Daily Appeal.

MEMPHIS.

SATURDAY.....APRIL 7, 1860.

Reading Matter on Every Page

Largest Circulation in the City.

CIRCULATION OF DAILY APPEAL.....1,824
CIRCULATION OF SUNDAY EDITION.....2,206
CIRCULATION OF TRI-WEEKLY.....528
CIRCULATION OF WEEKLY.....2,600

CITY REPUDIATION.

We call the attention of the reader to a copy of the contract between the city authorities and the peoples' passenger railroad company which appears on the first page.

THE PUBLISHING ALDERMEN AND THE BULLETIN.

With regard to the insinuation, thrown out both by the publishing Aldermen and the editor of the *Bulletin*, that the proprietors of the APPEAL are charged because of their defeat for city printer, we would remark that it is not only gratuitous, but puerile. At the inauguration of the present board, we put in a bid for the city printing on the same terms upon which we had done it the year previous. A resolution of the council required that the city printer should report the council proceedings free of expense. Under this resolution we were elected city printer last year, and under this resolution we made a bid for the present year. By the manœuvring of the proprietor of the *Bulletin*, however, and by his promise to publish, *for nothing*, the official report of the council proceedings, we were defeated for city printer. The office was never worth to us hardly as much as three hundred dollars per annum, and if the astute Aldermen, whose names are appended to the article in yesterday morning's *Bulletin*, will remember to recollect correctly, they will know that our strictures upon the policy of our city fathers commenced even while we were the "official journal" of the city.

This fact, of itself, ought to exculpate us from the miserable insinuation that we are influenced in the course we have pursued by a petty jealousy of a city editorship. Between the *Bulletin* and the APPEAL there can be no rivalry, and as between us and the city council, we have only to say that the entire revenues of the city would not be sufficient to buy us up. We have always placed our claims to the office of city printer upon the sole ground of our superior circulation, and we can assure both the present and all future boards, that whether city printer or not, they will never find a suppliant and subservient tool in us.

CITY FINANCES.

It is now, we believe, some two years ago since our attention was called to a peculiarity in the condition of the financial affairs of this city, by one of the aldermen informing us that he was then in his second term of office, and had never, during the period of his official career, been made acquainted with its actual financial condition. Inquiry led to a knowledge of the fact that the practice usually existing in municipal bodies—and even in Congress itself—of giving full and perspicuous reports of all financial matters connected with them, was not at that time pursued in Memphis. By the courtesy of Mr. RICHARDS, the respected city register, we were put in possession of the last Memphis annual official report ever published for circulation—that document is now before us, and is dated "Commencing July 1, 1855, and ending June 30, 1856." From that period to the present we have from time to time called attention to the subject of the city finances, and not without effect, for at a council meeting held on February 1, 1859, Ald. KONTRECHT, the present president of that body, reported an ordinance, which was passed, requiring monthly reports to be made to council "of the receipts and disbursements of the city revenue for the last month, and also an approximative estimate of the receipts of the next ensuing month," the report to include "the total disbursements of every character, so as to enable all to see the general financial condition of the city." Expecting that this ordinance would do all that was required, we ceased to attend to the subject, until finding that some months elapsed without a report being made, and when one was made observing that the ordinance was not strictly complied with, we ventured occasional remarks, and have from that time to this pointed out the state of things to the people of Memphis. In doing so, and in speaking of the general financial condition of the city, we have used no uncourteous language; we have attributed no unworthy motives, our object has been to change a system, not to wound the feelings of individuals—and we preserved the tone adapted to our purpose—and slowly but surely the purpose we have in view is being accomplished. After an absence of any regular official report since, at the latter 1857, we find it announced, in one of yesterday's city papers, that a financial statement of the city's affairs will be published tomorrow. Whether this report is made because the APPEAL has persistently called attention to the want of it, or because our city officials felt that it was at length proper that their long silence should be broken, in either case, it is satisfactory to know that light is about to be shed where darkness has heretofore had sway.

