THE REGISTER

OFFICIAL PAPER OF COUNTY.

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—BY—
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G. D. INGERSOLL,.....Editor
H. A. PERKINS,.....Local Editor.

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SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1878.

MEETING REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE—2D DISTRICT.

There will be a meeting of the Republican Central Committee of the 2d Congressional District held at the Sherman House, Chanute, Kansas, on Saturday, July 6th, 1878, at 9 o'clock A. M. for the purpose of selecting the time and place for holding a convention to nominate a candidate for Congress and transacting any other necessary business. L. STILLWELL, Chairman.

WM. H. CLARK Secretary.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

A Delegate Convention of the Republicans of the State of Kansas will be held in Representative Hall, in the City of Topeka, on Wednesday, the 28th day of August, 1878, at the hour of 10 a. m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices, viz: Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Secretary of State; Auditor of State; Treasurer of State; Attorney General; Superintendent of Public Instruction; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; State Central Committee.

The basis of representation in the State Convention will be one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each 300 votes cast for Walter L. Simons for Presidential Elector in 1878, and 1 additional delegate and 1 alternate for every fraction thereof of not less than 50 votes; provided, that in all organized counties in which less than 50 votes were cast for said Simons, such counties shall be entitled to 1 delegate and 1 alternate each.

It is recommended that the Primary Meetings for the purpose of electing delegates to the State Convention herein called, be held on Wednesday, the 21st day of August, 1878, in such manner and at such hours as shall be designated by the several County Central Committees.

No person shall be entitled to a seat or vote in the Convention by virtue of holding the proxy of any delegates elected.

J. C. WILSON, Chairman.

PHIL. Q. BOND, Secretary.

NEW YORK CITY held no public celebration last Thursday.

GOLD is on the decline again. It is now quoted at $1.00⅜@1.00¾.

THE one-hundredth anniversary of the battle and massacre of Wyoming was celebrated last Weednesday.

MR. S. KAUFMAN, editor of the *Plaindealer*, has been appointed postmaster at Garnett. Mr. S. is a good business man, and undoubtedly will make a first-class "Nasby."

THE Troy *Chief* recently entered on its 22d year. It was started by Mr. Miller, and has ever since remained under his management. "Sol." is undoubtedly the veteran editor of the State.

REPORTS from towns along the Missouri, would seem to indicate that the river is on a fearful old bender just now. At St. Joseph, Atchison, Leavenworth and Kansas City the waters are higher than they have been known before for many years, and much damage to property has been the result.

THE official returns from the late election in California for delegates to a constitutional convention, resulted in the choice of a majority of what are known as non-partisan delegates. The Kearneyits, or Communists, will have much less strength in the convention than was at first supposed.

THE steamer Capital City, of the "Anchor" line of St. Louis and Memphis packets, took fire and was totally destroyed, while lying near the elevator at Memphis, Tenn., on the 2d inst. The elevator caught fire from the burning vessel, and was also burned. A passenger on board the steamer lost his life, and several other persons were injured.

MR. J. S. BOUGHTON, publisher of the Kansas Hand Book, will shortly commence the publication of a monthly paper at Lawrence, to be devoted "to setting forth the material resources of our State, its marvelous growth, in wealth, population, and all material interests, together with the high position it is taking in educational matters." For further particulars, address J. S. Boughton, Lawrence, Kansas.

THE steamer Grand Lake, with three large barges in tow, arrived at Kansas City last Tuesday morning, and before this time, have, doubtless, loaded with grain and left for their destination. The boat is a powerful tug, and with her barges will take on board 100,000 bushels—or over two hundred and fifty carloads—of corn. The price contracted to be paid is 5½ cents to St. Louis—about three cents below railroad rates. If the trip should prove successful—and there seems to be but little doubt that it will—it is believed that a line of barges between Kansas City and St. Louis will soon be an established fact.

STATE CONVENTION.

The attention of our readers is directed to the call for a State Republican Convention to be held at Topeka on the 28th of August next. It will be seen that the Central Committee has changed the basis of representation from the custom of former years, but, so far as this county is concerned, it will make no particular difference as we shall have the same number of delegates that we would have been entitled to under the old rule. The only difference is that before the ratio was two from each representative district, and now it is four from the county at large. We think the old plan secured a better distribution of delegates than the new, but the difference is not worth making a fuss about.

