MEMPHIS APPEAL

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 31, 1873.

COLONEL D. K. M'RAE'S LECTURE.

The lecture last evening at the Memphis theater, by Colonel Duncan K. McRae, for the benefit of the Memphis library association, was honored by one of the largest and most fashionable audiences that ever attended a lecture in this city. The subject was "Ireland," which was treated with great ability, evincing, throughout, extensive reading and profound thought, expressed in language eloquent and forcible. The lecture was worthy of the high character which Colonel McRae has won throughout the country as a man and a scholar. Indeed, if anything had been wanting to complete the fame of Colonel McRae as one of the ablest men of the south, it was furnished by his most powerful, brilliant, and exhaustive lecture last night. The excursions of his genius were vast and interesting as the classic region which he traversed and described, and was of itself a galaxy studded with facts, and illuminated throughout with the light of learning. Colonel McRae has a national fame as a profound lawyer, possessing a quick analytical mind, ever ready to solve the abstruse points of law and metaphysics. But great as are his logical powers and reputation as a dialectician and debater, he could achieve a national fame as a lecturer. His mastery of the language, refined taste, enlarged culture, and pure eloquence serves to make him a popular lecturer. Beyond its compact and energetic force, incisive reasoning, clear statement and demonstration, the lecture last night was remarkable for an elevated sentiment and manly tone which held the vast assemblage spell-bound during the hour and a half of its delivery, and extorted frequent applause. Father Burke, with all his glowing eloquence and immense learning, was never more triumphant in exposing the wrongs of Ireland and the vagaries of Froude than was Colonel McRae last night. In the name of the Irish people of Memphis we thank Colonel McRae for his patriotic and eloquent defense of their rights and exposition of their wrongs. An electric thrill seemed to pervade the audience as he discussed his interesting subject. Colonel McRae's eulogy of this noble race was not misplaced, for nowhere in human history can be found a people with richer traditions, with stronger characteristics of courage in their men, purity in their women, strong religious faith, and imperishable love of country. Genius, wit and eloquence appear to have ever been the common heritage of the Irish race. Their open-hearted hospitality has ever been proverbial. Their struggles against poverty and oppression at home are acknowledged as being unequaled for fortitude, endurance, long suffering, bravery and fidelity to principle, by any other people on earth. The touching poetry of Tom Moore is the best exemplification of Irish originality and Irish verse. Love, friendship, generosity and hospitality shine through his productions with the brightness of inspiration. His Irish melodies have made the world akin; and the harps of Ireland in a thousand mansions and cots, have vibrated with the harmony and melody that only Irish fingers can impart. It is not alone in letters the Irish have been so thoroughly cultured as a people. The works of art and manufactures of Ireland correspond favorably with any country in the world. Poor, down-trodden, oppressed people, they have faced the storms of persecution; they have passed through fire, and yet, by honest toil they have risen to eminence in all that is refined; in everything that commands the respect of the world. From the loins of Irishmen the greatest Americans known to our country's history have descended. It is a striking peculiarity of the Irish that, with all their strong traits of nationality, they instantly become Americanized. They have the inspiration of American liberty before their feet touch our soil, and although they are purely Irish, they are, as by a miracle, thoroughly transformed into Americans. The shamrock and the harp are at once buried in the folds of the American flag, and although objects of veneration and affection, our institutions claim their worship and admiration. The traditions of their race are regarded with a holy veneration, but they consider allegiance to the land of their adoption a sacred duty. Such a people are worthy of the eloquence which Colonel McRae lavished upon them last night in his able and matchless lecture, delivered for the benefit of the Memphis library association.

THE RAILROADS AND THE COURTS.

