

AMICUS HUMANI GENERIS.

LINDEN E. BENTLEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Saturday, November 29, '73.

The Republican Platform.

Opposition to the back pay legislation. Opposition to all monopolies that tend to oppress labor or interfere with the rights of the people.

Congress will meet Monday next, Dec. 1st.

The Tax Collector has been so busy that the editor of the CHIEF is behind with his labor.

The recent little successes achieved by the Democrats in the State elections have made our Louisiana Fusionists show their true colors.

Imbued with the false idea that the star of Democracy is in the ascendancy, and that the Republican party is to be hurled from power at the next National election, they have set about cutting the acquaintance of their wretched Liberal Republican allies, headed by ex-Gov. Warmoth, thus displaying the total dishonesty of their professions of friendship for those of Republican tendencies who unwisely allowed themselves to be cajoled into a support of McEnery and his party.

No more forcible illustration of the truth of our statement could be desired than the fact that when Gov. Warmoth, accompanied by several friends, entered the hall in which the McEnery State Convention was assembled the other day, not so much as a ripple of applause greeted him, and he was allowed to sit in an obscure corner unnoticed, "with none so poor to do him reverence." Last year, when he was a political power, these same Fusionists fawned upon him and swore everlasting friendship, but now that he is plain Mr. Warmoth and the delectable scheme to defeat the popular will by stuffing ballot-boxes and falsifying returns has fallen through, they no longer conceal their contempt and animosity, but openly spurn him and his associates.

From present appearances the Cuban war cloud seems breaking. The prospect for an amicable adjustment of the Virginis outrage is imminent, and the basis will probably be a return of the steamer to the United States, the trial and punishment of the murderers of the crew and passengers, a provision by the Spanish Government for the families of the slaughtered men, and a salute to the American flag in the port of Havana.

Although these terms will be perfectly consistent with the honor of both nations and we could scarcely demand greater concessions from Spain without forcing a war, yet it is evident that a greater portion of our people would prefer war to peace on any terms.

There is no prejudice here against the Republic of Spain, but the butchers in Cuba who have perpetrated a most horrible outrage in defiance of their home government have aroused a feeling in the breast of the people of the United States that will be hard to choke down by any means short of a declaration of war.

With local disensions calling upon all her strength to keep them in check, Spain is powerless to prevent the repetition of Virginis outrages in her colony, and it is for this reason, and to secure the emancipation of all the bondsmen on the island that our people are anxious for war.

THE FUSION CONVENTION.

Even the warmest advocates and adherents of Fusionism are not very enthusiastic over the late State Convention held in the interest of that forlorn cause. The attendance of delegates was by no means satisfactory, and the proceedings were but a continuation of the senseless farce inaugurated last winter—an impotent and unwarranted howling against "the Kellogg usurpation" and "bayonet rule," and a dishonest attempt to induce the people of this country to believe that Blanchard's stuffed ballot-boxes and cooked-up returns expressed the will of a majority of the voters of Louisiana.

The Convention sat but two days, when the few delegates and numerous proxies adjourned to their respective homes, no doubt conscious that they had not been participating in the most brilliant or successful gathering that could be imagined, and, we opine, feeling somewhat remorseful for having allowed themselves to appear before the public as champions of the Blanchard iniquity.

The result of the Louisiana contest, in our opinion, is a foregone conclusion, and the deliberations of the McEnery Convention will not affect that result in the slightest degree.

We were surprised to notice in the city papers yesterday an announcement of the marriage of our good-looking and talented friend Senator W. W. Wharton of Iberville. It seems that he kept all his friends in ignorance of his intention and that we were not alone in our surprise. The popular Senator and his fair bride have the congratulations of a host of friends, among whom we are most happy to be reckoned.

Wonder of wonders! Boss Tweed, the Schemer of Tammany, has been sentenced to twelve years imprisonment in the penitentiary and twelve thousand five hundred dollars fine in spite of his ten millions of ill-gotten money! Verily, a new era seems to have opened, when millionaires are not beyond the reach of the law, and poor men not the only class amenable for misdeeds. It is difficult to realize that Tweed should be wearing the short hair and striped clothes of a common convict, but, strange as it may be, such is undoubtedly the fact.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 21, 1873.

