

The Times

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TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1897.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS TO-DAY.

- St. John's Lodge, Masons, Masonic Temple.
Jonathan Conclave, Secret Monitors, St. Albans Hall.
Olive Branch Lodge, Ark Mariners, St. Albans Hall.

A PLEA FOR DEMOCRATIC HARMONY.

It is clear that a crisis in the Democratic party of Virginia will be reached when the followers of the Chicago platform come to issue their articles of belief in the convention, which will nominate State officers for election next November.

Speaking for ourselves, and, we feel sure, for a large number of Democrats who opposed the Chicago platform, we protest against the impolicy and injustice of the Chicago branch of the Democratic party, insisting unnecessarily upon a test of Democracy, which has no authority whatever for its sanction, except that it was the declaration of a widely-divided convention passed under the whip and spur of a fraudulent majority, which created a breach in the party without parallel, except in the Democratic split of 1869, which immediately preceded the civil war.

their principles and their honor. When they see a plain way open for reunion, which involves no sacrifice of Democratic principle or personal discredit on the part of any Democrat whatever, and they invite a reunion in that way, if the proffer of peace and harmony is rejected, the consequences, whatever they may be, must be upon the heads of those who refuse peace and declare war.

What benefit can be obtained by the Chicago wing of the party in insisting upon the Chicago "platform" in the State convention, and dragging into the canvass the money question, which is only remotely involved at all, we do not see; but it is plain that the men who reject the Chicago platform, and because of it separated themselves promptly from the political friends of life-long existence, are not the material which wise statesmen would gratuitously affront.

If the Sound Money or Gold Democrats, for the sake of the great principles of Democracy, which tower above the absurdities and crudities of the controversy about bimetalism, are willing to waive their views in the State canvass, why should the Silverites demand the prevalence of their views to the exclusion of all difference of opinion and to the great injury of the party?

HOGE TYLER IS RIGHT. In a communication from a friend of Mr. James Hoge Tyler, which we published on Saturday last, the writer—who seemed to speak as one with authority—said of Mr. Tyler:

"While he does not consider the gold and silver question an issue in the State campaign, yet he has been as much a leader of the silver forces of the State, and has always taken as advanced ground on this question as Senator John W. Daniel himself."

Mr. Tyler is right. The money question is not an issue in the coming State campaign, and Mr. Tyler can afford to say so, because his views on silver have been consistent and unvarying. But he knows that Democratic principles are deeper laid than any matter of mere expediency, and he respects the wishes and the rights of Democrats who differ with him on this transient question.

THE TIMES' PROPHECY IN THE LIGHT OF EVENTS. When the Cretan imbroglio began to assume a serious turn The Times pointed out that the logical issue, in case a universal European war grew of it, was an alliance between the then autocratic Emperor of Russia, Austria and Germany against an alliance between England, France and Italy, which would gradually shape itself into a war of despotism upon Republican institutions.

We pay very little attention to this avowed purpose. A reasonable excuse for the move had to be put forth, of course, but the after thought of the matter is the determination of these despotic sovereigns to stand together against the enormous advances that Democracy thought is making in their dominions. If an actual clash of arms takes place, of course, we shall hear no more of the preservation of peace as the peace will be ended and war will be in progress. It will take but a short time after that for the Emperor to shape the contest into one that they hope to end in the extermination of the Democracy that so troubles them now.

IF THE contest actually takes that form, are we to sit idle and see free institutions overturned in England, France and Italy? It will be another "Holy Alliance," and that would seem to be the occasion for us to come forward in the real spirit of the "Monroe Doctrine."

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE TRAFFIC CASE. Mr. William D. Guthrie, the gentleman who made so much reputation for himself in the income tax cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, has conducted a most intelligent discussion of the recent decision of that tribunal, in the railroad pooling case, to the New York Sun.

The point Mr. Guthrie especially dwells upon is this: The fourteenth amendment forbids the States to deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. No case has so far been before the Supreme Court of the United States which presents to it a question whether pooling agreements constitute property in the sense of this amendment, but the tendency of all the decisions of the State courts, says Mr. Guthrie, are towards that idea.

