

Party Predicaments.

Geological science informs us that all the stratification forming the foundations of the solid globe itself was preceded by commotions intense and universal. It also teaches that those commotions must have ceased before systematic stratification was possible.

Geology further informs us that the world has been subjected to cataclysms that overwhelmed its antecedent order; and that it never again returned to its primitive state, but took on itself new conditions of nature.

Out of the materials of the old, the new party organizations must necessarily be chiefly constructed. Political architects are not now required to create substance; they are simply to give form to the materials abundantly cast up to their hands.

Thus, taken together, the present political situation, so unprecedented, so novel, so critical, with all the duties it demands and all the obligations it imposes on the two great parties, places both in predicaments as peculiar as they are unexpected and unavoidable.

We will concede that, in the prosecution of this work, the ultimate aim of each party is to promote the best interests of the country, both for the present and the future. But it can not be doubted that the direct and immediate purpose of each party is to order the new era of coming events, whose shadows are already falling upon the dial plate of time.

It so happens, moreover, that the honors of the government are now pretty equally divided between the two parties. The Republicans have the Executive and a majority in the Senate, but the Democrats hold a large preponderance in the more numerous and popular branch of Congress.

The heaviest shipments of coal ever made during one month from Pittsburgh, by water, were made last month, amounting to 18,557,000 bushels.

Not less than 7,000,000 of bushels of wheat have been exported from Philadelphia during the present year, which is 2,170,000 more than last year.

There are 217 screw and sidewheel ocean steamers for sale in England. That looks as though ship building had been a little overdone in Great Britain.

The desideratum of the Hines is a dummy locomotive for use upon street cars and short lines of suburban railroads, of such a nature as not to cause danger to other vehicles and not to frighten horses on the same highway.

followers of both against the leadership of each. From the predicament in which these two parties are involved by reason of these open questions in their own respective ranks, it will require the utmost sagacity of their wisest men to deliver them in safety.

Already the Democratic party-leaders are considering the situation most seriously. They are carefully feeling their way towards a plan that may prescribe the outlines of their new policy by the light of their old; that may consolidate their new elements of recuperation without sacrificing the "Bourbon" proclivities of those who had constituted their pristine strength.

The Republicans are compelled in self defense to adopt a similar course. But, unfortunately, their deliberations are to devise measures to escape the predicament of being placed altogether upon the defensive; to protect their past as well as to fortify their future; to reconcile their dissensions as well as to purify their corruptions.

And then, again, between them both is hurled the apple of discord in relation to free schools, compulsory education, church immunity from taxation, religious and non-religious instruction in public institutions, the recognition of a neighboring Republic in Cuba, concerning which there has been no expression of public sentiment that might serve either as a guide to direct or a beacon to warn, thus leaving party managers in the predicament of taking a new departure upon an unknown sea.

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The St. Louis Globe, &c., speaks of M. D. Conway's assault upon the Devil as "an unprovoked attack." The Globe is clearly mistaken as to the innocence of the Devil in this little unpleasantness between him and Conway.

People generally may not be aware that every month there are thousands of dozens of American brooms shipped to the West Indies, South America, and to Europe. The American broom is esteemed the lightest and best made in the world.

Mr. Speaker Kerr can not lack for material for constructing his Committee on Military Affairs. He has about one hundred and fifty Brigadier Generals, who have seen service in the field, on both sides, to choose from.

What a wretched condition of humanity! How many wretched homes in our land! How many heart-broken invalids! Life with many agonies and a mere creature existence.

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to test the powers of the machine for slowing, stopping to take up passengers, &c., and it appeared to be under the most perfect control. The noise was scarcely perceptible, whilst horses alongside did not seem to recognize the car as anything unsightly, or to be startled, the result of the trial was to impress all present with the complete success of the invention, and its adaptability to tramway purposes.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Journal writes: "At the time of the Chicago Convention of 1864, Mr. Lincoln being already a candidate for reelection, he awaited the news with great interest. When intelligence came of the nomination of McClellan, he remarked: 'Well, they have not appointed me.' 'Little Mac' is a good fellow, and popular, and I don't know but what they can elect him. However, what the Democracy don't know about blundering is not worth knowing, so we will wait for further news.' Presently the platform came. Lincoln read it, and said: 'There, friends, I told you so. We're elected!'