Notwithstanding our avoidance of personality and discourtesy, the mere fact of our calling for such open and frequent statements of the financial condition of the city as the charter and ordinance requires, has been met with hostility and replied to with vituperation. The *Bulletin* of yesterday contained a communication of nearly a column and a quarter in length, signed by the names of eight members of council, in which our statements are termed "false and slanderous," "tirade of abuse," "slanderous charges and reckless misstatements,"—our reports are "interested and false," "the hasty, partial reports of a hired, irresponsible reporter." In making use of these and similar expressions, impelling to the APPEAL an institution to honor and truthfulness, which we may, with patriotic pride, say is the reverse of the character usually attributed to it—the reader would suppose the falsehoods, slanders, tirades and misstatements, or at least some of them, would be substantiated; not so, the octave of aldermen use several harsh terms, but justify not one. Their assertions stand baseless as a vision—loose as the summer's wind. Unsupported assertions and groundless attacks upon character prove nothing, and amount to nothing; and they rarely merit the attention of those who are seriously bent upon investigating truth, or accomplishing any important purpose. In this instance we may confidently appeal to the recollection of those who have read our articles to support us in the assertion that we have continually proved what we have said, by citations from the charter and ordinances of the city; from the written communications of members of council themselves; from statements made by members of council in their places in council; from council reports, and from official documents. Where that is done, positions laid down cannot be baseless, and if they are false the falsehood can readily be shown.

With these general remarks we proceed to notice some of the assertions contained in the communication published in the *Bulletin*.

It is there said that we have made statements "calling in question the correctness of the administration of the city revenue." If there is a incorrectness it is the duty and the right of a good citizen to say so; and if the charter and ordinances of the city have been disobeyed, correctness may justly be "questioned.

It is also said our statements are "apparently intended to injure the city's credit at home and abroad." If what the members of the city government has done has not injured the city, the mention of their actions in the APPEAL is equally innocent of any injurious tendency.

It is stated that we know that the "regular annual statement was in the hands of the city printer." We had heard a statement to that effect made in council, but we did not know that the report would get out of the hands of the printer in time for the people to see it before the 14th of April, the day of voting on the funded debt, which was what we wanted to have done. As this statement is the first that has been officially published for nearly three years, we think it to be not a "regular" but a very "irregular" annual statement.

The communication says of the monthly financial reports presented to council, "we have been able to understand them." We shall not dispute this assertion, but remark that the ordinance requiring the statement to be made, also requires that it be so made "as to enable all to see the general financial condition of the city." We, in common with many citizens, have been unable thus to see, and even the chairman of the finance committee not long since reported to council that he experienced a similar defect, the committee "not having the data before them from which to judge of the state of the city finances."

It is stated that a certain portion of the financial affairs of the city are in the hands of the mayor. The ordinance on page seventy-one of the City Ordinances, limits the mayor's power to contract debts for the city to amounts not exceeding fifty dollars, and that only for the purpose therein specified. The ordinance says: "Accounts or contracts for all other things, or larger sums, must be authorized by and made under the direction of the board of mayor and aldermen, unless especially provided for by some ordinance of the city." Beyond fifty dollars, in certain cases, the mayor has no more power to contract debts than any private citizen.

The communication further says: "We think we are as competent to judge of our duties as the newspaper of which we are speaking." We are disposed—judging from the communication before us—to think differently on this subject to the eight aldermen, but the people will form their own opinion upon the subject, independent of the thoughts of both parties.

Three reasons are assigned in the communication "for the present course of the newspaper aforesaid;" the first of them is that the APPEAL is not this year the official paper of the city. That the election of another paper to the position the APPEAL previously occupied of city printer, is the reason of its opposition to certain proceedings it has from time to time animadverted upon, has been advanced before now. We have thus far disregarded the imputation, but now it is made by eight aldermen, who will be three witnesses into court, from among themselves, to refute the charge, and to show—what all who were readers of the APPEAL at the time alluded to, know to be a fact—that during the time we occupied the place of city printer, we freely made such remarks as we thought right and proper respecting the proceedings of the city council. Our first witness is the writer of the communication we are replying to, who signs himself C. KONTRECHT, an unexceptional witness certainly, and one who will give unexceptionable testimony. In a letter published in the APPEAL of the 10th of August last, in reply to a letter published by Ald. MILTON, the writer steps out of his way to say: "If the (APPEAL) reporter would confine himself to reporting proceedings of the board, *leaving the public to understand them for themselves*, he would probably be rendering as efficient service as by such comments. At all events, when he undertakes *comments and views of his own*, as he is dependent upon the board for his and your official position," etc. This is tolerably clear proof that it was our habit to "comment" upon the proceedings of the board, and to give "our own views" at the time we were suffering the honors of an official position in the same manner that we did before occupying that position, and as we have done since then. This shows that we did not commence our "present course" after we ceased to do the city printing. Besides the writer, Mr. KONTRECHT, two other aldermen, whose names are in the *Bulletin* communication, signed the communication from which we have quoted—they are Ald. STREET and Ald. HAMILTON. Thus we have three witnesses to disprove the truth of the first "reason," taken from the ranks of the very gentlemen who made the charge it contains.