The courts in every part of the country will be called upon to decide the difficulties between the farmers and the railroad monopolies. This is the only power that can afford relief for the grievances of the farmer. The State legislatures and the congress of the United States will do nothing, as the railroad monopolies are all powerful in lobbying their schemes through these bodies. The courts of the country are looked to as the last refuge of the people. Already they have shown a disposition to fight the battle of the people against monopolies of every form. In Illinois the supreme court has made a decision of vital importance. In a recent case before the court, the question presented was, "whether the railroad company could, by contract, bind itself to transport coal over its road for a particular company, to the exclusion of individuals." Mr. Justice Walker, in delivering the opinion of all the judges says: "Have not the public such interest in the use and continued operation of the railroads of the State as should forbid the court from enjoining the freights and property of individuals from being transported because the company has entered into an agreement to pay a stipulated sum for track service or toll for the right to run over another road and carry passengers and freights?" * * * In answering this question, Justice Walker continues:

When these great and useful bodies were created there were two considerations that induced their organization. One was—and it was the highest and most important—the accommodation of the public and the promotion of their interests. The other was the promotion of the interest of the individual stockholders in such companies. The primary object of the people of the State ever has been, in creating railroads, to afford facilities for trade and commerce by speedy, convenient and cheap travel and transportation of merchandise, the products and minerals of the country to the best markets, thus supplying every section with the products of other sections. And it was the same considerations that have induced almost every county, city, town, village, and in a great number of townships, to incur debts, which, in the aggregate, amount to a vast sum, to subscribe for stock in railroads or make donations to such bodies, and on which these corporations are paying an immense sum in taxes to discharge the interest on these debts. And for all this vast sum thus contributed, it is believed that cities, counties, towns, villages and townships have nothing of value to show, unless it be in rare instances.

No one can believe that the people have expended these vast sums, lardened themselves, in many instances, to the point of ruin, and entailed upon themselves and posterity debts and burdens that must be onerous, if not destructive, for the benefit of private stockholders of these companies. No one can entertain such an opinion. All must comprehend the fact, that it was done mainly to promote the public good and to advance our material interests.

Can any one suppose that it was merely to enrich and aggrandize the stockholders and the officers of these companies that the people, through their representatives in the general assembly, have granted such liberal charters, authorizing them to use the highest prerogative of sovereignty, eminent domain, to deprive the citizen of his property for the use and benefit of these bodies, thus relieving them of the necessity of being compelled to purchase and pay exorbitant prices for their right of way, depot grounds, and material for the construction of these roads? On the contrary, all know that such liberality and the grant of such powers were conferred to advance public interest as the first and great object.

But to accomplish this purpose it was found necessary to enlist private enterprise and capital. And to call it forth for the accomplishment of the end, rights, privileges and immunities had to be conferred and secured to those who would embark in the construction and operation of these roads. Hence, in their charters the rights and duties of the companies are either expressed or implied. When created bodies corporate they become invested with the right to construct and use their roads, to transport both persons and property over their lines, and to receive compensation for the same. And when these bodies accept their charters, it is with the implied understanding that they will fairly perform the duties of public common carriers of both persons and property, and at the same time a correlative duty is imposed, that they shall receive and carry persons and freight on their lines. And this is a duty they cannot escape by refusal, by contract or agreement with other persons or companies, that they will disregard and refuse to perform them. These are duties they owe the public, and it was in consideration that they would be performed that their charters were granted. They, then, have no power to disable themselves from performing these charter obligations, and any effort to do so by contract is void. We are not prepared to hold that the legislature could exonerate such bodies from the performance of their duties.

Whilst railroads must be protected in all of their rights with the same exactness as individuals are, they must at the same time be held to a rigid performance of all their duties to the public. Nor will they be permitted, by contract or otherwise, to avoid their performance.

THE WORKINGMEN.

It is most creditable to the agricultural congress now in session at Indianapolis that on the first day of meeting they rejected a series of resolutions condemning the eight-hour law, and such expedients as working men are compelled to resort to to secure a fair recompense for their labor. These resolutions were couched after the most approved anti-workman form, and were no doubt intended by the introducer to operate as another partition wall pepetually dividing the mechanics of the country and the agriculturists for fear that, in their cohesion as a mass, as we hope for, the political tricksters, who are most intent on their own selfish ends, may lose their hold on the various divisions into which these classes are at present divided. It was intended, no doubt, that these resolutions should lead to a debate destructive of the several aims and ends of the congress which will shortly be superceded by the national grange, more expressive of the purposes of the farmers of the country in their efforts to free themselves from the control of freight monopolists, in order that their products may reach, at a cheaper rate, the poor workers whom these resolutions assailed. Mark their scope. Here they are in all their nakedness:

Resolved, That all efforts on the part of organizations of any class to increase or decrease the value of labor or the produce of labor are pernicious in their influence and against the interests of farmers.

