MISSISSIPPI.

Political Factions in the State.

FOLLY OF THE DEMOCRATS.

Extremists and Corruptionists on Both Sides.

JACKSON, Miss., May 6, 1875.

Mississippi is, politically, in a melancholy condition. The State is naturally fertile and rich; the people work; the means of prosperity and content are at hand. Nor can it be said that there is actual disorder or violence. Mississippi is still, even more than Arkansas, a frontier State, with frontier habits. Men, and even boys of fourteen, go about with pistols in their pockets, and murder is not a crime—if the murderer can "get a continuance"—that is to say, if he is not lynched and his lawyer succeeds in delaying his trial. But, except in Vicksburg last year, there has been in two or three years but little political violence and murder in the State. The evil passions which raged after the war, and continued too long, are subsiding, the State debt is trifling, the schools are in tolerably good condition, the Civil Rights act is submitted to, there has been little occasion for the interference of the Federal government, under the Enforcement acts, except at Vicksburg, for at least eighteen months or two years; the State is in the main at peace.

And yet it is neither prosperous nor happy. It is the prey of two political factions of the worst type, who, on both sides, aim to create and maintain excitement, bitterness, suspicions, fears and hatred. On the one side stands an unscrupulous and determined band of democratic politicians of the worst kind—the pistol and bowie knife stripe, namely—who, in newspapers and by their daily conversation, excite the white democrats who listen to them to unreasoning and unreasonable fury, and at the same time alarm the timid negroes and bind them together. Arrayed against these democrats stands another equally unscrupulous band of republican politicians, with Governor Ames at their head, who have "captured" the colored vote, and mean to hold power and plunder by its means. Between these contending factions stand the mass of honest republicans and honest democrats, moderate and conservative, but unable, it seems, to control the bad elements; unable, at any rate, to unite and take control into their own hands.

TWO EXAMPLES.

Here are two examples which do not badly illustrate the state of affairs in Mississippi. Knowing that I am interested in schools, some one in New Orleans sent me a letter of introduction to the State Superintendant of Public Instruction here, a colored man named Cardozo. On asking for him I found he had gone to Vicksburg "to look after an indictment" found against him, and when I myself went there, I discovered that Cardozo was not merely indicted, but as an indignant republican told me, "shingled all over with indictments" for embezzlement and fraud, and likely, if justice is done, presently to be sent to State Prison. What a lovely and improving sight for the children of the State, white and black! Yet this man is one of Governor Ames' confidential and influential advisers.

Here is the other side. While I was in Vicksburg last Saturday the Postmaster, ex-Senator Pease, was stopped in the street by a person who, I was assured, is "one of the most respectable citizens" of the place, who said to him in a loud voice, "I hear, sir, by God, that you are going to appoint a damned nigger to be a clerk in your Post Office!" Pease replied that he certainly was going to appoint a colored man to a clerkship. "Then, sir, I tell you it's a damned outrage, and this community won't stand it, sir!" said this "most respectable citizen" in a blustering tone. Pease replied, "You will have to stand it," which is perfectly true. And as they have a colored Sheriff already in Vicksburg and colored officers in many counties, this bluster seems to be as foolish as it is wicked. At the same time a hack driver was furiously driving his hack up and down the main business street shouting, "Pease is going to put a nigger in the Post Office." Now see what follows. The next day's Vicksburg *Herald*, the democratic organ, remarks:—

Pease puts Milton Coates at the general delivery in the Post Office as an insult to our people. He says the people "must stand it." They may not stand even Pease very long. Our people have a rather summary way of disposing of men and measures sometimes.

And another article in the same journal says:—

Pease was remonstrated with yesterday upon the assignment of a negro to the ladies' window. A gentleman modestly suggested that the men of Vicksburg would not submit to have a negro assigned to the duty of waiting on their wives and daughters at the Post Office, when the insolent scoundrel replied, "They will have to stand it!" The appointment is a deliberate insult to the ladies of this city, and the alleged Jersey schoolhouse burner may find that he is not quite so potent as he imagines. He may find that he has made a blunder, and he may yet live to realize that a blunder is worse than a crime. He may convert the Post Office into anything but a bed of roses.

The Mayor and police of Vicksburg, who are democrats, took no notice of the disorderly hack driver, whom they ought to have summarily arrested. The insulting words of the "respectable citizen" are approved by a large part of the democratic citizens, and those the most prominent politicians. The colored man whom Mr. Pease has made clerk in the Post office is a young man of education, acknowledged integrity and quiet, gentlemanly demeanor, whom several democrats praised to me. The hack driver who objected to him never objects to taking a fare from a negro, and a citizen of Vicksburg told me he had seen him repeatedly driving negro prostitutes about the town. The "most respectable citizen" is agent for a steamboat line, daily sells tickets to colored people, and never refuses their money.

MISSISSIPPI POLITICS.