The second reason assigned as the motive for our "course," is the determination of the board to publish an official copy of its minutes. This determination was come to by the board which followed the one that elected the Assistant city printer; and, as we had opposed secret sessions of council and a secret financial system, before being elected to that position, it follows that the second "reason" alleged is as groundless as the first.

The third reason assigned by the eight aldermen for our course, is the refusal of the board "to authorize the experiment of a street passenger railroad on Main street." This is a singular allegation to be made by some of the gentlemen signing the communication, signed by Ald. STREET, brought forward a proposition in council to have a railroad laid on Main street; and another of them, Ald. KONTRECHT, when it was moved to make a change in this arrangement, desired that the consent of the company should be first obtained. Council has "authorized" the experiment of a street railroad on Main street; and, although after that authorization, it discreditably repudiated that act, it has not been able "to annihilate it and to render it non-existent. Even if the authority had not been granted, our "course" upon the peculiarities of the city financial system could not have been originated by that "reason," as that "course" had been pursued before the railway question had ever been started in council.

The subject of the street railroad question is pursued at some length in the communication, and personality is indulged in that has nothing to do with the financial question, or with the truth or untruth of the facts we have brought before the public at various times, the object evidently being to draw attention from the main question, by raising a false issue and by exciting personal irritation, and thus raising a turmoil, in the midst of which important questions might be lost sight of. If all the "reasons" alleged in the communication were as sound as we have shown them to be groundless, how would the questions we have discussed respecting the financial affairs of Memphis be affected by them? Let the APPEAL reporter dislike council as much as he may, for refusing to make his reports, and for making their own reports, and for republishing portions of railroad contracts—what has that to do with the secrecy that has so long hung over our money affairs—with the authorized or unauthorized manner in which money has been borrowed—or with the alleged fact that the city is now paying from twenty-five to thirty-six per cent. per annum for borrowed money? Let the reader keep his attention on these points, and not be drawn from them, by personal imputations, whether warranted or not.

We wish to state in reply to the concluding portion of the communication, that we have never called the honesty of any city officer into question, but, on the contrary, we have expressed our confidence in their integrity. Like the writers of the communication, we know (officially) of no unauthorized creation of debt, the secrecy observed in this matter has prevented that; but we know that if any debt over fifty dollars has been created without the sanction of the city council, that debt was unauthorized. We have never charged any repudiation of debt or monetary liability. That the "regular report" made monthly to council does not show the disbursements of the city—as called for by the city ordinance—we have demonstrated in an article published yesterday, by actual figures. The communication says the proposition to fund a portion of the city debt was not adopted by council "quietly and unmiquitously," but it neither mentions what discussion took place, or who participated in it. We have gone through the communication—it is for the reader to judge whether our course has or has not been justified by the circumstances, and whether the assertions contained in the communication do or do not outweigh the arguments and facts given by the APPEAL.

The articles which have from time to time appeared in this paper in reference to the city finances, we wish to be understood, are not the effusions of an irresponsible scribbler, but were written upon mature deliberation, and with a view to elicit important information in which the city is vitally involved. They carry with them the satisfaction of the editors and proprietors of this establishment, who wish to be considered responsible for them, and who assert and will maintain the right of themselves, as public journalists, to discuss the public policy of the city in its financial relations, within justible limits.

Driven to the last extremity the weakest half of the board of mayor and aldermen have attempted to take refuge behind outside issues which had nothing whatever to do with the discussion involving the indebtedness of the city. They have stepped aside to attribute motives inconsistent with the public interest to one of the editors of the APPEAL, who claimed the right common to every citizen, to lend a helping hand to a great city improvement. He believes and asserts the right to embark in any enterprise which looks to the benefit of the city, and in this respect, or any other, he certainly thinks that he has not been driven to the alternative of accepting the advice of gentlemen who have found so little difficulty in drawing so broad a distinction in their official conduct between moral and legal obligations.

