims of the United States against Colombia, closed its labors on the 18th. Sir Frederic Bruce was umpire. The United States were represented by the Hon. Thomas Biddle, of Pennsylvania, and Colombia by General Salzier. The total amount of damages claimed was one million five hundred thousand dollars. The total amount awarded is less than one hundred thousand dollars.

General Ferry has been elected United States Senator for Connecticut, to succeed Mr. Foster, by the concurrence of the State Senate in the vote of the House.

The temporary arsenal erected by the United States forces during the occupation of Augusta, Ga., was blown up by the careless handling of shells on Monday afternoon. Two freedmen were killed and two others wounded.

The colored laborers of Memphis attempted to institute a strike on Tuesday, but the officers of the Freedmen's Bureau, fearing another riot, imprisoned the ringleaders in Fort Pickering. The Congressional Investigating Committee had arrived at Memphis.

The whole business portion of Hudson, Wisconsin, was destroyed by fire on Saturday, the loss being estimated at three hundred thousand dollars.

Four buildings in Fulton street, Boston, were nearly destroyed by fire yesterday morning. The buildings were stored with cotton, and it is supposed the loss is very heavy.

A fire broke out in St. Clairsville, Ohio, on Tuesday afternoon, which destroyed property to the amount of one hundred and fifty or two hundred thousand dollars.

War in Europe—Revival of the Imperial Game of Napoleon the Great.

The little speech of Napoleon at Auxerre has startled the listening nations of Europe. They will accept it as the signal of another imperial crusade of the armies of France. He has played his part as the champion of peace, and now, as the living embodiment of war,

Red battle stamps his foot, and nations feel the shock.

History repeats itself. The restoration of the empire in France under Napoleon the Third means the revival of the imperial game of Napoleon the First. As the Julius Cæsar of the nineteenth century Louis Napoleon may be contemplating the empire of Augustus; but it is more probable that with Russia he meditates another division of Europe between an Eastern and Western empire. Since the fifth century of the Christian era, when the Western empire of Rome came to an end and the monarchy of France was founded, there have been several attempts to re-establish an Empire of the West. In the year 800 such an empire was proclaimed by Charlemagne, who was crowned at Rome by the Pope, as King of Italy, Germany and France. But six years later this empire of the great Charles disappeared with its division between his three sons. In any event its maintenance in that day was impossible from the barbarous and turbulent condition of the various warlike divisions, tribes and races of the continent.

In the latter half of the eleventh century the Pope himself—Alexander II.—claimed supreme temporal and spiritual dominion over all the Christian States; but a few years later, in an attempt to exercise this authority, his successor, Gregory VII., was expelled by Henry IV. of Germany and died in exile. Charles V. of Spain and Germany for a time established a dominant Western empire, but was finally driven to a cloister by Luther and the Reformation. Napoleon the First, after his subjugation of the continent west of Russia and Turkey, fell at last under the coalitions bought by the gold of England; but in exchange for St. Helena he left to England his legacy of her present national debt, thus binding her hand and foot under Napoleon the Third.

"Within fifty years," said the Napoleon of St. Helena, "all Europe will be republican or Cossack." He doubtless meant that the continent would be governed by the decrees issued from Paris or St. Petersburg. But the Cossack of that day has since been brought within the pale of modern civilization, and the power of Russia may profitably to France be now diverted to the eastward. Russia and Turkey are both arming for war; but neither appears to be in any way connected with the complications of the Western Powers. It is thus apparent that the game for dominion in this impending conflict will be for a division of Europe between France and Russia. While thus relieved of one of the two most powerful enemies of the uncle, the nephew [illegible] f the other by the nation[illegible] In all other respects the si[illegible] favor of Napoleon and [illegible] ation against the treaties o[illegible] Belgium and the smaller [illegible] within his grasp, Prussia is committed against Austria and Italy is dependent upon and devoted to France. The grand drama, therefore, will probably be opened by a movement of Italy upon Venetia. Prussia, then seizing her opportunity, will advance against Austria on the other side, and then the six hundred thousand available troops of France will be put in motion for the Rhine and the Danube, and the treaties and boundaries of 1815 will be blotted out.

