PUBLIC LEDGER.

Office, No. 13 Madison Street

LARGEST CITY CIRCULATION.

MEMPHIS:

Thursday Evening, Nov. 15, 1866

IMPEACHMENT OF JOHNSON.

The originators of our Government wisely afforded the means of reaching the President and expelling him from office for official misconduct. It was foreseen that the great office would draw after it powers intended for other departments, and thus, if unchecked, consolidate all authority in the hands of a single man. Necessarily much discretion must be exercised, and much done by the President in matters for which there is neither precedent nor law. Usage becomes law, and precedent authority. Acts of the earlier Presidents are quoted to show what the Executive may now do. If allowed to stand unquestioned, the official acts of ANDREW JOHNSON will be quoted hereafter as authority. Now, if he can find precedent for what he has done, drawn from the other Presidents, impeachment and expulsion from office, if not impossible, would, in his case, be revolutionary. It is only when a positive crime is committed by so high an officer that the extraordinary proceeding of impeachment may be resorted to. It will be difficult to make out a case in which Mr. JOHNSON has violated the Constitution or the law, or acted corruptly in office. The time in which he presides over the country has cast to the surface issues which did not and could not have been determined by any predecessor before LINCOLN. Acceding to the office at the conclusion of a great war which left society in a sort of anarchy, he was compelled to determine questions that never had before arisen, and for which there were no guides for his action. He did the best he could, and for this he is to be impeached.

The only legitimate cause of quarrel between himself and Congress is partisan. Failing to follow those bodies into the extremes which party tactics suggested for the retention of power, they regard him as if he were a tyrant and usurper, and would hurl him from office. There is in one house the necessary numbers to prefer articles of impeachment, and in the other like numbers to convict. The case is already determined, for it is not to be supposed that any solitary man of the majority is liable to have his opinions modified. It is a party necessity that ANDREW JOHNSON should vacate the Presidency. And that is all. LINCOLN assumed responsibilities and performed acts which would, in other days, have cost him his office, if not his head. The catalogue of these acts is long, but well remembered. He stood above the Constitution when he deemed that elevation necessary to accomplish certain ends. Such extremists as WADE and WINTER DAVIS published to the country a long and earnest protest against what they regarded as usurpation of authority. But the tide then flowing swept them on until their voices were stilled in the grand murmur of the Radical waters. But LINCOLN was disposed to follow that tide, and it afforded him indemnity. JOHNSON, a little more firm, took his stand on the Constitution, and defied the billow that beat against it. It is from that position he is to be brought down—brought down for daring to plant his foot upon it—for daring to protect it. The trial of JOHNSON will bring to light all that LINCOLN has done. What then?

WALKER COUNTY.

Walker county, in Alabama, has always possessed a reputation peculiar to itself. The character of its population has long been a subject of jest with the people inhabiting the counties adjoining it. Lawyers who visited the courts at Jasper, the county seat, came away with stories that afforded infinite amusement. The worst generally said of a man was, that he deserved to be banished to Walker. During the late war, the Walkerites were said to have been quite hostile to the Confederacy, and enacted the role of the tories of the Revolution. Deserters from the Southern armies found protection, aid and comfort among them. Recently, it appears, these people have held a meeting and passed resolutions committing themselves to the Radical party. In allusion to them and their county, a late number of the *Sunny South* has the following, half serious and half otherwise:

All honor to the glorious old county of Walker—the famous nest of deserters and tories—the land of sedge-grass, hills and black-jacks! We know Walker county, Alabama, for we have passed through it in the dark days of the rebellion, and we can testify to her "loyalty." No rebel felt secure within her borders, and the "gollorious Union" slept as peacefully and undisturbed among her barren hills as the tories who infested them. Walker county was a terror to rebels. We ourself were of rebel proclivities, and such was our respect for the "loyalists" of Walker county, that in passing through the county at night we sought some retired spot in the hills rather than disturb the "loyal" dreams of her loyal denizens. Indeed, such was the loyalty of Walker county, that the life and property of a reb were thought to be insecure, unless well guarded by "rebel" bayonets, as several of the "boys in gray" had been known to penetrate the limits of the county and never to come out. But our precaution was not from fear, but from the peculiar respect and awe that a Walker county tory inspired in our bosom.

FOR NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

The Chicago *Times* has long been a popular paper in the South; but we fear that the result of the recent elections has demoralized it. The number of the 13th inst. gives strong indications of breaking ground for negro suffrage. It has a long article, the purport of which is to prove that the negro race in the South will become extinct. After arguing the subject at length, it closes thus:

Why, then, should men of Gothic blood, to whom America belongs, and to whom all other blood is and shall continue to be subordinate on this continent, hesitate to grant the elective franchise, as a measure which must, in the nature of things, be only temporary, to individuals of an inferior race who may be able to attain the qualifications required of white men for its exercise? *There is no well-grounded reason against it*, if it will promote the interests of the dominant race who grant it.