MR. BARBIERE'S MISSION.

The following letter to our friend Mr. BARBIERE, the late appointed commissioner from our State in connection with direct trade, is replete with sense, and is an evidence that Gov. BROWN, of Georgia, is not behind in the efforts that are being made to elevate the South to her true position in the Confederacy.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA., MARCH 31, 1860.

DEAR SIR: This State passed a resolution appointing two gentlemen in connection with others appointed by the cotton planting's association of this State, to visit Europe on the subject of direct trade. The resolution was passed at the close of the last session, and was by some omission, never enrolled. Under the circumstances, the gentlemen appointed will not go, but the gentlemen appointed by the cotton planter's association will leave for Europe probably in the early part of May, and I presume the State will defray a part of the expenses. The gentlemen appointed by the association are the Hon. T. Butler King, Hon. Howell Cobb, and Col. John S. Thomas, of this place. These gentlemen are qualified for the "passes," properly authenticated from the hand of the Great Superintendent, and when "all aboard" is shouted for the last time, may claim a passage to the peaceful regions in the "land of the hereafter."

H. T. L.

Democratic Meeting at Covington.

At a Democratic meeting, held at Covington on the 2d inst., J. R. Sherrod in the chair, Isaac M. Steele, Peyton Smith, James Overall, Esq., and Henry McCain, were appointed delegates to represent the Democracy of Tipton county, at the Democratic convention, to be held at Trenton on the first Monday in May next, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for elector for the ninth congressional district of this State.

H. R. BATE, Sec'y.

TEXAS ITEMS.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.—Delegates to the Democratic convention, to be held at Galveston on the 12th inst., to select delegates to the Charleston convention, were arriving in large numbers on Saturday last.

HIBERNIAN ASSOCIATION.—The *News* publishes the proceeding of the first meeting of the "Galveston Hibernian Association," and remarks: Most persons are acquainted with the objects of such an association. To those who may be interested in the matter, we would say its objects are neither sectarian or political. Its chief aim being the establishment of a brotherhood, and the creation of a fund for the relief of their destitute countrymen in sickness. We trust that this society will flourish in our city. The following officers were elected: President, Thomas Barry; vice president, C. H. Leonard; president, James Byrne; vice president; Thomas H. O'Callaghan, recording secretary; N. A. Connick, corresponding secretary.

The Supreme Court, which has been in session some weeks to Galveston, was to adjourn to-day.

ICE AND FROST.—Says the *News* of the 31st: We learn by the many strangers visiting our city, that there was considerable ice in the various parts of the country on Tuesday morning last, but it is believed that it did very little damage. On Wednesday morning there was generally a heavy frost, which in many places, cut down the young corn that was some five or six inches high, and which has to be replanted. Cotton was up, but in few instances, wherever it was up, it was killed and is being replanted. It is believed that the injury will be but small.

From the *Civilian* of Saturday we clip the following:

AVERAGE VALUE OF LANDS.—The high prices at which plantations occasionally sell, drive some persons from emigrating to Texas, under the impression that lands are higher than in the older States. These high prices are exceptions to the general rates. The average value of land per acre, according to the assessment rolls of 1859 was higher in Wharton than any other county. This extreme was $10.46, Washington $8.83, Fort Bend, $8.50, comes next. Even in the wealthy county of Brazoria, it was only 5.24. In no other county does it reach $3; and in few $2. From $1.50 to $3 embraces the prevailing rates.

A FIRE.—We regret to announce that our fellow-citizen, Mr. Preston Perry, had his fine dwelling house nearly destroyed last night, together with much, or perhaps most of his valuable furniture.

STEAMER SUNK.—We learn from the Indianola *Courier* that the steamer Echo, Captain Colby, has been swamped in Indian Bay, near, on her way up to Texana, and three miles below that place. She immediately sunk and suffered some damage in her cargo. It was thought the boat would soon be raised, and resume her trips.

THE CROPS.—The same journal learns from persons arriving from various sections of the country, that the crop prospect is generally favorable. Corn is generally up, and in some places has been worked over; the stands are said to be very fine. The season has been favorable for all kinds of crops, and the expected yield of both cotton and corn is unprecedented.