Such, we conjecture, will be the western section of the coming European war. The eastern division, by concert with Napoleon, may be left to Russia. Against either of those two Powers, thus co-operating for the division of Europe between them, England cannot interfere. Nor will she long be able to survive the general wreck of kingdoms and dynasties without a close alliance with the United States. In any event the financial revulsion which Europe will suffer will be the building up of the credit, power and prosperity of the great republic.

The War in Europe Upon the American System.

It is evident that the impending war in Europe will be short, sharp and decisive. The plans of the Emperor Napoleon have been carefully matured. He has been no inattentive student of the Titanic campaigns of General Grant, and when he makes war it will be upon the American system. It is all very well to talk and write of the great Cæsar and the first Napoleon; but the Napoleonic style of warfare is as obsolete as that of the Roman Emperor. The recent rebellion has revolutionized and reconstructed the art of war. When, during the Italian campaign, the present Napoleon moved his army to the scene of action by railroad and employed an army telegraph to facilitate his movements he made great advances upon all previous commanders and the world gave him credit for unexpected military talent. But the railroads and the telegraph, which were mere accessories to the Italian war, were in our war practical necessities. Grant so utilized them as to render them as indispensable as swords and cannon in all future battles. Our soldiers built and rebuilt railroads as they advanced, and the lines of telegraph kept pace with the lines of the troops. Sitting at his headquarters, with his maps before him, General Grant could handle immense armies thousands of miles apart as easily as a colonel could control his regiment. In an incredibly brief space of time vast masses of men were safely transported from one end of the country to the other, arriving at the place where they were wanted in good order, unfatigued by forced marches and ready for immediate service. Besides this, the army railroads connected the most advanced posts with the depots of provisions and ammunition, and the troops, unencumbered with the old-fashioned trains of baggage wagons, could make the necessary changes of base much more rapidly and strike the enemy at exposed points much more effectually.

Austria, Prussia and Italy will be the parties at the commencement of the coming war; but whether or not France actually sends troops into the field all Europe will understand that Napoleon is the real commander-in-chief. It is more than probable that at first France will not interfere, but will reserve her strength until a series of decisive blows can be delivered upon Austria. Italy, the youngest and most adventurous of the combatants, may shed the first blood in Venetia and thus force the quarrel to an issue. Austria and Prussia, if left to themselves, might go on diplomatizing and blustering and massing troops for another year. The Germans are proverbially slow and argue the mattter in every possible light before they begin to fight, although they fight very determinedly and even desperately when they once begin. But in young Italy we have an altogether different combatant. Ardent, enthusiastic, impetuous, hating Austria bitterly, and sincerely in earnest in the desire to secure Venetia, Italy wastes no time in diplomatic correspondence, but immediately invests King Victor Emanuel with war powers and sends the gallant Garibaldi to the field. If Napoleon does not encourage this impetuosity he at least does nothing to check it. The crisis for which he has been waiting so long and so patiently has at length arrived. He sees an opportunity to gratify the French people's love of glory, to rectify the frontiers of France, to trample upon the detested treaties of 1815, to withdraw his troops from Mexico, to win a martial fame and to establish that great Western empire of which all the great Emperors of Europe have dreamed. And yet, by a singular coincidence of circumstances, this opportunity is a perfectly safe one, will cost the French treasury comparatively little and may not even require the sacrifice of a single French soldier. Events seem to have conspired in Napoleon's favor, as they conspired against his uncle. England, who might have been a most dangerous enemy, is bound to remain neutral, and cannot even give Austria a moral support. Russia has projects which look to the establishment of an Eastern empire, and which will be rather assisted than thwarted by the course of France. The United States, satisfied to have the French leave Mexico, is rather gratified than otherwise that Napoleon has found a good excuse for his withdrawal. The leading Powers of the world will, therefore, stand quietly by while Napoleon prosecutes his schemes, and there is no danger of any alliance against him outside of Germany. Never did a ruler have so clear a field before him.