Mississippi has a colored majority in its voting population of probably 15,000 and possibly 20,000. To these must be added about 9,000 or 10,000 white republicans, of whom at least two-thirds are natives of the State. About 5,000 negroes are counted on to vote the democratic ticket.

The Ames faction in the republican party contains but a small part of the white republicans, a majority of the petty officeholders and the camp followers. But in the anti-Ames wing of the republican party, I found a number of men, Northern and Southern, who have a substantial interest in the State; who are men of culture, upright, wise and good citizens in the best sense of the phrase; such men as Judge Tarbell, of the Supreme Court; Judge Luke Lee; Mr. Musgrove, late State Auditor; General McKee, a member of Congress; Judge Hill, of the United States Circuit Court; G. W. Wells, United States District Attorney for the Northern district, and many others.

The large majority of the democratic party also is composed of men of moderate and conservative views, who would prefer peace, harmony and good government, but who are influenced to a large degree by the small but fierce band of firesaters whose headquarters are at Vicksburg, and who control a number of presses in different parts of the State, and keep the people in a ferment by their violent language and their exaggerations of evils, which are great enough in fact, but not nearly so great as they pretend, nor by any means entirely blamable upon the republicans. Through the appeals of these persons the people of Mississippi have been led to believe themselves outraged and oppressed in some ways in which they are not, partisan bitterness has been maintained to a degree which leads the ignorant democrat to unite in the same denunciation of honest and dishonest republicans; and so intense is the feeling kept up that the material interests of the State suffer by reason of it—confidence is shaken, values are depressed, and even industry is disturbed. Meantime the democratic demagogues lead the people away from the legitimate and natural means by which they could rid themselves of corrupt rulers and establish a sound government, based upon the union of the best men of both parties.

WHO ARE THE CORRUPTIONISTS?

That there has been wastefulness and corruption in the government of Mississippi there is no doubt. I am so weary of official grand and petit larceny that I do not mean to go at any length into Mississippi finances. It is enough to say that the State debt is trifling; there have been no great railroad swindles; a constitutional provision wisely forbids the loan of the State credit. But there has been gross financial corruption in many counties; officers with high salaries have been needlessly multiplied; there have been notorious jobs, such as the State printing; and the ruling powers, the Ames republicans, have unscrupulously used the ignorance and greed of the negroes to help them in their political schemes. Controlling the negro vote and using it as a solid mass, they have consented to put into such offices as county supervisors and treasurers, as well as into the Legislature, negroes who were often not only unable to read and write, but who were notoriously corrupt and corrupting demagogues. The late Treasurer of Hinds county, in which the State Capitol lies, was a negro who could neither read nor write, and who was killed by another negro a few weeks ago for a disgraceful intrigue. In the last Legislature were several negroes who could neither read nor write. It has happened that the members of a grand jury were totally illiterate. A city government was to be elected last August in Vicksburg, and the republicans nominated for Mayor a white man at the time under indictment for twenty-three offences, and for Aldermen seven colored men, most of them of low character, and one white man, who could neither read nor write, the keeper of a low groggery. This ticket was denounced by General McKee, republican member of Congress, in a public speech, and, with the help of the republicans, was beaten. Of the present Supervisors of Warren county (Vicksburg) the President and two others cannot read. It is a notorious fact that Governor Ames has appointed to judicial places men ignorant of law, and that he has used his appointing power to shield criminals, who are his adherents, and to corrupt the judiciary of the State.

These are serious matters; but, on the other hand, it must be said that the democratic demagogues have repeatedly urged the negroes to nominate only colored men for office. They say they "would rather have a Mississippi nigger than a carpet-bagger;" and, moreover, in the notable cases of corruption, both in State and counties, democrats have in almost every instance shared the plunder, and in some have got up the scheme. Now, on this head the democratic leaders are silent. They cry out that the State is ruined, which is not true; but they have themselves helped to rob it, and it is, at least, a doubtful question whether, if some of those who so loudly denounce corruption, had power they would make an honest government. There is, for instance, a loud outcry about the enormous debt of Vicksburg; but of the money spent for street improvements democratic contractors got the most; and the money given to railroads was voted by democrats and republicans alike, and democratic railroad managers pocketed it. Such men as Barksdale, Wharton, Lamar and hundreds of other prominent democrats have clean hands and are men of honor; but there is an undoubted propensity to corruption among democratic as well as among republican leaders. For instance, Vicksburg has been, since August, under democratic rule; but the expenses of the city government, I am told, have increased, and order is not as well maintained under democratic rule as formerly.

Nor, if the democratic leaders were fair, would they omit to tell their people that the expenses of State and county governments have necessarily increased, for the colored people, being free, give business to the courts and the officers and institutions of justice; they must have schools; and in other ways the cost of government is increased. That a large balance of waste and theft remains is perfectly true, and of that all may rightfully complain, as well as of other and graver wrongs, which I have mentioned above.