TRAGEDY IN REFUGIO COUNTY.—The last issue of the Indianola *Courier* gives the particulars of a dreadful tragedy in this county:

We learn through Mr. Cyrus P. Hiller of the occurrence of a shocking tragedy which was enacted on Monday last at the Shell Bank in Refugio county. The actors were the members of two families named Stephenson and Bledsoe. It appears from the best information gathered during the legal investigation which followed, that a Mr. Stephenson had sold a piece of land to Gen. Bishop, and after the purchaser had made improvements on the land, Stephenson wanted to get it back for the same amount he had paid for it, but the proposition was refused by Bishop.

This incensed Stephenson, and on Monday, he with his wife, son and daughter, went to Gen. Bishop's house, where they found young Thomas Bledsoe in his bed. The father and daughter held the sick man down while young Stephenson cut him literally to pieces with a bowie knife, leaving him dead in his bed. While this was going on Gen. Bishop knocked out the eye of the elder Stephenson with a hatchet. This is all that we could learn of the affair, and if the account is true, a more shocking and outrageous murder was never committed. We hope that justice will be meted out to the guilty parties. The Stephensons were arrested, and the affair was being investigated at St. Mary's, before Judge McNeel, when our informant left.

The Houston *Telegraph* gives the total receipts of stores by the Central railroad, last year, at 69,397 bales, and the receipts for the two first months this year have been more than three times the amount received last year, in the same two months.

The Fort Worth *Chief* of the 21st ult., speaks of the Indians still committing their depredations. On the 8th they stole one hundred head of horses on Barton's creek, and passed to the north within half a mile of Palo Pinto, in open daylight. The inhabitants are said to be in a deplorable condition, without corn, wheat or food of any kind, and cannot leave their families to hunt for game or cattle.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—Mr. Augustus Schell appeared before Mr. Covode's committee to-day and refused directly to produce the list of contributors to the electioneering fund, raised by the New York hotel committee, without assigning any particularly satisfactory reason. He was asked by Mr. Covode whether he did not confer with the President and members of the Cabinet, between the period of his first examination, when he admitted he had raised the money, and when he expressed a willingness to submit it, and the second examination, next day, when he proposed a written substitute for his testimony of the first day, declining to deliver that paper. He trusted to evade this inquiry, stating he had seen many persons between those periods, but when pressed directly he admitted having seen the President and members of the Cabinet, and it was after conference with them that he concluded not to exhibit the list to the committee.

Capt. Jarvis writes under date of the 21st of March, that Miramon's bombardment had damaged the city considerably, with little destruction of life.

The commander of the French fleet, who had addressed him concerning the capture of the Mexican steamer in inoffensive terms, subsequently apologized for the tone of his correspondence.

No action has yet been taken by the Government in regard to the prisoners captured with the Mexican steamer. The State and Navy Departments disclaim any further responsibility and consider the matter entirely in the hands of the judiciary.

A Norwegian barque-of-war has been engaged in court, and has not been able to examine the important legal points which are involved.

At a meeting of the Pacific railroad committee last evening, a definite conclusion was arrived at by the adoption of the following resolution, offered by Mr. Curtis, the chairman: Resolved, that the road should be built in two points, one on the western boundary of the State of Missouri, and the other on the western bank of the Mississippi, with two converging lines bearing westward, and uniting within two hundred miles of the Missouri river; and thence proceeding by a single track line, by the nearest and best route, to the city of San Francisco, or to the navigable waters of the Sacramento, in the State of California.

The Senate select committee have agreed to report a Pacific railroad bill on the following plan of location, as proposed by Mr. Curtiss, viz: Starting from two points, one on the western border of Missouri, and the other on the western border of Iowa, with two converging lines bearing westward and uniting within two hundred miles of the Missouri river, thence proceeding by a single track line, by the nearest and best route, to the city of San Francisco, or to the navigable waters of the Sacramento, in the State of California.

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XXXVI CONGRESS.....FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, April 4.—*Senate.*—Mr. Green moved that the resolutions offered by him yesterday, censuring the Controller of the Treasury for a decision detaining the express will of Congress, and for refusing to obey its order, thereby incurring the disapprobation of Congress, which renders it improper that he longer remain in office, be taken up for consideration.

Mr. Salisbury said that the Comptroller has discharged his duty in accordance with the opinions of the Attorneys-General, and was he to be arraigned by the Senate for faithfully discharging his duty. Mr. Green urged the passage of the resolutions.