THE Washington *Post*, the Democratic organ at the capital, has the following paragraph concerning the bill passed by the Senate, authorizing the reception of greenbacks for custom dues and for government bonds:

"This legislation was all sensible greenback advocates desired, and all that a sound regard for the stability of our finances could have warranted. And yet by the most extraordinary personal efforts Mr. Ewing secured its defeat in the House, which but for him would have passed it. * * This being the case, we are not surprised that the General's friends comment on his career in Congress in terms the reverse of complimentary, and that most of them regard it as a total failure."

The bill in question was one of the most important pieces of legislation that came before Congress at the late session, and although the wording of the Senate and was not quite as explicit as we should have liked, still it ought to have passed. The government should receive greenbacks at par for all purposes. It has discredited its own paper long enough.

THE Kansas City Board of Trade has recently made a change in the grading of wheat coming to that market. Wheat that was before graded as No. 2, is now classed as No. 1; No. 3 as No. 2; No. 4 as No. 3, and rejected as No. 4. These grades now correspond with the St. Louis classification Our farmers will do well to remember these changes when looking over market reports, or disposing of their wheat. We also give below the standard and description of grades in that market:

Winter wheat—No. 1 white to be sound, dry, well-cleaned, pure white winter wheat; No. 2 white to be sound, dry, white winter wheat, reasonably clean; No. 3 white to be dry, white, thin or bleached winter wheat, free from must; No. 1 red to be sound, well-cleaned, dry red, or red and white mixed winter wheat; No. 2 red to include all sound, dry, reasonably clean red or red and white mixed winter wheat, No. 3 red to include sound, dry, red or red and white mixed, thin or bleached winter wheat; Mo. 4 winter to include red, white or mixed winter wheat, not good enough for No. 3, but sound; rejected winter to include all damp, trashy, tough, very musty, very smutty, trashy, dirty and damaged wheat falling below No. 4; mixed wheat to be classed as No. 1 and No. 2 red must not contain over one-eighth white.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

In the general wrangle over a candidate for Governor, but little has been said in regard to candidates for the second position on the ticket. The present incumbent, Capt. L. U. Humphreys, of Independence, is a candidate for re-election, and is a capable and worthy man. He well deserves the honor of a renomination, and we think he will get it without any serious opposition.

A FAIR ILLUSTRATION.

The St. Louis *Journal* prints the following fair illustration of the advantages and disadvantages of administrations:

During the five years that the Republican party held supremacy in Missouri, immigrants flocked to the State in large numbers, coming at the rate of 100,000 a year, more than half a million all told. Since Democracy came into power, not half the number have come that came in one year previously. The contrast is strikingly shown in the Republican States of Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, which for years past have received, and are to-day receiving, the rich contributions of wealth and prosperity from this source, which Missouri ought to have had, and would have had but for the mischief of Democratic rule. Missouri will never attain the high position of development her resources entitle her to, until the scepter of public power passes into worthier hands.

HOW DO PEOPLE LIKE THIS PROSPECT?

The Macon (Ga.) *Telegraph and Messenger* calls loudly for the repeal of the Fourteenth Amendment, that the Southern people may extort payment for their liberated slaves. It says: "Those slaves were not cannon and bayonets and armed foes in the late so-called rebellion, and in no sense 'contraband.' They were our property, solemnly and specifically recognized as such, and duly recognized and guaranteed by that Constitution and Union which our adversaries alleged they took up arms to maintain intact and defend. Moreover, they took no part in that fratricidal struggle, save when forced to join the ranks of the invader, and wage war against their best friends and benefactors. On the banditti principle that 'might makes right,' and to the 'victor belongs the spoils' only, therefore, can this robbery of an impoverished people be justified."—Again: "We cannot but indulge the hope that when we have helped to extinguish the public debt, and time has healed the gaping wounds of the past, when reason and brotherly love shall have gained the ascendency over prejudice and hate, even though it shall be the next generation, a brave and honorable people of the same blood and lineage will see to it that the value of our property in slaves shall be returned to those from whom it was wrongfully wrested. It will do no harm to keep this question before the people, that they may preserve the records and proper memoranda of their former slaves, in the event that a returning sense of justice on the part of the Federal government may compensate them, at least in part, for the loss of this portion of their rightful property.

OUT OF AMMUNITION.