THE COLOR LINE.

It is a complaint, also, of the democrats, that their opponents have, for corrupt purposes, maintained the color line in politics. It is true that the Ames men cultivate the negro vote by base means; but it is also true that the democrats help them. In Arkansas and Louisiana I do not remember having once heard of the negro except as a part of the body politic, ignorant, to be sure, but a good worker, and as was often said to me by democrats, "not to be blamed that he went wrong under bad advice." But in Mississippi the commonest topic of discussion is the "damned nigger." A dozen times, at least, prominent democrats told me he was a peculiar being, not possessing the virtues of the Caucasian race and not fitted by nature to vote, or to sit on the jury, or to bear witness—a creature admirably calculated to make cotton and so on. I have heard such discussions going on in the presence of colored men, who naturally listened with all the ears they had. Now the negro is not an idiot. He would be if he voted for and with men who habitually call him a "nigger" and often a "damned nigger," and who openly assert his incapacity by nature to perform the functions of a citizen. When the "most respectable citizen" in Vicksburg blustered about the Postmaster appointing a "damned nigger" he was heard by at least twenty-five colored men and women. Yet in that very town leading democrats groan about the impossibility of breaking the color line. One would have a contempt for such politicians were not their course a constant injury to the State in which they are so foolishly noisy, and in which the quiet, sensible and orderly people seem to have almost entirely resigned the power and supremacy which belong to them.

The thing which was oftenest said to me in Mississippi by democratic politicians was this:—"Our only hope is in the democratic success in the next federal election. The democratic successes last fall gave us our first gleam of light." But when I asked how a democratic administration could help them, the reply was, "Because then we can disorganize the colored vote. They will not vote without white leaders to organize them." And when I asked one of the leaders of the "white line" movement, whose object is to draw the color line strictly, how he could hope to get all the white people, with their strongly diverging views, into his movement, his prompt reply was, "We'll make it too damned hot for them to stay out." Now, to me this does not look like the American way of carrying an election. It is a method of bluster and bullying and force. The honest republicans, whom I asked whether the white line movement could possibly draw in all the white voters, all replied in the affirmative. It would silence opposition, at any rate, they said.

INTOLERANCE OF OPINION.

At present there is vigorous opposition to the "white line" movement among the more sensible democrats. The party policy is to be decided in a meeting of a State Committee on the 17th of May, and the opponents of the "white line" profess to be confident that they can defeat the extremists. But in the meantime they do not attack the corruptionists and extremists in their party, and what seems to me more deplorable and fatal still, they have nothing to say against the brutal intolerance displayed by democratic demagogues, either toward the colored men or toward honest white republicans. All Northern men are united in one general and fierce condemnation, as "carpet-baggers." But many of these men thus condemned and held up to hatred have lived in the State since 1865–6; they are men of means, and have all their means invested in the State; many of them are large planters; against the honesty and high character of many of them no one can say a word. It is charged that some of these hold office; but why should they not? They are citizens of the State in every sense of the word, and worthy, capable men, whom no one charges with peculation or oppression. They are as strongly opposed to the mistrule and corruption of Governor Ames and his faction as the democrats themselves. Only a little wisdom on the part of the democrats would lead them to conciliate these men, to win them over to co-operation with them. But nothing of the kind is done. They are sneered at as "carpet-baggers" and made to feel that the democratic leaders will have nothing to do with them. So, too, with Southern men who have chosen to join the republican party; they are at once denounced as "vile renegades," entirely regardless of their actual character. Thus Judge Niles, who represented a Mississippi district in the last Congress, is habitually spoken of as "that renegade Niles." Now Mr. Niles is a man of singular purity of character, a quiet scholar, an old resident of the State, a planter. No democrat pretends that he is dishonest or that he tolerates corruption. But he is a republican, therefore he is a "vile renegade," not fit for the society of decent men.

The same course is pursued toward the colored voters. They have among them some—a few—men of education and honest desires for good government. But these are denounced, in common with the whole herd of ignorant and easily corruptible black voters, who are the prey of designing and unscrupulous white politicians. On the other hand, a man ceases to be a "carpet-bagger" the moment he becomes a democrat. For instance, a former sheriff of Warren county, then a republican, a Northern man, has recently become a democrat, and is at once made a "respectable citizen." Yet it is notorious that he came to the State poor, is now worth over $100,000 and does not own a dollar's worth of property in the State. He keeps his means in bonds and other securities, and, it is said, pays no taxes at all in Mississippi. But the democrats do not hesitate to accept him, while they cry out "carpet-bagger" against men who have invested all their means in the State and are large taxpayers.