Resolved, That the eight-hour law passed by congress, and now applied to labor performed for the government, is unjust, unwise and a disturbing element in the management of the business of the whole country, and ought to be repealed.

Thus the eight-hour law should be repealed as a disturbance of the business of the country, and all efforts at trades' unions be condemned as pernicious to the interests of farmers. Had these resolutions been passed by the overwhelming majority that defeated them the farmers would have to-day occupied the attitude of self-condemnation in their assemblage in a congress for consultation, the amelioration of their condition or the advancement of the best interests of their calling. Knowing, however, that they were right in thus assembling, they were not prepared to condemn their fellow-workers of the mechanic arts for meeting in their unions or legislating for their interests in their own way, and as to them may seem best. They refused their sanction to the resolutions by an overwhelming vote, and therein proved their title to the consideration of the mechanics of the country, in whose name, especially those of Memphis, we resent the impudent intrusion of these resolutions as another of many attempts on the part of persons inimical to the advancement of the workers of the country to manufacture public opinion against the great army who toil for a bare subsistence, and without whose labor not even the willing farmer could plow his broad and productive acres. Capital is represented in gigantic corporations, and regulates its own affairs, always dictating its recompense; why cannot the mechanics of the country control their labor market by similar combinations, expressive of reasonable compensation in money, fair hours of labor, and confidence in the capitalists with whom they may unite to accomplish great ends. We cannot see why. This is a free country, and men, no matter what their calling may be, untrammeled, work out their salvation in their own way, and as to them seems best. Let the agriculturists hoe their own row, and the mechanics will hoe theirs.

HOW TO FILL UP TAX BLANKS.

The new blanks that have been distributed by our tax-collectors are the puzzle and bugbear of our taxpayers. Not one of them have yet succeeded in determining how to fill them up, or what to do with them. There is so much to be accounted for, so searching and prying an inquiry into the contents of the offices, homes, and even the drawers and safes of all classes, that the people do not know how to avoid returning their capital in a hundred different ways, and thus realize for themselves what it is "to be taxed to death"—that is to be literally killed out of all commercial life or enterprise. They are, therefore, not only puzzled, but very much annoyed, and ask, "What shall we do?" Our advice is that each in their turn call at the office of the tax-collector or collectors, and there get the information desired. These officers are acting under instructions from the comptroller of the State, and are, no doubt, posted as to their duties, among which are a thorough knowledge of the blanks and the purposes of the State in ordering them. The penalties for any attempted evasion of these blanks is very severe, and if taxpayers would obviate them, they should call at headquarters, upon the tax-collectors themselves, and from them get all the information necessary to a proper, as well as prompt compliance with the law.

THE Beecher scandal, of which we have heard so much through Claflin, Woodhull and Train, has received its solution in the publication this morning of a synopsis of the compact between Beecher, Bowen and Tilton, in which the latter two withdrew their allegations against the moral character of Beecher, and he in turn made amends for all he had said of them growing out of their hate and malevolence of him. The document is a triumphant vindication of the great preacher, and places Bowen and Tilton in a very contemptible light before the public. We want now to hear what Claflin, Woodhull, Train & Co., have to say about it.

WASHINGTON.

The Transportation Question—The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to be First Considered..

Rumored Resignation of Assistant Secretary Richardson—Interesting Cases.

Improvements of the Capitol—Elevator—Paintings—Pneumatic Tube—The Grounds.

[From the St. Louis Republican.]