Not one of these charges has been established; the attempt to prove a conspiracy has failed utterly; the Democratic witnesses called for that purpose have been covered with shame and confusion. and it has been demonstrated beyond all question that Secretary Sherman was not only unaware of any fraudulent transaction in connection with the election and count in Louisiana, but that he never wrote the letter or guaranty or assurance which he was charged with having addressed to Weber and Anderson—a letter, by the way, which derived its importance from the faltering and evasive statements made regarding it by Mr. Sherman himself. In the commencement, Mr. Potter and his friends exhausted all their ammunition. —*New York Times.*

A KANSAS MAN.

Col. Martin, of the Atchison *Champion*, winds up a lengthy and exhaustive article on the editorial excursion, as follows:

We never made a visit to any section, since our residence in this State, that we did not return home more fully convinced than ever before that Kansas has no superiors and few equals among all the States of the Union. And never was this conviction so strengthened, never were we more confident of the great future of Kansas, than after making this journey from the Missouri to Toronto and return. We passed, during our trip, through the centre of three of the great States of the Union, through portions of two others, and for a distance of three hundred miles through Canada. We saw larger and richer towns than any we have in our State, and an older, better settled and more carefully improved country than ours, nearly everywhere we traveled. We saw regions that the labor and capital of from fifty to a hundred years have been beautifying and improving. We saw thousands of farms that have descended, from generation to generation of thrifty farmers, for a century past. We saw beautiful lakes and rivers, charming island resorts, fine meadows and cultivated fields, and great forests And we saw all these at a season when nature is clothed in her richest robes, when her skies are bluest, her sunshine brightest, and her atmosphere clearest and most invigorating. But we came back satisfied that Kansas is the most beautiful State, the richest and most fruitful State, of them all.

Until we crossed the Mississippi, coming home through Missouri, we never saw a shock of wheat. When we told the people we met, during our journey, that the wheat harvest in Kansas had been in full progress for two weeks before we left home, and would be almost over by the time we returned, they looked incredulous. Through Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, we saw no wheat that would be ready to cut in less than three weeks, and the best corn we noticed, east of the Mississippi, was not over six inches high. In Kansas, before we left home, we saw corn nearly six feet high, and almost in every field in the State it averaged from three to four feet in height. This difference in the appearance of the crops was a surprise, and it impressed all of our party with marked astonishment and satisfaction.

If any citizen of Kansas is troubled with apprehensions concerning the future of the State, or believes that there is a better country to be found in some other section, let him travel. He will return with such a wonderful exaltation of spirits, such a confident pride in Kansas, such a sublime satisfaction with his home and all of his surroundings, as he never had before. Give Kansas half the age of Illinois, Indiana or Ohio, and she will far surpass them in wealth, in improvement, and in all that makes life pleasurable and contented. Time, capital and careful culture have been at work there for many years, yet they have not made, with all their efforts, as rich or as beautiful a land as is Kansas to-day. Fairer and bluer skies nowhere bend over a landscape so lovely as our Kansas prairies; a richer and more prodigally generous soil than that of Kansas can be found nowhere on this wide continent; a clearer and purer atmosphere no where envelopes such a charming succession of gentle hillsides and peaceful valleys as those of Kansas; and the bright sun, as he travels from continent to continent, nowhere shines upon a country richer, in all the elements that go to make a people prosperous and a State great, than is Kansas. It any any citizen of our State doubts any of these assertions, let him travel and see for himself.

TWO MORALS FROM OREGON.

THE Chicago *Tribune*, in the course of an article on the Oregon election, draws two morals, as follows:

"Here are two morals: 1. That party deserves deserves defeat where, there being two candidates for a nomination, it is not given to the strongest. 2. The man is unfaithful to his party who accepts a nomination when he knows that anothes candidate would make a stronger run."

THE Turks have good reason to feel exasperated at finding that the Congress, is, on the whole, doing more to destroy the Ottoman Empire than to preserve it. When Austria gets Bosnia, and the Greek provinces are accorded home rule, the Porte must discern that it would have been wiser to have accepted the San Stefano treaty as a final settlement.

THE Abilene *Chronicle* says that Col. Martin's nomination "would probably defeat Judge Horton for renomination; and nothing would injure the chanees of Senator Ingalls so much for re-election as the election of an Atchison man for Governor. These are too good men to sacrifice to the personal ambition of one man, even though he be so good a man as John A. Martin.