Now "you can't catch flies with vinegar." The natural result of this stupid intolerance among the democratic leaders is that the honest republicans are driven and kept in the republican ranks. They have no other place. They must either remain silent or vote the republican ticket. It is not an exaggeration to say that the democrats of Mississippi themselves keep up the color line of which they complain so bitterly. It is their folly and intolerance which masses the negroes and flings them into the hands of Ames, and makes them what they really are—a real danger to the State. This folly goes on in the face of the conspicuous fact that the negroes have a numerical majority in the State, and that without intimidation it would seem to be impossible for a "white line" party to obtain political control of the State.

Lest I should give you a false impression of Mississippi, I must tell you that there is no wish or hope among her politicians or people for the least trouble with the federal government, no expectation or desire for the re-enslavement of the blacks or the change of any constitutional amendment; not the least wish for a "new rebellion." No one can truthfully say the reverse of this. The disease which afflicts society and politics in Mississippi, and which threatens serious effects, is of a different nature entirely. The honest and sensible men have to too great an extent abandoned their duties as citizens, and tolerate crime, misconduct, violence, which would not exist but for their tame compliance.

In another letter I will give you some examples to show how far this apathy goes and whither it tends.

CHARLES NORDHOFF.

A LONG LOST ACTRESS.

Mme. Albertine, a well known American actress a few years ago, has long been considered dead by all who knew her in this country. Her brother-in-law recently received the following communication, announcing that she was still in the land of the living:—

THEATRE ROYAL, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, March 16, 1875.

SIR—Your sister-in law, Mme. Albertine, for some years quite blind, and an inmate of one of our institutions, left for New York per United States ship of-war Swatara, having had a passage generously granted her by Commander Ralph Chandler. The ship will arrive in New York about the end of May next, and she desired me to write to you as to her reception on her arrival. She also suggested that I should ask you to write to Bessie and Susan, Manchester. I shall be most happy to hear from you of her safe arrival at New York, and that there is some hope of the restoration of her sight.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

STUART O'BRIEN.

To Mr. WILLIAM CANNON, New Bedford, Mass.

Last evening a HERALD reporter learned that Mme. Albertine, after landing from the Swatara, had gone to reside with Mr. Alexander Naefy, at No. 38 Garden street, Hoboken, where the reporter found her. Her face is of a refined type, and, although stone blind, her eyes are lustrous, and she rivets them upon the person she is addressing. Her once black curls are now gray. In conversation she becomes almost quite animated. The following is her sad story:—

THE BLIND ACTRESS' STORY.

All my old theatrical friends believe me dead, and I have occasionally wished that I was so, but I still had vague hopes of coming home. Through the extraordinary kindness of Mr. O'Brien, of the Theatre Royal Melbourne, Mr. Adams, American Consul, and my very kind friend Commander Chandler, who came 100 miles into the interior of Australia to Ballarat to take me on board his ship, I have reached America, thank God. Mr. O'Brien promised to write to Mr. Lester Wallack to meet me, and also to write me at the British Consulate here.

I was born in New Bedford in 1834. My first appearance on the stage was as a dancer at the Olympic Theatre in Washington. I was afterward a pupil of Mme. Desjardins, the celebrated French dancer, who lived in Leonard street. She was the rival of Fanny Elssler. I subsequently became an actress, and have acted in nearly every State of the Union. My first hit was in Little Dot, in "The Cricket on the Hearth." When I was playing at the Arch Street Theatre, Philadelphia, about 1848, I made an arrangement to play with Frank Chanfrau, who was then immensely popular as Mose, and travelled with him for a long time. In 1852 I was at San Francisco with Chanfrau and played at the Jenny Lind Theatre, under the management of Thomas McGuire. Among the dramas I took part in was "The Naiad Queen," "Satan in Paris," "The French Spy," &c. I danced in nearly all my pieces and I have played in every line, even up to heavy business. The character of "Linda, or the Cigar Girl," was written for me. I subsequently returned in 1859 on my own account to California. I opened at the Lyceum Theatre with "Jessie Brown, or the Relief of Lucknow." Among the troupe were Frank Mayo, Alonzo Phillips, Dave Anderson, or "Old Uncle Dave," as we used to call him. The piece ran over sixty nights. I played "Our American Cousin" for the first time in San Francisco. I took the *rôle* of Mary. The manuscript was sent out to me by Chanfrau. I did not care much about the piece, and did not think it good to star in. It's all Lord Dundreary. When the dull season came on I determined to take a run to Australia. When I left the United States Mr. Ward, my agent, promised to pay my dues to the dramatic fund. When I arrived at Melbourne I played at the Theatre Royal with Gustavus Wasa Brooks, who was subsequently drowned on the steamer London, in the Bay of Biscay. I played, among other dramas, in "The Young Actress." After about a month I went to Ballarat, in the interior, where I played one night for a benefit in a farce, "Jimmy and Tricate," and afterward in the "Golden Drama." The theatre was a big tent and all the hotels were tents, and that night I caught a bad cold which turned into the colonial fever. I spent all my money, and to all the letters I wrote home I got no answer. When I got better I tried to act and dance, but I became so blind that I could hardly see the footlights, so I had to give it up. Dr. Berncastle treated my eyes for a year, but could do nothing. His first fee for examining my eyes was fifteen guineas. At last, driven by poverty—all my jewelry and clothes being sold—I went into the Benevolent Asylum, where I learned to sew, knit and read. They were very kind to me there, but they thought if I came to the United States I would be taken care of by the actors, but I said I did not want to be a burden to anybody. When Captain Chandler said he would take me home on the Swatara I wept for joy. If I had been the Queen of England I could not have been better treated on that vessel. What is to become of me I don't know, for my property at Yonkers has been sold for taxes and I cannot redeem it. However, I am not despondent.