Mr. Pugh said he would suggest that the resolutions be laid over. Gov. Medill had gone to Ohio, on account of illness, and had not seen the resolutions, and when he returned he would meet any charge against him.

Mr. Green said that Mr. Medill had a copy of the resolutions, had read them, and had not left for Ohio till after they were presented in the Senate. He wanted the case investigated.

Mr. Bayard said it was not proper for the Senate to condemn an officer and ask for his removal. This was no charge of fraud. An officer had made a decision involving a question of law; whether it was wrong or not, it was not the province of the Senate to decide, nor its right to censure his actions.

Mr. Benjamin said he desired to offer an amendment. The resolution assumed to state facts.

Mr. Green (interrupting.) Mr. Benjamin, you should not discuss the merits of the resolution.

Mr. Benjamin. You should address the presiding officer.

Mr. Green. I call on the presiding officer to enforce order in the House.

Mr. Benjamin said his remarks were very discretious.

Before the resolution was disposed of the House received a bill came up as the special order.

Mr. Pugh spoke in favor of the Senate bill.

Mr. Wigfall spoke generally against the Homestead bill.

Mr. Sumner offered a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the President to furnish copies of all correspondence not heretofore communicated, relating to the claim of a foreign government to the military service of naturalized citizens. Adjourned.

House.—Mr Washburne, of Illinois, gave notice of bill to erect a custom house and postoffice at Waukegan.

Mr. Stanton, from the military committee, reported back the West Point appointation bill, with a recommendation of the committee that the House non-concur in the Senate amendment providing for calling into service a regiment of Texas volunteers.

The House, by sever majority, refused to make the subject the special order for Tuesday.

The consideration of the anti-polygamy bill was resumed.

After a lengthy debate, Mr. Nelson moved the previous question, and the main question was ordered to be put—114 against 78.

Mr. Nelson, who reported the bill, was allowed an hour to close the debate, but without concluding, he gave way to a motion for adjournment, which prevailed. Adjourned.

THE VOICE OF THE COUNTRY ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROTEST.

[From the Washington Constitution.]

Some of the more sagacious of the Black-Republicans are already beginning to see reason to regret the extraordinary and indecent proceeding of their faction in the House against the President; and they would now gladly get away from the issue if they could. Here and there their ex parte accusations, or rather insinuations, may gratify the malice of vindictive partisans and baffled adventurers, but the mass of men love justice and fair dealing among the people revolts against a course of aggression upon a co-ordinate branch of the Government—illegal in form as it is injustice—legal—having no legislative aim of object, and intended merely to vilify and decrade the Chief Magistrate. The public, as it will appear from a comparison of opinion in different quarters of the country which we to-day lay before our readers, recognize in the President's reply the true direction in regard to the rights of the House of Representatives and those of the Executive—the just distribution between a legislative inversion of authority and the constitutional attempt to give the effect of a sentence of impeachment under the form of a vague, general, and sweeping inquiry.

Covode and his baffled confederates in calumny doubtless thought that their base fictions would go forth to do their work among the ignorant and prejudiced without an authoritative contradiction. Their hope of impunity was founded on the idea that Mr. Buchanan would scarcely stoop to notice them. But, when a majority of the House of Representatives adopted the resolutions, it was time for the president to speak. He did so with commanding powers of argument and language, and with the moderation and dignity which characterize him. Every patriot must rejoice at the response which the protest has received from the American people. We subjoin some extracts from leading journals:

[From the Boston Courier, Whig.]

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

It is manifest, from this view of the subject, that the President not only is right in the points presented by him, but that he discharges his simple duty as the Executive head of the nation in offering his remonstrance to the insidious, and unparliamentary, and dangerous method adopted by the House to investigate vague charges against him. Such an investigation we hold to be altogether inconsistent with the principles and provisions of the Constitution, and in itself of the worst possible example. If there is in possession of members of the House serious foundation for grave charges against the conduct of the President in the administration of his high office, this would constitute ground of impeachment, which is the only constitutional means provided for trying him. If there are such charges, they are either definite and specific, or they are not so. If not, they should not be countenanced by the House, which otherwise becomes a star chamber, an inquisition, or a grand jury—for inquiry, not for an accusation. If they are so, then the course of procedure is clearly pointed out by the law, in the way of impeachment.