ALBANY *Journal*: Kansas is rejoicing in the promise of the most bountiful crops ever harvested in that State. The acreage under cultivation is largely in excess of that of any former year; the rains have been timely and copious, and neither grasshoppers nor other pests have made their appearance. The large immigration to that State last winter and spring will make an excellent beginning by rich returns for their first year's labor.

IT has been estimated that thus far the annual celebration of the Fourth of July has cost more in life and property than the war of the Revolution. Only a year ago the value of the property burned in less than three thousand towns by firework accidents amounted to more than a quarter of a million dollars. In one hundred and thirty-five cities and towns thirty-one persons were killed and five hundred seriously injured.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

THE Secretary of the Treasury has issued a new circular concerning the 4½ per cent. bonds. A commission of one-fourth of one per cent. is allowed on the amount of the subscriptions. All National Banks are invited to become financial agents of the Government and depositories of public moneys received for these bonds, and all banks, bankers and persons are invited to aid in placing them. The circular announces that the proceeds of the sale will be applied to the redemption of five twenty six per cent. bonds until further notice. Currency drafts will be received at coin value in payment for bonds. The benefits of the bond to both Government and people are reiterated, and no advantage will be given to large subscribers, the object being to distribute the bonds among the largest possible number of citizens.—*Atchison Champion.*

ORATION

DELIVERED AT

IOLA, ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS,

JULY 4th, 1878.

BY

HON. W. A. JOHNSON.

Mr. President, and Fellow Citizens:

This beautiful valley in which we have assembled this day, thirty years ago was uninhabited by civilized people. It was then the grazing grounds of the buffalo, elk, wild deer and the antelope. The red men of the forest, robed in their blankets, were the only beings in human form that had visited this beautiful country, with its rivers and landscapes, now within the territorial limits of Allen county. One-quarter of a century ago this county had no existence; its territory formed part of the unexplored and unsurveyed wilds of the Northwest; it was nameless and unbounded. Twenty-three years ago this summer the Territorial Legislature gave form and name to it; then, for the first time, it had a place upon the map of the country. Soon after this, bold and hardy pioneers, in search of desirable localities for homes for themselves and families, came to this region of country, causing settlements of thrifty, intelligent people to spring up in different parts of the county, which continued to develop and grow from that time to the present, until it now takes rank among the first counties in this young commonwealth.

We are here assembled to-day to celebrate the grandest and most glorious anniversary in the history of recorded time. Turning aside from our various avocations of life, we are come to renew our vows in commemoration of human liberty, and survey with calm deliberation and humble devotion, with grateful hearts, the pathway in which the nation has trodden, having just passed through the first century of our national existence, and entered upon a second. The causes which led to the declaration of independence are ever new, and the hopes and aspirations inspired by the sublime principles enumerated in the Declaration will never grow old.

The Declaration of Independence, which you have heard read to-day, was proclaimed from Independence Hall, in the city of Philadelphia, one hundred and two years ago this day. The war of the revolution against Great Britain had then only begun It was a war of the weak against the strong; but, "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence," the members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration, and "pledged to its support their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor." Only the first victories of the war had then been won, and seven more long and weary years were destined to intervene ere the great victory of Washington and Lafayette at Yorktown, which finally brought peace to the land, and caused Great Britain to admit, in solemn treaty, the words of the Declaration: "*We declare that these colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.*"

By this declaration, and its enforcement by strong arms, the colonies became free and independent; yet there was no federal government. The common defense was the only bond—defense against positive, palpable force against them from without. For such defense the colonies formed a sort of union, or confederation. The third article of confederation declares its purpose in these words: "The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare."

This kind of "firm league of friendship" was good enough while war lasted, and continual danger menaced its members from without. It was simply a limited and special partnership, and any member might withdraw therefrom at pleasure. Such a mere league could never become a great nation, such as the possibilities of the then immediate future presented to the minds of such men as George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison.

In the twelfth year of our independence, and when only nine years of that unsatisfactory league had passed away, a convention, not of the States, but of the people, presided over by George Washington, completed a constitution, not for a "firm league of friendship," but for a great nation of people, and submitted their work to their constituents for adoption.

In 1789 that constitution was adopted. Its purposes and objects were declared in the preamble, in these words: "We, the people, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America." Clear and beautiful words; words so fitly spoken that they stand forth on the canvas of history "like apples of gold in pictures of silver;" an instrument so complete, so perfect, not a word or sentence lacking to make it a fundamental law for a great nation. From the hour of the adoption of that constitution, that great "bond of a more perfect union," this nation has grown continually, and rapidly grown greater, stronger, richer, and, may we say, better.