AN ABSCONDING CLERK.

W. F. Leslie, receiving teller in the banking house of Duncan, Sherman & Co., corner Nassau and Pine streets, has absconded, taking with him $12,000 in cash belonging to the firm by which he was employed. Leslie has been for many years in the employ of Duncan, Sherman & Co., and up to the time of the discovery of his dishonesty enjoyed the complete confidence of the firm. He was absent from the bank on Decoration Day, as were all the clerks, and did not appear on Tuesday. It was not until Thursday that an examination of his accounts was made, when the discrepancy was discovered. One of the firm of Duncan, Sherman & Co. told a HERALD reporter yesterday that the money was taken from the till and that it was not a case of peculation extending over any considerable period of time. It is thought Leslie has left the city, but measures have been taken to secure him.

PENSIONERS' DAY.

Colonel Silas B. Dutcher, United States Pension Agent in this city, commenced the quarterly payment of pensions yesterday. The number in attendance was even larger than usual, nearly 1,200 persons being paid, and the amount disbursed aggregating $40,000. The Pension Office will be open for the transaction of business until the entire roll is checked off.

FURTHER RING SUITS.

Ex-County Auditor Watson's Property Involved.

An Action Against His Estate for Several Million Dollars.

Yesterday the papers were filed by Attorney General Pratt and Wheeler H. Peckham in a civil suit against Mrs. Margaret Watson, wife of James Watson, deceased, who was the County Auditor under the Ring. The following are the papers served upon defendant's counsel:—

The People of the State of New York, plaintiffs, vs. Margaret Watson, administratrix of all and singular the goods and chattels of James Watson, deceased, and the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York, defendants.

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED—You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint of the plaintiffs, The People of the State of New York, in the above entitled action named, a copy of which is hereto annexed, and to serve a copy of your answer on the subscriber, at an office called the "Bureau of Municipal Correction," in charge of Wheeler H. Peckham, No. 18 wall street, city of New York, within twenty days after service of this summons on you, exclusive of the day of service, or the plaintiffs will apply to the Court for the relief in the complaint demanded.

APRIL 3, 1875. DANIEL PRATT, Attorney General.

The complaint of plaintiff of the State of New York, by Daniel Pratt, their Attorney General, plaintiffs in the above entitled action, against William M. Tweed and the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York, defendants in the same action, respectfully show and allege:—

First—That by an act of the Legislature of this State, passed on the 26th day of April, 1870, entitled, "An act to make further provision for the government of the county of New York," it was enacted that all liabilities against the said county previous to the passage of that act should be audited by the Mayor of the city of New York, the Comptroller of the said city and the then President of the board of supervisors of the said county, and that the amounts which should be found to be due should be provided for by the issue of revenue bonds of the said county, payable during the year 1871; that the said board of supervisors should include in the ordinance levying the taxes for the year 1871 an amount sufficient to pay said bonds and the interest thereon, and that the claims on such liabilities should be paid by the said Comptroller to the party or parties entitled to receive the same upon the certificate of the said three officers or persons so required to audit in that behalf by the said act.

That at the passage of said act, Abraham Oakey Hall was Mayor of the said city, Richard B. Connolly was Comptroller thereof, and the said William M. Tweed was President of the Board of Supervisors of the said county. That the said William M. Tweed continued to be such President until the 4th day of May next thereafter, and the said Hall and Connolly respectively continued to hold their said respective offices until and after the 1st day of October then next thereafter.

That after the passage of such act, and on or about the 4th day of May, in the year 1870, with intent to cheat and defraud the county of New York and the taxpayers thereof, and the people of the state of New York, the said William M. Tweed and one James Watson, the defendant intestate since deceased, did unlawfully and fraudulently combine, conspire and agree together to procure false and pretended claims to be set up and to be allowed and paid in formal compliance with said act and in the manner hereinafter stated.

That after the passage of such act, and after the said Board of three auditors in the same act mentioned had held the meeting hereafter mentioned, and before the 15th day of August, in the year 1870, several pretended claims, falsely alleged and purporting to be such liabilities of said county, within the true intent and meaning of said act, amounting in the aggregate to $6,138,957 85, as specified in the annexed schedule thereof, marked A, which is made a part of this complaint, were by the said three auditors, in apparent and formal compliance with the terms of said act, respectively certified to have been so audited and allowed by them, as hereinafter more particularly stated.