THE excited feeling growing out of the Virginis affair had all the appearance of a gradual dying out until this morning when it was renewed upon the receipt of dispatches stating that the condition of public feeling in Spain was decidedly war-like.

There was a rumor of a mob having surrounded the house of Minister Sickles at Madrid and demanding that he should ask his passports immediately. I do not care to give much greater publicity to this affair at present lest it should turn out as little reliable as many other rumors we have had. It needs confirmation before commanding our unqualified faith. In fact it has an air of the sensational about it.

In a letter written by myself three days ago I had occasion to state that I had learned from unofficial sources that there was an apprehension among some of the officials of the State Department that General Sickles would be sent home, though I did not then believe there was any grounds for anxiety in the matter.

The facts seem to be that Senor Castelar, the President of the Spanish Republic, who is imbued with a strong sentiment of friendship for our government is quite earnest in his endeavors to avert the threatened hostilities and is disposed to render any satisfaction that may be demanded by our government. But he finds a strong popular sentiment opposed to him. The condition of the public mind there seems to be quite similar to that in our own country. There is wild and unrestrained excitement, probably fed by sensational reports concerning our doings and sayings. Neither government can remain entirely unaffected by the popular clamor, and there is a possibility of this thing bringing about hostilities that would otherwise be averted.

The wires have been working badly for several days and this has occasioned vexatious delays in the transmission of intelligence from our government to that of Spain.

Our government has taken the position that the Virginis is prima facie an American vessel, and that Spain violated international law in capturing her on the high seas during a time no war existed. Had Spain acknowledged the existence of war in

Cuba, or had the United States recognized the Cubans as entitled to belligerent rights, there would have been entirely different questions of law to be discussed. Spain would in such case have had an undoubted right to overhaul the Virginis at any time outside of American waters without giving us cause of reclamation.

Something like the above is the argument upon which our government will base its claim for redress and reclamation. Whether the argument be sound I do not promise to discuss, though I must add that there are many eminent legists even in this country who took up this argument as extremely puerile and even paradoxical. If this be the correct view it would seem to be a curse and not a blessing to a nation to be acknowledged a belligerent, and a reductio ad absurdum is immediately proven.

It is to be earnestly hoped that the second sober thought of the people and the government of the great and strong Republic of the United States and the young, weak and struggling Republic of Spain will be to avoid a conflict. We do not want war; neither do they. We can afford a war; much less than they. We have already a public debt of almost two and a quarter billions of dollars. A war with Spain would increase it to three billions or more. Our financial credit has been constantly improving since the close of the terrible civil war through which we passed, and we do not want to injure that credit. Our navy is by no means strong. Our army has been reduced to a peace footing. To recruit the army and to increase our naval force will necessitate large outlays of money. Last month our public debt was increased upwards of three millions of dollars. The increase the present month will exceed four millions probably. The people are now complaining of the burden of taxation. Business is paralyzed and they do not want the burden made more heavy in such times as these.

But, it will be argued, dollars and cents should not weigh against national honor. When the honor of the flag is attacked we should not count the cost, but defend it at all hazards without thinking of the loss of treasure or of life. True enough. I would not say one word to dampen the true patriotic ardor of any of my countrymen. It is a beautiful sight to behold hundreds of thousands of our young men standing ready at the first note of warning to avenge with their lives an insult to the flag of the free. But why do we love our flag? Is it not because it is the emblem of freedom? Our patriotism is, or should be, an intelligent patriotism, not a blind, brute instinct. And are not the people of Spain engaged in a great struggle for the establishment of just such a government as ours? And must the infant republic of Spain be strangled by the giant republic of America? Let us bear and forbear a moment. The cause of Spain is to some extent our cause. At any rate let us keep cool; let us not be hasty in the matter. If there is any way possible by which our own national honor can be maintained without destroying the existence of the Republic of Spain let us seek out that way. Our patriotism is the patriotism of humanity not of mere locality.