From his headquarters at Paris Napoleon will direct the movements of the armies of Prussia, Italy and France, as General Grant directed his corps under Sherman, Thomas and Sheridan. We may expect to see a war closely resembling our own in the extent of territory which it occupies; in the harmonious operations of different armies directed by a single mind; in the perfection of the material employed; in the utilization of railroads and the telegraph; in the heavy losses upon both sides, and in the stubborn character of the fighting. That Napoleon will do all that Grant has done is not to be anticipated. We doubt whether Napoleon has the [illegible] genius of General Grant. The world [illegible] produce two such generals at the sa[illegible] Neither are there in Europe such sold[illegible] who fought in the American arm[illegible] rivers from their courses; invente[illegible] every obstacle of art or nature, built roads through swamps and morass[illegible] getting being seemed able to p[illegible] mountain fastnesses that appeared more impregnable than Gibraltar; won victories above the clouds; swept like a sword of fire across the continent, and carried the bright flag of their country into the very recesses of the rebellion. In the European war, also, there will be no such incentive, no such battle-cry, no such glorious motive as that which nerved our soldiers to superhuman exploits. But all that one general can learn from a careful study of the campaigns of another Napoleon has learned from Grant. He has anxiously imitated all the improvements which we have made in our weapons, our tactics and our transportation of troops and supplies. He will conduct this war upon the American system, because it is the best; and if Austria was no match for him during the Italian campaign, when his military ideas were comparatively undeveloped, it is quite unlikely that he will find the Austrian generals competent to cope with him now that he has had the advantage of all our experience, experiments and successes.

LIGHT ON THE MEXICAN MUDDLE.—The extraordinary events now transpiring in Europe, which foreshadow a general war, will throw a calcium light on the Mexican muddle. Austria, Prussia and Italy will soon have their hands full of trouble. Nothing that can now be foreseen is likely to occur to avert the catastrophe that is about to involve Europe in hostilities, and there is no telling how far neutrality can be observed by any nation. England, indeed, through the mouth of her Foreign Secretary, has declared for non-interference; yet if she untertakes to maintain that position after her shameful treatment of Denmark in the Schleswig-Holstein difficulty she will inevitably imperil her rank as a great nation. Louis Napoleon, in his Auxerre speech, has thrown out a significant hint as to the probable course of France. It can hardly be expected that the coming conflict will be confined to Austria, Prussia and Italy. Coincident circumstances will most likely drag France into the scrape, and it is exceedingly doubtful whether, in the progress of events, England will be able to preserve neutrality.

In any case Maximilian's affairs in Mexico must undergo a very serious change. The first gun of the European war will be the signal for him to pack up his trunks and return home to look after Miramar and the concerns of his family in Austria. The house of Hapsburg will need all his attention, for there are deeper interests at stake in Austria than in Mexico. This war, then, will throw a bright flood of light upon the foggy atmosphere of Mexican politics, and probably bring an easy solution to the present riddle in that quarter. We are sorry for Maximilian, for he is a most excellent gentleman—courteous, accomplished and liberal in the disposition of the privy purse; but the fact is that he is too good a man to be a ruler over the disorganized Mexican people and could never manage them to his satisfaction. A mild and cultivated gentleman like Maximilian would never suit them. They want a stern master over them; say such a crusty old hero as Santa Anna. The state of affairs in Mexico, however, will be radically changed by the approaching war in Europe, which will do more to settle the question than all Mr. Seward's diplomacy or the protests of our Minister in Austria against raising volunteers to aid the Mexican Emperor, which, we are told, had the effect of disbanding several companies raised for that purpose.

SECRETARY SEWARD'S SPEECH AT AUBURN.—The Secretary of State has again made a speech to his friends and neighbors at Auburn. It is just such a speech as we expected he would deliver, and contains nothing new. It is in the same hopeful strain that has characterized his utterances heretofore. He manages, however, to give the reconstruction plan of the radical Congressional Central Directory some very hard hits, and to draw a comparison between their plan and that of the President, which is somewhat damaging to the radicals. But even in this he has said nothing new, and only reiterated what has appeared in our columns time and time again. He has endorsed the position taken by the HERALD, but that endorsement is of no more importance than that of some pauper on the notes of Wm. B. Astor

General Ferry Elected United States Senator from Connecticut.

NEW HAVEN, May 23, 1866.

The Senate concurred with the House to-day in electing Orris S. Ferry United States Senator, to succeed Mr. Foster, whose term expires on the 4th of March, 1867. The vote was strictly a party one, standing as follows:—O. S. Ferry, republican, 13; R. D. Hubbard, democrat, 8.

News from Memphis.