We have been accustomed to see in that paper well grounded reasons against it. Certainly no paper in the North has argued the reasons better. In another article it says:

Those who consider impartial suffrage fairly will discover that its homœpathic character will not work any serious injury.

Farewell to the Chicago *Times*. It is clearly overboard. *Sic transit*, etc.

A MOTHER'S LETTER.

The following letter will explain itself. If any reader of the PUBLIC LEDGER is acquainted with, or knows anything of EDWARD COMPTON, he or she will please send information to this office:

VAN BUREN COUNTY, ARK., November 24, 1866.

EDITOR OF THE PUBLIC LEDGER: I wish you would give room in your paper to make inquiry for my son, Edward Compton. He is a young man about twenty-three years old, and the report is that he is at Memphis. If you will make inquiry if he is there, and let me know, you will do me a great favor. My address is Clinton, Arkansas. Please write to Martha Adams or Elizabeth Pruitt, and oblige

Your humble servant,

MARTHA ADAMS.

BURIED ALIVE.

A terrible occurrence is said to have taken place near Quincy, Illinois. A Mrs. MCCLURE was supposed to have died on Sunday last, and on Monday was buried in a vault belonging to the family. On Wednesday groans were heard from the vault by children of the buried woman and an old woman who was with them. Upon learning this the husband and neighbors repaired to the vault, broke open the door, opened the coffin and found the woman alive. She had torn her hair and wounded her fingers in vain efforts to escape from her narrow prison. She was taken home, and is said to be in a fair way to recover.

NONE OF THEM ILL.

According to the reiterated reports of foreign newspaper correspondents, Count BISMARCK, LOUIS NAPOLEON and Baron JAMES DE ROTHSCHILD have all been recently very ill, and fears were expressed of their dying. It now appears, however, that BISMARCK has recovered; that NAPOLEON has not been ill, and that Baron ROTHSCHILD has been reading with infinite amusement the newspaper homilies about the "vanity of riches," etc., which have been prompted by the anticipated death of that at present quite healthy money king.

DIDN'T ANSWER.

General BUTLER, says the St. Louis *Dispatch*, it is pretty generally known, lives at Lowell, Massachusetts, and among those who heard his speech on Saturday night was a gentleman who also lived at Lowell in 1860. During BEN's speech, in the crisis of his eloquent denunciation of "traitors," this gentleman, in a clear voice, asked the speaker, "why did the people of Lowell throw rotten eggs at you in 1860, on your return from Charleston?" BEN has a glib tongue and a ready wit, but he couldn't and didn't answer that question.

A FACTORY DISEASE.

A curious disease is said to have appeared in the flax mills at Belfast, Ireland, and is described as being mainly caused by the operatives having to stand, whilst at work, in the water which drops from the spinning frames. If they get a bruise upon one of their toes, it inflames, the nail drops off, and a painful ulceration, with the growth of a deformed nail, appears. This disease occurs, though not to so great an extent, in the English flax mills.

DAVIS.

The Peoria *Democrat* says: "There seems to be a very strong objection in Radical circles to have that individual tried. Chief Justice CHASE has shown his antipathy to it—the Judges of the United States Courts have declined to try the case, and now the press of that faction prays to have him pardoned. Probably the trial 'would a tale unfold,' that Radicals could not relish. We think this could certainly be said of the Chief Justice."

EPITHETS.

The La Crosse *Democrat* says: "The Democrats in the North are ready, whenever the Radical party of thieves, cowards, bond-holders, fanatics, vandals, Puritans, hypocrites and greed loving vultures of abolitionism are prepared to die in the strife they dare not commence. The question now at issue concerns us in the North equally with you of the South, and it is for this reason—for our suffering country—that we write as we do."

TEXAS.

The military in Texas are officially instructed by Major General HEINTZELMAN, commanding department, to make no arrests of civilians, unless when the Governor of the State, on the requisition of the judiciary thereof, or a judicial officer of the United States, who has tried the process of his court and finds it ineffectual, calls upon the President of the United States to order the military arm to assist the civil.

☞ One day's pickings from the Albany *Evening Journal*: "The trump card," "brag," "euchred," "skunked," "low," "chancery," "foul," "throw up the sponge," "clubs are trumps," "the cards are packed and it's no use to shuffle," "strikes out from the shoulder," "honors are easy," "the greatest knave in the pack," "slipped jack from the bottom of the pack," "bottle-holder." The above constitute some of the "moral ideas" of the Radical, when boiled down.

☞ It is confidently stated that, under the auspices of France, negotiations are now pending between the Pope and the Patriarch of Constantinople for the union of the Greek and Catholic churches. This movement is looked upon with great interest in Europe, from the important influence it may have upon the settlement of the "Eastern question."

☞ It is mentioned in a Griffin (Ga.) journal, that the Rev. LEVICK PIERCE, an aged clergyman, on a recent occasion preached twice and delivered a lecture to a Sunday school, all on the same day. In 1804 he entered the ministry, and he has labored without interruption for sixty-two years.