It is none of the world's business who the lady is or in what part of the county she resides. The fact is, she is a widow, and how a lady, vulgarly called an old maid, got a husband, and one that may prove himself worthy of her, six months ago a tramp came to a Berks county farm-house and asked the daughter for food, and it was given to him. He was considerably worse for wear, yet his modesty and the fact that he was a stranger attracted the attention of the family.

She encouraged him to keep himself well dressed, and in a short time the armer saw that his man of all work had suddenly become a fine looking and earnest suitor for his daughter's hand in marriage. It was at first refused, but the only child cried to her mother, the mother interceded, and finally the stern parent gave his consent. It was virtuous and a true love match. The marriage took place, the ceremony being performed by a Reading clergyman.

Visitors to the Zoological gardens are usually quite willing to keep at respectful distance from the larger beasts, but affect undue familiarity with the cunning little monkey family. It should be remembered however that these funny little imps are sometimes addicted to mischievous tricks that are not altogether innocent.

A gentleman who desired to have a monkey's opinion of his newly-purchased gold watch took it from his pocket, and the keeper, entering the cage, succeeded in securing the chronometer by trading a red-checked apple for it. It was restored to its owner uninjured, and his conclusion was that the next time he wanted a monkey's opinion of his time-piece he would not venture quite so near the cage.

Oh, the slush, the beautiful slush, slipping about with an icy gleam, yielding and soft to the hurrying feet that sogle about in it, out on the street—clumping and thumping out in the mud, and once in a while coming down with a thud. Splashing the people from ankle to crown, and frequently helping a man to sit down right on the sidewalk, before the whole town (there is no valid reason under the sun why people should shiver at such terrible fun to see a poor fellow go down with a run). Sticking to everything, outdoor and in; sticky oleaginous, gluey but thin. No other nuisance is half so pronounced, and if we don't swear to that, may we be rebounded.

What a wealth of story, of pictures, and of song! What stores of fun and frolic, and fact and fancy, within its covers! So many authors and artists have contributed to it! It defies description! There is a frontispiece, "St. Christopher," with its beautiful legend in verse by H. L. Hunt. There are stories by Lewis M. Alcott and J. T. Townsend, and a clergyman's fairy tale (Rev. Edward Eggleston), besides the serials by No. 1 Brooks and Bayard Taylor. The third part contains of SERMONS, and STORIES and POEMS, and PICTURES with JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT, THE YOUNG CONTRIBUTORS, THE LETTER-BOX, THE RIDGE-BOX, and the PAGE FOR VERY LITTLE FOLKS, etc., etc. This is a

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THE YOUNG NAVIGATORS. Also a beautiful country scene. Four children, three girls and a boy, have left the distant house to play. Two are seated on the bank of the little lake, near the trunk of a picturesque old tree, and these act as spectators, while the other two, a boy and girl, are on their knees near the water, endeavoring to guide two little boats with sticks in their hands.

A COUNTRY STILE. This is a view of a farm in the early summer. The house almost hidden by foliage and surrounded by meadow land, is seen in the distance. In the foreground are four girls reposing upon and near the stile of the old-fashioned kind. All have been gathering flowers, and one little girl is seated in the grass endeavoring to form a bouquet. A charming picture.

THE DARLING BABE. This is a companion piece of the English Cottage. It is a garden scene. In the foreground a young girl is contemplating, with fond affection, a sleeping infant in its cradle. The friend and pet of the child, a beautiful cat, lies rolled up in sleep near by. The background shows a parterre of flowers and shrubbery of luxuriant growth, and also a large dish of blue ripe fruit. The expression and position of the young girl are so natural, that one can almost fancy her words spoken, "The Darling Babe."

ENGLISH COTTAGE. This picture represents the farmer's home, so common in England. A plain, homely building, truly, yet suggestive of much comfort, and even some beauty. The background covered with the shade of grand old trees, and the foreground with abundance of flowers, while roses in bloom almost hide the doorway, and are trained high up in the roof. House utensils in common use are standing near the well, and the mother of the family is drawing water from the well, with the daughter and her little charge, the infant of the family, and the sleek house cat sitting near as spectators.

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