ARRIVAL OF THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE—STRIKE OF COLORED LABORERS.

CINCINNATI, May 23, 1866.

The Congressional committee sent to investigate the recent riot in Memphis arrived yesterday, and will commence their work to-day.

The colored levee laborers at Memphis struck for higher wages yesterday, and attempted to parade the streets. The authorities of the Freedmen's Bureau, fearing another riot, caused the arrest of the negro strikers, and conveyed them to the fort.

Commissioners of Charities and Correction.

VISIT OF GOVERNOR FENTON TO THE INSTITUTIONS IN CHARGE OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

Governor Fenton, his daughter, and some of his friends left Bellevue in the department steamer yesterday morning and visited the House of Refuge on Randall's Island. The Governor passed through the various departments of the building, and at length proceeded to the reception room, where he was met by the boys, and several of them made little speeches which seemed to please the Governor greatly. He expressed great satisfaction at the manner in which everything was carried on in the building, especially the discipline of the boys, their healthy and happy appearance, as well as the progress they had made in their studies, and exhorted them to persevere to the end so as to lay in store within themselves the material for becoming in after life good and useful citizens. The Governor then proceeded to Blackwell's Island, where he visited the Lunatic Asylum, the Workhouse, Almshouse, Charity Hospital and Penitentiary, where he partook of a collation prepared for the occasion of his visit by order of the Commissioners.

Mr. Gran's Loss at the Late Fire.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

To prevent any misapprehension from the various correct and incorrect reports which have been published respecting my losses and insurance in connection with the fire at the Academy of Music, permit me to make a statement. My wardrobe was contained in forty-eight large boxes, and was taken to the Academy from the steamer Eagle, by which my company and self arrived from Havana. It had been made since 1858, and every season it was largely increased on account of my extensive repertoire. Portions of it had been purchased in London and Paris, so that it has been constantly growing in importance and value. Such a wardrobe, at the present prices of materials and the high price of labor, could not be made up, after many, many months of labor and the employment of about fifty persons daily, for fifty thousand dollars. Contrary to my usual caution, I had neglected to insure any part of it, and I have not a single article left of the collection of years. Of my music, nine operas only were destroyed—those that have been and were to be represented during the recent brief season. The remainder of my music, comprising about forty operas, I am happy to say were not taken to the Academy and were saved in my storerooms.

To the many distinguished gentlemen and influential friends who have expressed to me their sympathy and who have proffered their assistance in case I require it I beg to return my sincere and grateful thanks. With patience and perseverance I trust to be able to surmount all this misfortune and I shall soon depart for Europe to arrange with Madame Ristori her suite and company to come to Havana, and also to perfect the directions which I have sent out to-day to my agents in Milan and Paris to purchase a new and splendid wardrobe for my [illegible]

NEW YORK, May 23, 1866.

SERENADE.

President Johnson and His Cabinet Serenaded by the National Union Club.

BRIEF SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT.

Fearless and Outspoken Endorsement of the President's Policy by Secretary McCulloch.

Secretary Stanton Endeavoring to Embrace Both Congress and the President.

He Does Not Approve of the Reconstruction Committee's Report.

Conservative Speech of Postmaster Denison.

Welles Wakes from a Nap and Says a Few Words.

REFUSAL OF HARLAN AND SPEED TO SPEAK.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1866.

The President and the various members of his Cabinet were serenaded to-night by the National Union Club, attended by a very large concourse of citizens, numbering several thousands. The President was the first to be complimented in this way. In acknowledgment of it he came out in front of the Executive mansion, and, standing on the coping of the balustrade, he made a very brief speech. His appearance was a signal for enthusiastic greetings. His words were as follows:—

THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.

FELLOW CITIZENS—In appearing before you this evening it is simply for the purpose of tendering to you my thanks, my sincere thanks, for this demonstration and for the approbation which you have manifested on this occason and on many occasions before. Such approbation is peculiarly gratifying and encouraging to me under existing circumstances. All that will be necessary is to persist in the support and maintenance of correct principles, and the day is not distant when the American people will satisfy you that the good work you have commenced is right, as it will so prove in the end. (Cheers.) I repeat my thanks for your approbation of my conduct as a public man and a public servant."

The President then retired amidst hearty applause.

