

MEMPHIS APPEAL

FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 17, 1873.

The Daily Appeal has a larger circulation than all the other Memphis daily papers combined.

ELECTIONS--INDEPENDENT VOTING.

Although there have been late elections progressing this week in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Oregon and California, the fact seems to have little interest for the general public. Even in the States named the people seem to have regarded with something like apathy the movements of the political campaign.

These elections have been a great falling off in the vote on both sides, and in Iowa and Pennsylvania nothing like the increasing interest, heretofore manifested in State elections has been noticeable. We regard these as discouraging signs. They speak a denunciation of party antagonism, of that fierce and vindictive strife of contending factions, which has done so much to taint our popular elections into disrepute. They have still another meaning. They mark the gradual subsidence of the war between the Democratic and Republican parties, and, as we trust, indicate the coming time when we will be decided to officers of trust and honor more because of their personal worth than their party fealty.

The New York Evening Post, speaking of these elections, says that "the chief importance attached to them is that they will be a demonstration of independent voting," and further, "the right to vote has been pretty well established by late events." This independent voting and the establishing of the right to vote are significant witnesses of the advances which the people have made in liberal politics. There was a time, and not very long ago, when to vote independently of party divisions, which was, of course, done very rarely, through the agency of party platforms, subjected the voter to instant ostracism, while to vote out of the harness of the party was to bring on the unrelenting heat of the offender the whole pack of defaming party leaders.

It is no longer the case, and the right to vote being established, becomes crystallized and incorporated with the general rights which are the portion of the American people. Sooner than we have expected have we reached the pleasant open fields of emancipation from the despotism of party--a despotism which was as complete and as exacting to Americans as the despotism of the imperial eagle in Russia. It is true that, only the other day, we called attention to the fact that President Grant had removed a Virginia post master for political reasons, but General Grant himself the creature of that system of party despotism, whose rapid decadence we are considering, and which, when it has passed away, would render the election of any man like General Grant utterly impossible. Not that the American people would be incapable of appreciating the military talents of a man like President Grant, or grateful for military services rendered to the country, but that the installation of a military leader, of a purely military education, in a civil office would be in violation of their intelligent sense of the fitness of things. To place such a man at the head of the nation, indeed, is expected of them; but to install him in an office requiring great experience of civil life, extensive law-knowledge and those talents of diplomacy, which require only a general acquaintance with the science of government, would be doing gross violence to the interests of the nation, and great injustice to the military man himself.

The widening spirit of toleration and the tendency to relax all artificial barriers which animate the clubs, prove that the spontaneous outgrowth of our progressive times, by imparting itself as it is doing to the political parties of this country. Or, perhaps, the course of the population in the future, in either event, the people have reason to congratulate themselves upon the desirable change. We are marching on, let us trust, to that freedom of action and thought which is constrained only by truth, by law, and by inspired wisdom. The artificial lines heretofore dividing the people, and which were drawn by the hand of superstition, ignorance, prejudice, passion or interest, are gradually melting away, and, as if we were to ourselves, and continue the good work of general reformation, will in good time be wiped out forever. In the meantime let us be thankful that a party clique can no longer, with a successful platform, dictate the "party nominees"; that the days of independent voting are already here, and that the "right to vote" no longer curries with it the penalty of political crucifixion.

The full term of the circuit court of Crittenden county commences according to the usual course of law, on the 15th inst. at the town of Marion, in Arkansas. In view of the disease now prevailing in Memphis, and of the fact that many of the members of the bar, as well as of the litigants and witnesses in the Crittenden county cases, are in Memphis, it will be presented to Hon. J. W. Fox, the presiding judge, asking that the term be adjourned over until a later period. We understand that General C. W. Adams and other lawyers who have business in the court, are now in consultation with Dr. Black, and other physicians on the subject, all of whom join in the expression of the opinion, that to hold the Marion court at this time, in the way of reform, would be doing gross violence to the interests of the nation, and great injustice to the military man himself.

The Mobile Register is opposed to the establishment of general agencies in the cotton States, and is in favor of the reform, which it is not a necessity of civilized society that, by the division of labor and the proper sphere assigned to each member, who becomes the true bond of nations? Who does not remember the signal and disastrous failure of the "operating stores" and the sad lessons they taught to their unphilosophical victims? If the return to, or the inauguration of such a system, is the best "reform" that can be done in the way of reform, it is not a necessity of civilized society that, by the division of labor and the proper sphere assigned to each member, who becomes the true bond of nations? Who does not remember the signal and disastrous failure of the "operating stores" and the sad lessons they taught to their unphilosophical victims?

It will be remembered by the readers of the APPEAL that when the letter of inquiry by Ben. Butler, in regard to the alleged defalcation of the late Governor of Mississippi, was published, we stated that it would be found to be a copy of a circular sent to the governors of all the States. It so appears. Butler, himself, says in a letter to Ames, elsewhere printed. But we do not rest our belief on this letter, but on the fact that a circular copy of such a letter to other governors than Powers of Mississippi has found its way before the public. People are too old to be caught by such chaff as this, and it is time men who attempt to lead parties, or direct public opinion were doing so on the broad basis of public liberty and public good, and not upon such stuff as that of which Butler speaks so contemptuously. We have lost none of our ancient gratitude against Butler, but we believe that "right wrongs illustrate."

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