That from time to time, as such certifications were respectively made known to him or his subordinates, the said Comptroller, in order to provide as prescribed by said act funds to pay the amounts so certified, caused to be issued bonds as prescribed by said act, and obtained thereon from bona fide purchasers or such bonds, prior to the said 15th day of August, in the year last aforesaid, the said sum of $6,138,957 85, which last mentioned sum was, in the usual modes of keeping moneys officially received on account of said county, deposited in the National Broadway Bank of the city of New York to the credit of an account therein kept by the Chamberlain of the city of New York, as County Treasurer of the said county, by virtue of his said official character as such Chamberlain.

That the money so deposited as aforesaid were, from time to time, drawn out of said bank in the manner hereinafter stated.

That the said pretended claims or liabilities were not, nor was any of them, ever examined or audited by the said board of three auditors, or by any of them, and that but one meeting of said Board of auditors was ever held; that at such meeting no accounts, claims or liabilities against the said county or under said act were presented or considered, nor was any other proceeding had thereat, except that a paper was then and there subscribed by the said three auditors so in said act mentioned.

That such meeting was held on the 5th day of May, in the year last aforesaid, and that such paper now remains in the said Comptroller's office, and is in the following words.—

"COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, May 5, 1870.

"The undersigned meet as a commission, under and by virtue of section 4 of chapter 382 of the Laws of 1870.

"On motion of the Mayor it is resolved that the County Auditor collect from the appropriate committees of the Board of Supervisors all bills and liabilities against the county incurred prior to April 20, 1870, and amounts now due thereon, and that the evidence of the same be the authorization of the same by the said Board or its appropriate committees on certificate of Clerk or President, and that thereupon the said County Auditor annex the vouchers to the appropriate blanks for our signature and action, as directed by the section aforesaid, and payment.

"A. OAKEY HALL, Mayor.
"WILLIAM M. TWEED,
"Present President Board of Supervisors.
"RICHARD B. CONNOLLY, Comptroller."

That at the date of such paper, and during all the pecuniary transactions hereinafter mentioned, the said James Watson, intestate, was called and styled County Auditor, and was the person intended by that style of phrase in such last mentioned paper.

That said Watson, or his assistants, to the plaintiffs and their Attorney General unknown, from time to time, after the making of such paper, and prior to the said 15th day of August, acted upon the said pretended accounts or claims mentioned in schedule A as aforesaid, which were, in point of form, authenticated conformably to the requisites of such last mentioned paper, to each of which the said Watson attached a certificate of audit and allowance, filled up as to the amount and date in his own handwriting, the results being in print; that a blank form of such certificates contained in the schedule, marked C, to this complaint annexed as a part thereof, whereupon each of the said Board of three Auditors, separately, without any investigation or conference with or in the presence of either of the other members thereof, signed his name; and thereupon, by direction of the said Comptroller, a warrant for the payment of such claim was prepared, signed by the said Comptroller and countersigned by the said Mayor and one Joseph B. Young, then Clerk of said Board of Supervisors, on which, on the day of the date of the same, the said Watson, in some manner, without any knowledge or notice of the fraudulent acts, practices or intents in this complaint mentioned, or of any of them, did, in the due and ordinary course of business, for and in behalf of said County Treasurer, and to the debit of his said account, pay to some person or persons, to the plaintiffs and their said Attorney General unknown, on presentation of such warrant, the amount thereof in the usual method of paying checks upon banks.

That every such warrant was in the form usually and lawfully employed in drawing money from the bank account of such County treasurer in payment of claims and liabilities of the said county, after such claims had been duly audited, allowed and ordered to be paid by the proper officers in that behalf; and that the schedule, marked B, to this complaint annexed and hereby made a part thereof, contains in blank the form of all such warrants.

That the said accounts and claims so pretended to have been audited, and for which such warrants were so made and paid as aforesaid, and which are mentioned in the said schedule marked A, were all false, fictitious and fraudulent, and did not, nor did any of them, represent any liabilities or liability against the said county, or any real or actual liabilities or liability which, according to the true intent and meaning of said act of the Legislature, were directed to be audited, provided for or paid, or any just or lawful demand whatever.

That the said James Watson, intestate, and the said William M. Tweed, in pursuance of the unlawful and fraudulent combination, conspiracy and agreement aforesaid between them, and with the intent to cheat and defraud as aforesaid, procured the said false, fictitious and fraudulent claims and accounts to be prepared and made up, audited and certified as aforesaid, in the form required by the act aforesaid; they, the said William M. Tweed and James Watson, intestate, well knowing at the times when no, the said James Watson, intestate, so prepared and filled up said audit certificates, and when he, the said William M. Tweed, so certified such claims respectively, that the said claims were false, fictitious and fraudulent as aforesaid, and in like fraudulent manner, and with like fraudulent intent as last aforesaid, obtained such warrants mentioned in said schedule A, and procured payment thereof from the said bank as aforesaid, and fraudulently obtained and converted to their own use the said sum of $6,138,957 85, so paid them as aforesaid.