No man is more jealous of the honor of his country's flag than President Ulysses S. Grant, the man who led our armies to victory during the late war. But, dear reader, his position is very different from yours or mine. While it matters but little if we should individually lose our tempers and make hostile demonstrations his case is very different. He is bound by an oath to so conduct the affairs of the government as to subserve the best interests of the whole people. A heavy responsibility hangs over him and he feels it. But no one fears that his accustomed imperturbability will forsake him. He is famous for keeping cool at times when other men lose their wits.

A very lengthy cabinet meeting was held to-day, perhaps the most important meeting of the kind since General Grant has held the reins of government. What transpired there is not yet known.

A dispatch to the New York Herald yesterday stated that Minister Sickles had been very shabbily received by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, but dispatches received to-day from Sickles himself state that he has been treated with the kindest consideration and that the Spanish government has shown every disposition to treat the questions at issue candidly and fairly.

Late this afternoon, however, I

stating the case of some members of your "so called" delegation, who had to come back forty-eight hours after their departure, without even a nickel to pay the ferryman. What they experienced there and then, must have brought vividly to your memory your own sad experiences in that never to be forgotten pilgrimage of yours to Baton Rouge. Jolly! awful jolly! was it not? "The said, that fair play is a jewel. Should you be, Dick, one of those who quote it at above par or even far, I would not at all be surprised to see you appropriate one of the editorial columns of your Thunderer, yelp the Assumption Chronicle, to insert in full this present communication. Should Richard P. prove to be himself again, manage to get out of his hole and publish the above, the readers of the Chronicle will have a chance to be posted and will be undoubtedly up to the question in a week or two. Fair play, Dick, fair play!

Believe me, Mr. Editor, Your obedient servant, PATRICK BOWMAN, Representative of the Parish of Assumption. P. S. Could you not raise, Dick, a sufficiency of brass or even of spunk to enable you to sign your rapid elucubrations? Should there be cause for it, I propose in my next, should my legislative labors not prevent me, to throw a retrospective glance on your career for the last four years. You are a newspaper man, and consequently a public one. The future writer of your biography will be much indebted to me for such previous details, also the public at large. P. B. Assumption, La., November 27th, 1873.

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The December number of Wood's House, hold Magazine is replete with good reading—entertaining sketches, stories, poems, &c. Its table of contents embraces the following articles: a better Country, Mary Hartwell; an engineer's yarn, Albert Williams, Jr., our party at sea, Rev. J. S. Breckinridge; two enthusiasts, H. M. Lewral; presence of mind, Rev. F. W. Holland; our babies, D. A. Gorton, M. D.; blessedness of riches, Teunoroo; Hans Doodledoe, Rudolph Montel; installment of Max Kromer, author of Jesolan's first prayer; codfish and potatoes, chapter II, by Eleanor Kirk; Misery Jippena, chapter VII, VIII, by H. V. Osborne. In addition to these articles are several pretty poems, a charming little cottage design, and editorial departments embracing our house-keeper, correspondence, literary notices, laughing stock, &c., &c. The engraving for this month is entitled "Old Folks."

All the above for only one dollar per year—or with chrome "Yosemite" one dollar and a half. Address, Wood's Household Magazine, Newburgh, N. Y.

ART IN OUR SCHOOLS.—We call the attention of the Boards of Education, School Directors, Trustees and Teachers throughout the land to the report of the proceedings and the remarks of Dr. H. D. Ramsey, upon the occasion of the presentation of a beautiful photographic picture of the Presidents of the United States to Grammar school No. 26 of this city, by the publishers, Messrs. L. A. Finley & Co. The introduction of well-conceived and appropriate pictures, engravings and paintings, in our schools, is a good idea, and carries with it many strong and conclusive arguments in its favor.

ART in this shape makes impressions upon the youthful mind that time can not efface. The picture in question is eminently appropriate for such a purpose, and we trust no parsimonious policy will deter the introduction of this work of art and instruction in our schools generally.—New York School Journal.

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Special Notice!

To the Property Holders of Donaldsonville. YOU are hereby notified that I am prepared to collect the delinquent Parish Taxes, due upon your property, and that unless the same be paid within TWENTY DAYS from the date of this notice, I shall proceed to seize according to law. L. E. BENTLEY, State and Parish Tax Collector. Donaldsonville, Oct. 25, 1873.

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