Now the Constitution confers upon Congress power to regulate commerce between the States, but the fifth amendment to the Constitution forbids Congress to deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law. The power to regulate commerce then should be held to be modified by the prohibition against depriving any person of his property.

FROM MR. HILL'S POINT OF VIEW. Senator Hill, who for some time past has been in retirement, has at last poked his head out of the Roost, and taken a view of the political situation. He first lifts up his voice and rejoices with his Democratic brethren over the recent victories in the municipal elections throughout the East and West, and says that they show the wonderful vitality of the Democratic party, and its ability to recuperate after disaster, humiliation and defeat.

progressive nations will have to do the same thing. We do not believe that free silver has gained ground in this country, and it is evident that those nations, which have for so long tested it, have come to the conclusion that it cannot be maintained with the price of silver at half its former value. There is unquestionably a feeling of discontent in the United States, and many people have been disposed to jump at any sort of proposition that promised better times.

AMAR'S NES. HATCHED OUT. On Friday last the Richmond Dispatch copied from the New York Herald the following article: Gold continues to advance in London under demand from Russia and Japan, and is now up to 75, 11-12, an ounce.

But the most interesting declaration which Mr. Hill makes is that Democrats are generally stronger upon State and local issues than upon national issues, especially in view of our unfortunate division on the currency question. There is something in this worth thinking about. It is rather late to hold a post mortem on the Democratic defeat last fall, but as long as Mr. Hill has referred to the subject, we may remark in passing that the recent Democratic victories indicate that if the party could have agreed upon a platform in the National Convention of 1896, there would be a Democratic President in the White House to-day.

But again, the Democratic party is stronger as a local party than as a national party, because in local affairs there is agreement as to policies, whereas in national affairs, the party, by reason of its varied constituency, finds it almost impossible to fulfill its promises, and has to resort to compromise, which are never satisfactory to either side.

IT IS INTERESTING. One of the most interesting political stories of the year is that which comes from Brunswick, Ga., to the effect that Captain H. W. Reed, who was Tom Watson's right-hand man during the late presidential campaign, is now an advocate of gold, and has gone extensively into the mining of that metal in Mexico.

What the Herald means, however, is no doubt this, and it is perfectly right, Russia and Japan do not want English coin. Their people do not know it and it will not pass. They want bars of gold of a certain fineness to coin at their own mints into their own coin that their people know. They go to the Bank of England and say: "We want some raw gold." The Bank replies: "I am bound to give you coined gold at the figures quoted, for bullion, and I am bound to give you coined gold for my notes, at the face value of the notes, but I am under no obligation to deliver you one gold bullion, if you want my bullion you must pay me for it, I demand a penny an ounce for bullion."

THE KENTUCKY SCANDAL. The State of Kentucky has a great political scandal, no matter which horn of the dilemma is taken. On the one hand, it is publicly charged that attempts were made to bribe members of the State Legislature to vote for Hunter to be United States senator in Congress, and it is boldly asserted that \$500 each was offered for three votes.

PERU FOLLOWS JAPAN. Our free-silver friends who were so much elated over the result of the late municipal elections in the West, have had their enthusiasm somewhat dampened by the announcement that the Peruvian Government has suspended the coinage of silver, and has issued a proclamation against the importation of silver coins, after May 10th.

THE Brooklyn girl who is to be married on the fire escape is evidently preparing a way to let herself down if things do not go to suit her.

men of the South made no mistakes and were infallible in their opinions. It is not at all necessary for any man to adopt the views of any other man on any given subject, but there can be no sound opinion on any question if every man is bound by the opinion or the supposed opinion of the majority. We are not engaged in a revolution but we are besides being citizens of Virginia also citizens of the United States, whose constitution and laws we have sworn to uphold and maintain.

General Rivera is to be succeeded by General Roloff. It is to be feared that Roloff will not hold on any longer than his predecessor.

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