That the said schedule marked A contains a statement of the said warrants respectively, showing, as to each warrant, the following particulars, that is to say: the first column shows the date of such warrants, the fourth column shows the name of the person or persons in whose favor the pretended claim in that behalf was so certified, the fifth column shows the alleged nature of the pretended claim for which the warrant was made, the sixth column shows the amount of such claim for which such warrant was so made as aforesaid and the seventh column shows the indorsements and memoranda found upon such warrant.

That the said moneys so paid by said bank upon said warrants, and so obtained thereon and converted to their own use by the said William M. Tweed and James Watson, intestate, have not, nor have any of them, or any part thereof, been recovered back or restored unto the proper or lawful official receiver, depository or custodian thereof, either in specie or by compensation for the same, or otherwise.

That on or about the 30th day of January, 1871, the said James Watson departed this life intestate and leaving certain personal estate. That letters of administration upon the estate of the said James Watson, deceased, were thereupon, to wit, on or about the 15th day of February, 1871, duly issued by a surrogate of the county of New York to the defendant, Margaret Watson, the widow of the said James Watson, deceased.

That said Margaret Watson, as said administratrix, has deposited a large part of the said personal estate with the United States Trust Company, pursuant to an order of the said surrogate and subject to the further order of said Surrogate.

The complaint further shows that all and singular the claims of the creditors of said Watson deceased, on his estate, have been paid, and that there remains unpaid only the claims of these plaintiffs, that the defendants, the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York, set up and pretend to some right or interest in the premises.

And for a second, separate and further cause of action the complaint shows that in the year 1870 one James Watson, now deceased, combined and conspired with one James H. Ingersoll to procure false and pretended claims to be set up against the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York, and to be allowed and paid in formal compliance with the rules of the Department of Finance of said city and in manner following:—

That the said Watson and Ingersoll caused to be made up and presented to the Auditor of Accounts, the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York, six certain bills purporting to be for goods, work and labor by him, the said Ingersoll, furnished to and done for the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York, and procured the said Auditor of Accounts to certify and approve the said bills as good and valid claims against the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York.

The complaint then alleges the falsity of these bills, and states them to be included in six warrants as follows:—

1870.	
July 13	$160,110 42
July 18	152,219 05
July 29	161,341 84
August 4	155,297 73
August 15	153,867 04
August 23	151,274 86
Total	$933,640 44

The complaint then avers an interest on the part of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, and claims the same amount as on the complaint against Peter B. Sweeny, and is verified by Mr. Peckham.

It is expected that attachments will to-day be asked for against the property of Mrs. Watson, as has been done in similar suits against members of the Ring.

THE MASONS.

INSTALLATION OF GRAND OFFICERS—LETTER FROM THE CROWN PRINCE OF DENMARK.

The Grand Lodge resumed labor at nine o'clock yesterday morning. The following prayer was offered by the R. W. and Rev. John G. Webster:—

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings by Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy name, and finally through Thy mercy obtain everlasting life. Amen.

Response—So mote it be.

The Grand Master exhibited the pitcher 200 years old presented to the Temple by Mrs. W. C. Barnes, of White Plains, and a unanimous vote of thanks was given to the lady.

The report of the Grand Librarian showed that there were now on the shelves 1,500 Masonic works, many of them rare and valuable; 200 copies have been received by purchase, exchange and donation, and many valuable contributions have been made by M. W. John W. Simons, Winslow Lewis and others. The expenses during the year amounted to $459 90. The report was adopted and referred to the Finance Committee.

M. W. Clinton F. Paige was called to the chair, and the Grand Marshal was directed to present the grand officers elect for installation, who did so in the following language:—"M. W. Grand Master, the Grand Master and other grand officers elect are now before you and await your pleasure. I have the honor to present Brother Ellwood E. Thorne, who has been duly elected Grand Master of Masons for the ensuing year." The installing officer said:—"Brother, your unanimous re-election to the offices which you held last year shows the trust your brethren have reposed in you and their appreciation of your services. I now simply ask you most worshipful sir, do you renew your solemn obligation to the craft, which was taken by you at your former installation?"

Grand Master Thorne—"I do."

The other grand officers were asked a similar question and gave the same answer. They were all inducted into their several places, and the installing officer declared them duly installed. The Grand Marshal then made the usual proclamation in the South, West and East.

The Grand Master (Thorne) then handed to Deputy Grand Master Husted a letter from the Crown Prince of Denmark (already published in the HERALD), which was read by that officer and received with applause. The Grand Master further said that he had received several communications from other jurisdictions, among them one from the Grand Lodge of England, which, if they had no other effect, would cement the harmony which should ever prevail among Masons.