This is the eighty-ninth year of the federal republic of the United States of America; not three average generations of men have passed away since George Washington was inaugurated first President of the Republic, and some long lives of favored patriarchs would span the entire space of time from then even unto this day.

Our nation is yet in its youth; though the thirteen colonies that entered into a "firm league of friendship" in 1778, and whose "*people*" formed a more perfect union in 1789, have become thirty-eight States, several of which alone contain as great a population as did the whole thirteen on Independence Day, one hundred and two years ago.

Some of these States, like New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Texas and Kansas, comprise each an empire within itself.

Our nation has, in many respects no parallel in history.

We have 14,000 miles of sea coast with numerous fine bays, and harbors sufficient to accommodate the navies of the world. We have an extent of territory from the frigid regions of the north, the home of the grizzly bear, the Esquimaux, and the icebergs, stretching far south to the borders of Old Mexico, beyond the region of the magnolia, the olive and the orange grove; from the stormy Atlantic, where the Pilgrim fathers, only two hundred and fifty-five years ago, pitched the tabernacle of liberty, amid a region, desolate then as the wilderness between Elim and Sinai, through which Moses led the "chosen people" to build up the tabernacle of the living God—from old Plymouth rock, stretching far away, southward and westward, thousands of miles, over mountains and moors, over river and plain, over the vast wealth of cotton, once styled a "king," matchless and numberless fields of golden wheat—the bread of the nation—over other innumerable productions, over the wealth of manufacture, the mines of gold, silver, iron, coal, lead, copper, and every mineral production to be desired by man, through the vast States, and vast Territories, to Portland, Oregon, and the Bay of San Francisco, where have sprung up in the last few years, on the gentle slopes of the Pacific, the Tyre and Sidon, of the "New World," looking already to the trade of China, Japan, and the islands of the sea; over this vast extent of territory, that more "perfect union" formed in 1789 has extended. Our fathers formed that union, as best they could; all men were declared to be free, yet the auction block of the man-seller remained, even under the shadow of our capitol.

It was supposed by the founders of our government that this great evil would pass away through peaceable agencies; but in after times there arose a powerful body of men—the leaders of the rebellion—who for years declared and insisted that their peculiar institution was sanctioned by divine law—blasphemy unparalleled. Upon this altar of Baal it was attempted to found an empire to extend all over this land. Time-servers formed compromises to foster and build up the evil spirit. Our Supreme Court framed decisions to give it new strength. Political parties fell down and worshiped, saying, "*great is the God of Slavery.*" The whole nation, forgetting the words and warning of Washington, Hamilton, Franklin and Jefferson, became involved and infected by the worship of the "golden calf" then, as in the days of Aaron and the golden calf which he set up for worship hard by the mount where Moses was receiving the law; the Lord of Hosts seems to have declared again, in the muttering storms of 1860 and 1861, "put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his neighbor."

Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Gettysburg and the battles of the Wilderness, with their terrible carnage, followed; the whole nation was literally punished, chastened but not destroyed. And now we look into the future and see no cause for another such national punishment; nor does it now appear that we are in danger from agencies tending to subvert our government by the slow process of decay, corruption and innovation; yet we have our prophets of evil. Malcontents and disconsolate croakers, seeing no immediate and unavoidable danger, yet ever setting their faces toward the dead past instead of the living present; men who took part on the other side of the great anti-slavery struggle, who are now content to sit idly by amid the dust and ashes of the past, mourning over their ruined temples and broken hopes; men again to whom for other reasons the past is all things, the present nothing in comparison. Public spirit is dead; patriotism falls; corruption consumes the land; the church is powerless for good; political degeneracy rusts out the government itself; the lust and greed for the almighty dollar causes every man's hand to be lifted against his neighbor—thus chant these croakers. They are the weird characters in the play of life, even as Shakspear's witches in his play of Macbeth.

Of all the times that have been or will be in this life, the present is the most interesting and important to us. Let us, therefore, enter a plea for the times we live in.

Are our people less patriotic now than formerly? Every advancing year renders our country greater, stronger and better. Each decade builds up new monuments for our admiration and worship. The daily progress of events binds us more strongly to our homes and native land. Shall we say that all these things are of no effect?