REMARKS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEWARD.

The party next proceeded to the residence of the Secretary of State. In the absence of Mr. Seward the compliment was acknowledged by Mr. Frederick Seward, who said:—

FELLOW CITIZENS—In behalf of the Secretary of State I thank you sincerely for this manifestation of your kindness. I regret that he is not here to-night; for I am sure that it would give him pleasure to witness and share in your demonstration of patriotic feeling and fidelity to the Union and of appreciation of the wise and earnest efforts of the President for its restoration. (Cheers.)

SECRETARY WELLES DECLINES TO MAKE A SPEECH.

The Secretary of the Navy was next called upon. In acknowledgment of the compliment Mr. Welles said:—

I thank you, gentlemen, for this compliment, which I suppose is to the administration and its policy, which we one and all approve. (Cheers.) You need not expect any remarks from me, for I do not intend to make any. You are, one and all, for the Union, I suppose, and for the establishment of the rights of the States. (Cheers.) These are my views. (Cheers.)

SECRETARY STANTON'S SPEECH.

The Secretary of War was next called upon, the band playing "Rally Round the Flag," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," and other airs. Secretary Stanton said:—

MR. STANTON'S SPEECH.

GENTLEMEN—On the afternoon of Thursday, the 17th of this month, I received a note from the secretary of the National Union Johnson Club, telling me it was the design of the association to serenade the President and his Cabinet, and that I would be called upon at my residence. Immediately on receipt of this note reply was sent to the secretary expressing my thanks for the compliment, and declining the honor of the serenade. A similar compliment by the patriotic association of the Soldiers' and Sailors' League had previously been declined. Two reasons induced my action. The last time a public speech was made from this spot, in answer to a serenade, was on the night of Friday, the 14th day of April, 1865. At that moment, when we were rejoicing over the downfall of the rebellion, one of its instruments was murdering Mr. Lincoln. You will not think it strange that a complimentary occasion, fraught with such associations, should not be coveted. Besides, as the head of a department, my public duties have been simply executive, and it has always been my aim to avoid trenching upon duties devolved upon others, and to avoid mischief by premature discussion of matters entrusted to the legislative bureau of the government and under its consideration. But the call of this evening relieves me from any imputation of intruding my opinions upon you. I shall, therefore, declare them briefly and plainly, and to the end that they may be neither accidentally misunderstood nor wilfully misrepresented, what it is my purpose to say on this occasion has been written. After four years of war the authority of the federal government was established throughout the whole territory of the United States at a sacrifice of over three hundred thousand lives of loyal soldiers, and a cost of more than three thousand millions of dollars. Nearly every household in eighteen loyal States is mourning its loved one slain by rebels. A tax which may last for generations is laid upon the food and raiment and necessities of every family; and in the price of their daily bread the twenty millions of inhabitants of the loyal States feel and will long continue to feel what it cost to uphold their government against rebellion. The office of President devolved upon Mr. Johnson at the death of Mr. Lincoln on the 15th day of April, 1865. Thirteen days before that time Richmond, the seat of the rebel government, had been captured; and six days later the rebel Commander-in-Chief, Robert E. Lee, routed and vanquished, surrendered his army as prisoners of war to General Grant and the forces under his command. By these rapidly succeeding events the rebel government was overthrown, its strength and hope exhausted, and in every State its armed forces and official authorities gave themselves up as prisoners of war. The President's annual message to the present Congress clearly states the condition of the country and the duties thereby imposed upon him. I found the States suffering from the effects of a civil war. Resistance to the general government appeared to have exhausted itself. The United States had recovered possession of their forts and arsenals, and their armies were in the occupation of every State which had attempted to secede. Whether the territory within the limits of those States should be held as conquered territory, under military authority emanating from the President as the head of the army, was the first question that presented itself for discussion. After stating the objections to the continuance of merely military rule, the alternative course chosen by him and supported by his Cabinet is thus clearly set forth:—

Provisional Governors have been appointed for the States, conventions called, Governors elected, Legislatures assembled and representatives chosen to the Congress of the United States. At the same time the courts of the United States, as far as could be done, have been reopened, so that the laws of the United States may be enforced through their agency; the blockade has been removed, and the Custom Houses re-established in ports of entry, so that the revenue of the United States may be collected; the Post Office Department renewed its ceaseless activity, and the general government is thereby enabled to communicate promptly with its officers and agents. The courts bring security to persons and property; the opening of the ports invites the restoration of industry and commerce; the Post Office renews the facilities of social intercourse and of business.