W. E. M. Ehlers moved that when that letter should be printed in the transactions a fac-simile of the signature of the Crown Prince be printed with them. Adopted.

On motion of M. W. Clinton F. Paige, it was resolved that a full account of the dedication ceremonies and procession should be printed in the transactions.

The official reporter of the Grand Lodge reported that there were 23,682 Masons in line on the day of the procession.

R. W. Jesse B. Anthony, from the Committee on Finance, reported on the resolution fixing the salary of the Grand Lecturer at $1,500; that such sum would not be sufficient for the services of that officer, and reported in favor of a salary of $1,500, with $300 travelling expenses. In consideration of this compensation he is to visit each district and exemplify the three degrees of Masonry at least once in each year. Adopted.

The Grand Marshal presented a number of representatives of other grand lodges near this Grand Lodge, who were received with the grand honors.

The Committee on Warrants reported in favor of granting a certified copy of the warrant of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, to that lodge, the warrant being very much worn by age, it being 118 years old. Adopted.

A motion to provide a suitable frame for Stuart's painting of Washington, now the property of the Grand Lodge, was referred to the Finance Committee, who subsequently reported adversely on account of the expense (about $300) which it would entail.

The Committee on the Grand Master's Address, in relation to distinguished Masons deceased, reported through the R. W. and Rev. John G. Webster that the R. W. Brother to whom the duty of preparing the report was assigned had not yet prepared it. He asked permission to hand it to the Grand Secretary after the close of this communication.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Grand Lodge reassembled at two P. M. The Grand Master said:—"Brethren—In the absence of the Grand Chaplains, the Grand Master desires to invoke the blessing of God upon our deliberations during this, our last session, and that the same may accompany us to our homes."

On motion of R. W. John J. Couch the thanks of the Grand Lodge were tendered to W. William B. Anderson for his courtesy in placing at their disposal for the banquet at Irving Hall a magnificent picture of "Washington Closing the Lodge."

The Committee on Exemplification of the Work reported that they had witnessed the Grand Lecturer, R. W. George H. Raymond, exemplify the degrees, and that he was in full possession of the standard work.

On motion a vote of thanks was passed to R. W. Henry Clay Preston and his aids for the efficient manner in which they performed their duties during the procession on Wednesday.

The Committee on the Condition of Masonry reported through M. W. John L. Lewis, approving the decisions of the Grand Master with the exception of four and amending others. One of these four decisions was to the effect that a brother whose name has been dropped from the roll at his own request shall receive a certificate from the secretary of the lodge stating the fact. R. W. William T. Woodruff did not approve of striking out that decision. He thought it was but right that a brother who came up and paid his dues, and then asked that his name be dropped from the roll, should have the following words added, "This brother's name was dropped from the roll at his own request." He moved that the decision of the Grand Master be approved.

Some debate followed, which culminated in the adoption of Brother Woodruff's resolution, thus approving the decision of the Grand Master and disagreeing with the report of the committee. The other decisions which were disapproved by the committee were approved by the Grand Lodge on motion of R. W. Brother Woodruff. They relate merely to Masonic law and discipline, and would not be interesting to the general reader.

After the Grand Master had been presented to the installing officer the ceremony of installing the new officers of the Grand Lodge was proceeded with.

THE COLORED MASONS.

THE UNITED GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION.

At the session of the United Grand Lodge of Colored Masons of the State of New York yesterday the following grand officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Most Worshipful Grand Master, Robert McDougall; Senior Grand Warden, A. J. Aldridge; Junior Grand Warden, R. H. Sampson; Grand Treasurer, William A. Mars; Grand Secretary, A. Wilson; Grand Register, E. Warmsley; Grand Chaplain, William Phillips; Grand Director of Ceremonies, J. Bowser; Grand Pursuivant, S. Berry; Grand Tiler, D. Gibson. Most Worshipful Grand Master William C. B. Curtis will install the officers elect on next Thursday, at which time the annual communication will close.

A TERROR STRICKEN CONVICT.

Jacob Groebl, who had been convicted of stealing air-brakes from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at Jersey City, was again placed on trial yesterday in the Court of Quarter Sessions on the charge of grand larceny. He was convicted, and the Court promptly sentenced him to five years at hard labor in the State Prison on each indictment, both terms to run together. No sooner was the sentence pronounced than the prisoner fell in a fainting fit, and had to be carried in this condition from the court to the jail. His wife and children, who were in the court, crowded around the constables, and their shrieks were heart-rending till they, too, were removed by order of the Court.

NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY.

The members of the New England Society, who propose participating in the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill on the 17th inst., met at noon yesterday at the office of Colonel Frank E. Howe, No. 47 Broadway, for the purpose of completing their arrangements in connection with the proposed excursion of the society to Boston on the occasion. The society will le