Lofty praises have been sung to the heroes of other days. Washington, Hamilton, Adams, Green, and many more have been held up as model citizens and patriots. All honor to their memories! but let us ever remember that our times have produced Abraham Lincoln, Edwin M. Stanton, George H. Thomas U. S. Grant, Oliver P. Morton, William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, Thaddeus Stevens and Horace Greeley. But, says the worshiper of the past, corruption stalks abroad through the land, even as a mighty image of power and authority; to that vile image all yield obedience—even the President and Congress, the courts, State executives and their legislatures. This age, we are told, is absolutely corrupt. But when Washington lived it was not so. But history informs us that when Wasnington was President no abuse was too foul, no charge of corruption too base to be heaped upon him, upon his cabinet and upon Congress. So again, in the days of the Presidency of Thomas Jefferson, and when Andrew Jackson was President, the government was declared by many to be absolutely corrupt, and the evil effects of the "one man power" were declared to pervade the whole land.

Each of these eras had much that was good, much that was bad, much that could be improved upon, and much that has been improved. So with the present. As the receding years carry us away from the lives and times of men, we magnify, more and more, their virtues and lose sight of their vices and faults; thus arise comparisons unfavorable to our own men and women and the times in which we live. It is to be observed that the brave, good days of old whose praises are so often sung, are never the days of the immediate past—not the five, ten or fifteen years before, but the century or half century ago—the time of generations passed away.

All times have been called degenerate, by those who seem to search for evil rather than good, since the days when the sons of Samuel walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes and perverted justice. And yet, in all these ages, there have been brave, strong workers for the right, so that there has been a continual advancement in all that makes mankind nobler, greater and better. There have been mighty fluctuations in this tide of progress; nations have come and gone; cities have arisen and crumbled away; whole races of men have become worn out and useless; in the grand march of improvement, and have been swept away forever by the great Captain of the Ages; and yet the mighty column, like a restless tide, has passed on to a higher and better life.

Some mourn for the great days of our departed statesmen of a former generation. Webster, Clay, Calhoun, Cass and Douglass have gone, never to return, we hear it said. Yes; they are gone, and each now fills his appropriate niche in our temple of fame. But it is doubtful whether some of them would be as great heroes, if they were living, as they were in the times in which they lived. Some of them, if living now, would doubtless be considered weavers of fanciful theories—wares that would bring small prices in the practical, utilitarian markets of this land to-day.

Some of the ablest statesmen of our generation have lately passed from the scenes of active political life, and now fill their prominent places in the history of a nation. Seward, Stanton, Greeley, Sumner, Wilson, Chase, Morton, Stevens and Johnson have all occupied prominent positions, and will be remembered among the ablest and noblest statesmen of the nation.

If we go to the American Senate to-day we will find that the great actors are not all dead. Conkling, Blaine, Boutwell, Ingalls, Thurman and Hill are still there; and they are all great men. So it is in the national House of Representatives, and among the governors of the several States, as well as elsewhere. Kansas, even, is not without her able public men. Although a young State, she is as well supplied with statesmen as many of the States half a century old.

The greatness now among our public men is more evenly distributed. We have so many able and efficient men in public life, that none appear so tall and majestic as they would if they stood alone.

But these are the times, above all others, in which money is "king," we hear it said. Whoever says that and believes it, forgets that even judges in Israel "turned aside after lucre, and took bribes," as far back as the days of the old prophet Samuel. He forgets that Oliver Goldsmith sang in the same strain a century ago, when he said:

"But times are altered; trade's unfeeling trains
Usurp the land, and dispossess the swains;
Along the lawn, where scattered hamlets rose,
Unwieldy wealth and cumbrous pomp repose."

Beyond all question, this is an age in which there is remarkably sharp competition in the pursuit of gold. But every man, for that reason, is not an Ishmaelite, with his hand uplifted to destroy his neighbor; the destruction, or even the injury of others, is not the far-sighted policy of trade: the prosperity of one member of the community is a benefit to every other member of the community, if that prosperity be legitimate. The sharp pursuit of wealth has not choked the better principles and higher aspirations out of the hearts of the people. Every munificent patrons are building institutions of learning, where the youth of the land may repair, "without money and without price," and receive instruction at the hands of men of the very highest character and attainments; charitable institutions are multiplying on every hand; the deaf and dumbs those bereft of reason, and that other unfortunate class, who seem every day to say—

"Sessons return, but not to me returns
Day, or the sweetest approach of even or morn,
Or flocks, or herds, or human face divine."