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The senate committee on transportation have advised the managing officers of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal that the project of the extension of the work to Pittsburg will be among the first considered, the survey of the line to the Ohio river having been made by General Barnard, chief engineer of the United States corps of engineers. By a recent act of congress, Colonel Morrill and Mr. Sedgewick are making estimates of the cost of the work. The president of the canal is now having prepared, for the use of the congressional committee, a full statement of all the facts in relation to the work, and those who have been paying attention to the efforts now being made in the west to induce congress to facilitate water communication with the Atlantic seaboard are said to be convinced that this great work of Maryland will receive sufficient aid from congress to complete it to the west. When the State of Maryland commenced to build the canal, the idea was to construct a small one, which would accommodate the coal trade of Allegheny; but the United States, through its engineers and other officers, induced the canal company to enlarge its lines and to construct the largest canal at that time in the United States, and to make it a national work congress voted a million dollars to aid it, and afterward paid for the stock of the district cities one million and five hundred thousand dollars. This circumstance, with the advantages of the short line it will be to the west, and the comparatively moderate cost of the work, it is thought, will induce congress to resume its interest in the canal and favor the completion of the works.

RICHARDSON'S RESIGNATION.

The Washington *Chronicle* of this morning, has the following editorial paragraph: "The rumor of the resignation on the first day of July of Secretary Richardson of the treasury is again being industriously circulated. Mr. Richardson stated on yesterday to a *Chronicle* reporter that his attention had been repeatedly called to the statement, as it had been to various financial rumors, in order to obtain from him an expression of opinion; he had never expressed any opinion on the subject to any one, nor had he authorized any contradiction of it. There appears, however, to be some facts in connection with it that would indicate that Mr. Richardson has still in view the acceptance of a proposition which, it is said, has been made to him by capitalists of Yew York city to take the head of a banking-house in Paris. The rumor, however, is not traceable to an official source; nor is there any room to suppose that President Grant has not full confidence in the wisdom and ability of Secretary Richardson. If he leaves the cabinet, his retirement will be entirely voluntary."

INTERESTING CASES.

The courts of Baltimore are just now engaged in solving two legal cases of the most interesting character. The first is a life insurance case, where the widow brings suit to recover twenty-five thousand dollars accruing from policies on her deceased husband. The plaintiff claims that her husband lost his life by the explosion of a coal-oil lamp, which burned himself and the building which he then occupied. The companies refuse payment on the ground that the husband is not dead. It was proved by exhuming the body, which was subjected to a thorough medical examination, and witnesses of the highest standing have been subpoened, both for plaintiff and defendant, and the trial promises to be both exciting and sensational. The second case is more important on account of the legal considerations raised. It seems that in 1866 a man named Hoslin was convicted of horse-stealing in the circuit court for Charles county, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for the term of seventeen years and six months. When he had served out something more than six years of his term he was pardoned by Governor White on condition that he would leave the State of Maryland and never return. He returned to Baltimore last January, and soon after was arrested for alleged complicity in the Tampley murder. It was ascertained that he had no hand in the assassination of Mrs. Tampley, but in the meantime attention was called to his violation of the conditions of his pardon. He was brought before the court on Friday last. The jury empaneled to try the question of facts involved, returned an inquisition setting forth that Tucker is the same man who was sentenced in 1866, and that he did violate the terms of his pardon. Had the trial ended here, the prisoner would have been remanded to prison to serve out the remainder of his term, but his counsel made a motion in arrest of judgment, and upon this motion the constitutionality of the recommittent of pardoned convicts, who do not observe the conditions of their pardon, will be argued. Should the motion be overruled, the case will be carried to the court of appeals.

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE CAPITOL.

[From the New York Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, May 26.—It has been decided by Mr. Clark, architect of the capitol, and others having the requisite authority, to apply to F. Law Olmsted, of the Central park, asking his acceptance of employment under the government for the purpose of laying out and beautifying the grounds of the capitol, which are being materially increased by the addition of two squares east of the capitol and the large vacant space which for years has been so offensive to visitors to the north of the capitol. The grounds to the south are being also extended, and thousands of loads of gravel are being hauled for the purpose of filling in and making a uniform grade. Trees and shrubs are to be planted, walks are to be laid out, fountains erected, terraces are to be extended north and south, and, in fact, the general improvements about the capitol will be of an extensive and liberal character, and it is expected they will all be completed during the summer.