No one better than Mr. Johnson understood the solemn duty imposed upon the national Executive to maintain the national authority vindicated at so great a sacrifice, and the obligation not to suffer the just fruits of so fierce a struggle and so many battles and victories to slip away or turn to ashes. In many speeches to delegations from loyal States, in despatches to Provisional Governors acting under his authority, and in declarations made to the public for their information, there was no disguise of his purpose to secure the peace [illegible] tranquility of the country on just and sure found[illegible] These measures received the cordial support of ever[illegible] of the Cabinet, and were approved by the [illegible] clared by conventions in nearly all of the S[illegible] point of difference presented itself—name[illegible] of representation. By some it was thoug[illegible] edient that the right of suffrage in the r[illegible] be secured in some form to the colore[illegible] States, either as a universal rule o[illegible] education or by actual service [illegible] life for their government. My ow[illegible] ew, but after calm and full [illegible] ent yielded to the adver[illegible] upon the practical difficu[illegible] in such a measure, and t[illegible] on that to prescribe the rule o[illegible] the legitimate scope of his p[illegible] ation embodied in the procla[illegible] North Carolina, and the instru[illegible] Governor of that State, exhibi[illegible] ples prescribed by the said [illegible] of civil authority in the [illegible] in the insurrectionary [illegible] as presented by the proclamation and the President's instructions are worthy of special notice. First, that the organizing power is specifically and absolutely restricted to the people "who are loyal to the United States, and no others." This is in accordance with the views often declared by Mr. Johnson from the commencement of the rebellion and under the most impressive circumstances. Secondly, the choice of delegates was not only limited to loyal people, and no others, but constitutional guarantees were required in respect to the emancipation of slaves and the repudiation of the rebel debt. A sound reason for such guarantees in respect to slavery is stated by the President in his message—namely, the necessity of the evidence of sincerity in the future maintenance of the Union. These views expressed by the President in his message received, and continue to receive, my cordial acquiescence and support. Who are loyal people is a question that ought not to be difficult of decision. After full explanation of the steps taken by him to restore the constitutional relations of the States, the President, in his annual message, proceeds to state, with equal distinctness, what remains to be done and to whom the authority and duty of doing it belongs, in the following words:—"The amendment to the constitution being adopted, it would remain for the States whose powers have been so long in abeyance to resume their places in the two branches of the national legislature and thereby complete the work of restoration." Here it is for you, fellow citizens of the Senate, and for you fellow citizens of the House of Representatives, to judge each of you for yourselves of the elections, returns and qualifications of your own members. Whoever doubts that the authority and duty of judging for itself of the elections, returns and qualifications of its members, belongs to each house of Congress, may have his doubt removed by the federal constitution, which declares in the fifth section of the first article, that each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members. In thus distinctly recognizing the constitutional right of each house of Congress to judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, the President has conformed to the plain letter of the constitution; it being the function of each house to judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, the obligation is implied of taking testimony, weighing evidence and deciding the question of membership. What testimony has been taken, or what evidence has been presented on the question to either branch of Congress, or what judgment is to be given is not known to me, nor have I the right of inquiring. Besides the steps taken by the Executive to restore the constitutional relations of the States, his annual message called the attention of Congress to the necessity of insuring the security of the freedman, reminding Congress that, while he had no doubt that the general government could not extend the elective franchise, it is equally clear that good faith requires the security of the freedmen in their liberty and their property, their right to labor, and their right to claim the just return of their labor; and, observing further, that the country is in need of labor, and that the freedmen are in need of employment, culture and protection.

In connection with this subject the President further remarks:—

Slavery was essentially a monopoly of labor, and, as such, locked the States where it prevailed against the incoming of free industry. Where labor was the property of the capitalist the white man was excluded from employment, or had but the second best chance of finding it, and the foreign emigrant turned away from the region where his condition would be so precarious. With the destruction of the monopoly free labor will hasten from all parts of the civilized world, assist in developing various and immeasurable resources which have hitherto lain dormant. The eight or nine States nearest the Gulf of Mexico have a soil of exuberant fertility, a climate friendly to long life, and can sustain a denser population than is found as yet in any part of our country, and the future influx of population to them will be mainly from the North or from the most cultivated nations in Europe.