All these are tenderly cared for by the State. Even the felon, condemned, and the fallen of our race, are now the objects of an enlarged and noble charity. It is sought, in the one case, to make the punishment mild and reformatory, to the end that it may be an instrument of good, and not simply of terror; in the case of the fallen, it is sought to lift them up, that they may walk upright, "clothed in their right mind."

And on every field, and road, and by-way of life, the good people of the church are doing a most noble work, outside of all spiritual considerations, for the bettering of the temporal condition of mankind. Hence we conclude that we cannot justly complain of the people of today, nor the times we live in.

If we cannot justly complain of the age in which we live, say some, what shall we say of our railroad frauds and corporate monopolies; our forgeries, bribe-taking and defalcations! We say, still, that our age is not responsible for them any more than for the murders, robberies and other crimes of bad men who infest this age; as they have infested every age since the time when Cain rose up and slew his brother because Abel brought a more acceptable sacrifice than he. Neither do we expect the time will soon come when we shall have no more railroad swindlers, no more corporate monopolies, no more crimes.

For ten years before our late civil war, the mighty energies of the whole nation were consumed in wrestling with the impending question of the dissolution of the Union; then for four or five years more every energy was absorbed by our great civil war, and yet mighty strides were being made, during all these years, in the material development of our country; even though the vital energies of the nation were almost entirely absorbed in matters touching its very life. Then, again, for years after the war the questions and problems which were bequeathed unto us thereby commanded universal attention, and excited continual angry discussion, thus greatly retarding our material progress as a nation; for when political excitement fills the land it reaches and affects the mind grappling with problems of internal improvement; it reaches and clogs even the wheels of our manufacturing establishments; it reaches the arm of the artisan; it reaches the mind of him who intends to build a house, "for which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he may have sufficient to finish it? and the depression in business and the uncertainty and instability attending intense political excitement enters into and constitutes a part of the cost of every man's house, and every man's plan of improvement for the future.

These exciting political questions have now happily passed away. We have left the age of angry discussion, the age of war, the age of sombre, melancholy depression, following the age of war. And now we have fully entered upon the age of commerce, of manufacture, of ship-building, of railroads, of mining, and of every form of material development.

Who will say that in such an age of commercial activity we will have no great frauds, no stealing or swindling? Who will say that where so many railroads and vast internal improvements are in process of construction, we will have no more pools or swindlers? for where the carcass is, there will the vultures be gathered together. Great works in progress, great good being done, great activity, occasioned thereby, offers great opportunities for the greatest rogues and accomplished rascals, whose company and presence we need never hope to escape in this life, even though mankind in general should become well-nigh immaculate. Shall we then sit down and fold our hands, and, like sluggards, say, the age is good enough—there remains nothing for us to do? By no means. The argument is not that the age is good enough, but that it is as good or better than the ages that have gone before.

For the rise and growth of nations, their decline and decay, recorded in the story of the ages show the restless instability of human governments. First, the embryonic state; then springing up and developing to greatness, springing forth in splendor for a season, then, as the waning moon, almost imperceptibly fading away to be lost in darkness, or only, perhaps, to live in memory for a season, then furnish a page for the historian. Much similarity can be seen between the life of a great man and that of a great nation. The same elements, to a certain extent, are in both: each having the seeds of development and decay; each moving from weakness to strength, and from power to weakness.

And our great nation and government is no exception in the world's history. The many elements of a nation, as well as the faculties of mind in operation, produce by combination, many questions for solution, presenting as many different aspects and phases of thought as the primary elements in the chemist's laboratory. And every age and government are part and parcel of the endless panorama, one grand thought of the Eternal.

As the primary development is simple, as it should be, yet having a complex relation to every succeeding phase of development, changing at every point of time as the cycle changes, so it is with governments and nations. We begin with the first intelligence; our importance is a part of the grand scheme, primarily; secondarily, we assume a relation with regard so and modified by other times, men, nations, institutions and governments. Being, as we are, the last in point of time, we should combine all that the wisdom and experience of the recorded past has left to us.

What is our status? If we are not the monument of power and wisdom, prosperity and stability, what is the cause thereof? Our government combines all the elements of patriarchal, monarchical, aristocratical and democratical systems that preceded it.

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