The old pneumatic tube between the capitol and the government printing office, a contract for laying which was authorized by congress, is being removed, it having been found of insufficient strength to sustain the weight of earth upon it—in some places amounting to seventeen feet. A smaller tube of stronger material will be laid, the trench being already under way. Mr. Clark, who was at first rather skeptical as to the success of the undertaking, now, after a careful examination and trial, expresses his entire confidence in its feasibility. With a small engine and exhauster, Mr. Clark says the sphere was compelled backward and forward in the tube, even over a grade of sixteen feet to the hundred with less expenditure of force than was expected. He regards the fact as settled, that papers and documents can be placed within the sphere and propelled by pneumatic power between the government printing-office and the capitol by means of the tube with facility. The importance of the success of this tube, regardless of the principle involved, is greater now than heretofore, inasmuch as the *Congressional Globe* is hereafter to be printed at the government office, and the necessity which exists of having quick communication between two points is much enhanced.

Extensive improvements and additions in the capitol itself are also in progress, including the immense cellars, which are being extended under the roadway to the east on both wings. The elevator, costing ten thousand dollars, which was provided for out of the contingent fund of the senate at its last session, is rapidly advancing. The work of removing the heavy masonry, arches and flooring in order to make room for it, is found to require unusual force and patience. The elevator when finished will be subject to the occupancy, first, of senators and members and the officers of the two houses, and, second, of those to whom the privileges of the floors and private corridors are granted. It will not be subject to the use of the general public. A bunker will be attached to the elevator for the purpose of conveying books, documents, and fuel to the several stories, which will do away with the intolerable nuisance of an army of negroes, who are kept during the entire day carrying coal, wood, and other materials along the public passages and stairways to the inconvenience and annoyance of everybody having business at the capitol during the sittings of congress. As the same necessity exists for an elevator on the house side, there is no doubt that one will be provided by the next session.

The "decorations" of the senate wing of the capitol by Brumidi go on steadily year by year. He is still engaged on the ladies' reception-room, where there are already nearly four score nude babies, some with wings and some without. How this artist is paid for this work will doubtless ever remain a mystery. There are no appropriations for the class of work he is engaged on, and his name in the appropriation bill may be sought in vain. It is said on the best authority that Mr. Brumidi has been paid nearly one hundred thousand dollars by the government for his work during the past ten years.

Scaffolding has been placed about the "thirty-foot" picture of "Perry's Victory on Lake Erie," and the artist, Mr. Powell, is busily at work finishing it. Until it leaves his hands it is hardly a subject of legitimate criticism, yet it is proper to say that thus far it is regarded with dissatisfaction by most of those who are entitled to claim experience in naval affairs and judgment in art. It is expected that the picture will be finished and framed before the close of the summer.

The two fine portraits of Washington and Lafayette by Vanderlyn and Ary Shaffer respectively, which have so long occupied places on the right and left of the speaker's chair in the house, and which were fast falling to decay, have been restored by an experienced hand without the aid of brush or paint, and again put in position.

The immense pictures in the pannels of the rotunda, by Vanderlyn, Wier and Trumbull, are also in a dangerous state of decay, the canvas having rotted to such an extent that there is danger of the pictures falling to pieces of their own weight. Whatever may be said against Trumbull's pictures, they are certainly worth preserving for their portraiture if for nothing else; and a few dollars carefully expended in cleaning, varnishing and lining them would save them from the destruction toward which they are fast hastening.

DETERMINED SUICIDE.

Death of Dr. Ross, of Magnolia, Arkansas—Arrangements for Death.

Loading a Shotgun with Something that Would Hurt—A Sad Case.

[From the Magnolia Flower.]