☞ The Omaha *Republican* estimates the present population of Nebraska at 60,000, and thinks that during the past season at least 10,000 of them settled in the territory. The people are very anxious for admission into the Union, and wish to enjoy the advantages of a State government.

☞ JOHN BULWER, a quaint writer of the seventeenth century, recommends, as especially worthy of observance, the following three dinner rules—*Stridor dentium, altum, silentium, rumor gentium*, which has been humorously translated—Work for the jaws, a silent pause, frequent ha-has.

☞ The Eutaw *Whig* states that board and lodging can be had there at the hotels at $25 to $35 per month, and at private houses, without lodging, at $15 to $20. It says that from $30 to $40 per month is charged for board, without lodging, in private families at Demopolis.

☞ Among some real estate advertised for sale in Virginia is "the house in which General LEE surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General GRANT, on the 8th of April, 1865, at Appomattox Court House."

☞ The New York *Tribune* says, "an impeachment of the President will almost certainly plunge the country afresh into convulsions and civil war, just when its need of peace and thrift is most urgent."

☞ A slight touch of apoplexy may be called a retaining fee on the part of Death. It is, also, a warning to give up the tenement.

☞ PIERRE CARME's knowledge of English is said to be confined to the words "scratch" and "gin-cocktail."

☞ A company of fifty negroes left Lynchburg, Va., a few days since to work a plantation in Mississippi.

☞ Notwithstanding all the noise made on the subject, the stars have not fallen. Probably they have been injured.

Chicago Times.

In another place we have alluded to the leaning of the Chicago *Times* in favor of negro suffrage. The following editorial article in that paper will show that it has abandoned President Johnson:

Live Democrats should think twice before tying themselves to the dead body of the administration at Washington. Federal offices are undoubtedly tempting morsels to individuals, but the possession of all of them by the Democratic party would not, under the present state of things, be of any advantage to it. On the contrary, their possession would be, in our opinion, seriously injurious to it. The federal offices, under the present state of things, do not belong to the Democratic party. The Democratic party did not elect Mr. Johnson. It is not responsible for him. It will not be responsible for him. The brief alliance it has had with him has not been of any use to it. Any further alliance with him cannot be of any use to it. Such being the attitude of the Democratic party towards Andrew Johnson, should it not also be the attitude of individual Democrats? To the extent that federal offices shall be accepted by Democrats, to that extent will demoralization be introduced into Democratic organization. A worthless Democratic soldier will be the federal office-holder. Let, then, these offices be eschewed by Democrats. Let every individual Democrat preserve his virtue, his integrity, and his allegiance.

The Programme of Gerritt Smith.

Gerritt Smith, the distinguished New York Radical, is not for blood and confiscation like his colleagues generally, but favors a milder policy. He says:

Happy should I be to see our country brought to a just and permanent peace on the following terms:

1. No more punishment—there has been enough.
2. No confiscation.
3. No disfranchisement of Southern offenders.
4. The national debt paid and the secession debt blotted out.
5. Impartial suffrage. I believe in universal suffrage, but in this instance I would insist only upon impartial suffrage—impartial among all men, white, black and red.
6. In deep sorrow for the suffering and poverty of the South, let the nation exempt her for some five or ten years from the imposition of direct internal taxes. In these taxes I do not include duties on foreign goods.
7. Mutual forgiveness, and, as far as possible, forgetfulness of the wrongs which each has done the other.

Give Gerritt his negro and he becomes quite a sensible man.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

The Negroes Elect.

A Boston correspondent of the New York *World* tells how the negro legislators were elected in Massachusetts. He says:

Among other wholesale transactions of a corrupt character, it came out that it cost a large amount to retain the negro vote in this district, the Africans having a few days since declared they would not support Mr. Hooper unless the Radicals would send a negro to the lower house of the legislature. The demand was complied with, and in order to bring about such a result, one of the Radicals in ward six withdrew in favor of Mitchell, the negro. Mitchell is elected, and he, with another negro named Walker, elected from Charlestown, are among the Solons we are to have next winter.

"God save the commonwealth of Massachusetts."

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE NOON DISPATCHES

COTTON AND GOLD QUOTATIONS

LONDON, November 13.—The Admiralty have resolved to keep a strong force of gunboats in the Chinese waters, for the suppression of piracy.

The Jamaica Committee have unanimously resolved to indict Gov. Eyre for murder.

It is said that questions are pending between the United States and Frazer Trenholm have been amicably settled, whereby vessels in dispute now at Liverpool, and all other property, have been released.

The English people and government seem inclined to settle the Alabama claims, if a demand is made by the United States.

LONDON, November 14.—Consols, 90; five's, 69¾.

LIVERPOOL, November 14.—Cotton, heavy and irregular; sales to-day, 6000 bales.

TORONTO, November 15.—Two more Fenians were convicted yesterday and sentenced to be hung on the 13th day of December.

NEW YORK, November 15.—Gold, 44¼; exchange, nominal, 9¼ for sixty days; cotton, dull and nominal at 34½@36½c.