These views of the President in relation to the freedmen received and continue to receive my hearty concurrence. They have guided the action of the War Department and were substantially advocated in its annual report. In what I believe an honest desire to conform to them, a bill was passed by Congress regulating the Freedmen's Bureau; but, the provisions of the bill did not meet the President's approval, because he believed the powers conferred upon him and upon the agents to be appointed by him to be unwise and unconstitutional. Concurring in the object of the bill and regarding the power as temporary and safe in his hands, I advised its approval. But having been returned to Congress with the President's objections, and having failed the needful support, it is no longer a living measure, nor the subject of debate or of difference of opinion. Another Congressional measure, called the Civil Rights bill, has been the subject of conflict. That bill, now a law, has for its object the security of civil rights in the insurrectionary States. It was well observed by the President in his annual message "that peaceful emigration to and from that portion of the country (the Southern States) is one of the best means that can be thought of for the restoration of harmony." Its possible interference with such emigration was one of the chief objections to military rule, and by some it is thought that the influence of class legislation in favor of the slaveholding monopoly heretofore existing in the Southern States would still be strongly exerted to prevent peaceful emigration into those States, and would exclude the laboring population of the North from that vale of exuberant fertility and friendly climate, that productive region embracing the eight or nine States nearest the Gulf of Mexico, and that hence civil rights in these States should be vigilantly protected by federal laws and federal tribunals. Although the measures enacted by Congress for this purpose failed to receive the Executive sanction, yet having been adhered to by a two-thirds vote in each house they have now passed to the statute book and ceased to be the subject of debate. Another measure or series of measures of prime importance now pending before Congress merits a brief remark—namely, the plan of restoration, or reconstruction as it is sometimes called. To the plan reported by the joint committee I have not been able to give my assent. It contemplates an amendment to the federal constitution, the third section of the proposed article being in these terms:—

SECTION 3. Until the fourth day of July, in the year 1870, all persons who voluntarily adhered to the late insurrection, giving it aid and comfort, shall be excluded from the right to vote for Representatives in Congress and for electors for President and Vice President of the United States.

It is urged by the advocates of this plan that this third section is the vital one, without which the others are of no value. Its exclusive action will, no doubt, commend it to the feelings of many as a wise and just provision. But I am unable so to regard it; because for four years it binds Congress to exclude from voting for Representatives or Presidential electors all persons who voluntarily adhered to the late insurrection, giving it aid and comfort. No matter what may be the condition of the country, nor what proofs of present and future loyalty may be given, an absolute bar is to be erected for four years against a large class of persons. Change of circumstances and condition often works rapid change in party and political sentiments, and nowhere with more marked results than in the South. It is believed that elements of change are now at work there, stimulating on one side to loyalty, and on the other tending to continued hostile feeling. In my judgment every proper incitement to union should be fostered and cherished, and for Congress to limit its own power by constitutional amendment for the period of four years might be deplorable in its results. To those who differ I accord the same honesty and perhaps greater wisdom than I can claim for myself. As the proposed plan now stands I am unable to perceive the necessity, justice or wisdom of the measure. But having no place nor voice in the body before which the measure is pending, I disclaim any purpose to interfere beyond the expression of my own opinion. Having thus declared my views, as they have heretofore been declared to those who had a right to know them, on the material questions that have lately arisen or are now pending, I trust that your purpose on this occasion is answered, and I shall be glad if their expression may have any beneficial influence on questions the right disposition whereof is a matter of solicitude to every patriotic man, and is deeply important to the peace and tranquillity of the country. Recognizing the constitutional power of all the co-ordinate branches of the government—the legislative, judicial and executive—and entertaining for each the respect which is due from every loyal citizen, they are entitled to and shall receive, according to my best judgment, the support which is required by that constitution which, after unexampled conflict, has been upheld and sanctified by Divine favor, and through the sacrifice of so much blood and treasure.

SPEECH OF SECRETARY M'CULLOCH.

The Secretary of the Treasury was next called on. Mr. McCulloch said:—

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