On Tuesday morning last at about nine o'clock the startling intelligence was received in town that Dr. Z. C. Ross had shot himself. Immediately a large number of gentlemen proceeded to the residence of the doctor (the Cofield place), one mile from town. On arriving they found the news to be true—that Dr. Ross had actually shot himself directly through the heart. He was lying on the front porch of his residence, where he committed the foul deed.

The particulars are about as follows: On Tuesday morning early after breakfast, Mr. Killian (who was living in the house with Dr. Ross) fixed up and started to Camden, leaving no one at the house except Mrs. Killian and the doctor. A few minutes after Mr. Killian's departure, Dr. Ross was seen with his shotgun on the front porch. Mrs. Killian passed out by Dr. Ross while he was loading his gun, and remarked to him that he was "loading with something that would hurt." While out attending to the calves she heard a curious noise—a "mournful noise"—but not suspecting anything wrong, she passed into the room occupied by the doctor for the purpose of cleaning it up, when, just on entering, she heard the report of the gun, and on looking through the window discovered him in a kneeling posture. She ran to him as he fell back dying and asked if it was accidental, but he made no reply. He was then dead. Mr. Dennis was coming to town and reached the house just after the tragedy. He was asked by Mrs. Killian to come in, when he did so. When he reached the porch he discovered the clothes on the deceased to be on fire. He secured water and extinguished the fire, and mounting his horse rode rapidly to town to bear the intelligence.

Justice Garrett summoned a jury of inquest, and proceeded to hold an inquest on the body. The jury could only decide that he came to his death by his own hands. Whether Dr. Ross committed suicide or not is not now known—and probably will never be. But it is the general opinion that he did. The manner in which he had arranged his business will tend somewhat to the belief. He had transferred all his property and effects to his two little boys (all his family)—had closed up all his business. A few days before his death the doctor sent his two boys to Fort Smith to their grandmother. He told them that he would soon die or be killed, and that he "did not want them to see him in such a fix." The boys regretted that they had to leave, and the younger remonstrated with his father, but to no effect. They left on Saturday last for Fort Smith, where they will not be surprised to hear of their father's demise. The remains of the deceased were interred on Wednesday evening in the Magnolia cemetery.

A very important reform is about to be adopted in Russia. It is proposed to establish the institution of civil marriage, if not for all subjects of the czar, at least for a large number of them, and particularly for the dissenting sect known as the Raskolniks, who have been for many years practically *hors la loi*, the ceremony performed by their priests having no official validity.

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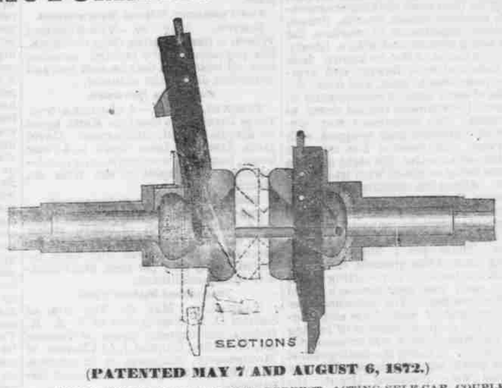

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Plumbing, Gas and Steam Fitting promptly attended to at No. 233 Second Street. Largest and finest assortment of Chandeliers, Brackets, to be found in the South always on hand, at

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N. B.—Connection with Water Works a specialty.

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HAVING PURCHASED A LARGE LOT OF desirable goods at bankrupt Sales, I herewith offer the following, and defy competition: Lenos at 25 cents, worth 40; Lenos at 30 cents, worth 50; Grenadines at half their value; Linen Lawns at 20 cents, worth 35; all Linen Lawns at 30 cents, worth 50; Lace Sets at $1 50, worth $3; Edging and Insertings at half their value; Ladies' Hose at 12½ cents per pair; Ladies' Homemade Cloth Balmorals, $2; Ladies' Corsets, 75 cents; Table Damask and Napkins a specialty this week.

This is the cheapest lot of goods ever offered in Memphis. Call and be convinced.

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