The President claims that this power of impeachment is the only authority possessed by the House in the premises, and he is right. In fact, the people cannot regard with too much indignation the conduct of the House. If it had any sense of justice or candor, a matter of this sort, if anything so indefinite were countenanced at all, would have been referred to a standing committee—but to one raised to gossip and plot over such an affair. If Mr. Covode, who made the motion had any sense of delicacy or honor, he would be ashamed to sit on the committee appointed for such a purpose, on his own motion. Mr. Sherman, who first commented on the message, we perceive faithfully and falsely said its doctrine was like that of Charles I, which cost him his head, namely, "The king can do no wrong." There is nothing of the sort in the message. Besides, the English Parliament, not the House alone, impeached the king, and tried him in the eyes of the world upon plain and specific charges, instead of working into a lobby to see what they could find against him. The message of the President is in itself a dignified and conclusive document. Wherever else he may be wrong, he is right in this, in the name, and for the cause of the people and the Constitution. We see it took the House by surprise. We have no doubt it must have overwhelmed them without doors. And it will stand, while such proceedings as they have instituted deserve, and will undoubtedly be visited with public indignation and contempt.

[From the Boston Post.]

The message of the President, remonstrating against the assumption of the House of Representatives, clearly demonstrates the unconstitutional character of the action on the part of that branch of the Government, and the danger of an acquiescence in the positions assumed by the House of Representatives. The order and justice of the country cannot fail to sustain Mr. Buchanan in his resistance to the arbitrary action initiated by the Black-Republicans, his approval of the firm and dignified stay that spirit of partisan hostility which defies every principle of equity and constitutional law in seeking the gratification of its malignity. These conspirators against the peace of the land are abusing their temporary privileges to overthrow all the guards of Government will find the public protecting the Executive, and the honest citizens of the whole country, and the representative of the people in the presidential chair firmly supported in his resistance to the illegal assumption of his authority. The Opposition have outraged truth and decency in their desperate attempts to obtain the control of the country. If the Confederacy is to be preserved, it must be by the exercise of authority of the Administration maintained, a limit must be placed upon the aggressive insolence of such agitators as have driven the proceedings in the lower House of Congress. The three departments of Government should each be sanctioned in the defense of all its rights, but the usurpation of the House overstepped the bounds prescribed for it by the fundamental law of the nation, the whole fabric is endangered, and an alarming stride made toward that point where anarchy will commence. This point the Opposition appear anxious to attain—they are like wreckers on the coast; the destruction of others is their delight, and if their own pilot be not at the helm, that they may plunder the cargo. But the political storm they invoked will involve only themselves, while the structure of the ark will secure a safe anchorage under the guidance of a resolute Democratic crew.

[From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.]

A JUST REPROVE.—However men may differ in opinion respecting the policy, in a political view, of the President's protest transmitted to the House of Representatives on Thursday last, there is very little room for doubt as to the soundness of the principle laid down in that communication. The action of the House of Representatives is an unwarrantable interference with the functions and prerogatives of a co-ordinate branch of the Government—prompted, we are compelled to think, by political partisanship, and set on foot in the hope of gaining party capital. It seeks to explore the mysteries of a political campaign long since closed, (in which, if there was corruption, both political parties were responsible for it,) and is designed to cast political odium upon the Chief Magistrate of the Nation. If it had any sense of justice or candor, a matter of this sort, if anything so indefinite were countenanced at all, would have been referred to a standing committee—but to one raised to gossip and plot over such an affair. If Mr. Covode, who made the motion had any sense of delicacy or honor, he would be ashamed to sit on the committee appointed for such a purpose, on his own motion. Mr. Sherman, who first commented on the message, we perceive faithfully and falsely said its doctrine was like that of Charles I, which cost him his head, namely, "The king can do no wrong." There is nothing of the sort in the message. Besides, the English Parliament, not the House alone, impeached the king, and tried him in the eyes of the world upon plain and specific charges, instead of working into a lobby to see what they could find against him. The message of the President is in itself a dignified and conclusive document. Wherever else he may be wrong, he is right in this, in the name, and for the cause of the people and the Constitution. We see it took the House by surprise. We have no doubt it must have overwhelmed them without doors. And it will stand, while such proceedings as they have instituted deserve, and will undoubtedly be visited with public indignation and contempt.

[From the Boston Post.]

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