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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1875.

THE SELFISH and mean spirit that in the midst of the misfortunes of our neighbor city of Chattanooga, would seek to profit by them, deserves rebuke. Knoxville needs no such aids. We are sorry that any one should let his zeal so far surpass his judgment and sense of right as to permit himself, in the public prints, to call attention to and enlarge upon his neighbors' losses, to the end that he might profit by them. Our citizens deeply deplore and sympathize with the good people of Chattanooga in their losses. Its citizens have shown a degree of enterprise, pluck, judgment and faith that are commendable. In a humorous way, it has been customary to allude to the city as liable to overflow, and the first day of the recent hard rains, before anticipating any serious results, we published in our local columns humorous dispatches from that city; but to deal seriously with its misfortunes while they are yet upon the place is in wretched taste, and does not meet with the approbation of this community.

IN THE *Graphic*, of March 3, we find a tabulated statement of the city debt of New York, with the amount of taxes paid each year since 1805. The rate of taxation in 1874 was \$2.80 per \$100 of taxable property, and the debt is \$114,979,969.90. The debt per capita of the population is \$114.98. The total amount of taxable property in the city is put down at \$1,154,029,117. The tax per head of the population last year was \$32.31. This immense debt, the heaviest that rests upon any people in this country, is the legacy left by a corrupt ring which held power there for years, and which used all the appliances of Tammany Democracy, to manacle their victims. In speaking of "tax ridden" people, the Democratic politicians never look to New York. They cast their eyes in the direction of some State that has had a Republican administration, and with an assumed holy horror, descend with hypocritical compassion upon the woes of the people. Beware of such hypocrites. Their exterior appearance is fair enough, but inside they are full of rottenness.

A REPORTER of the Baltimore *Sun* has interviewed Bishop Wayman, of the African M. E. Church, on the subject of the Civil Rights Bill, and the course colored people will likely pursue under it. The Bishop makes some sensible suggestions on the subject. The *Sun* says:

"Bishop Wayman said the colored people have numerous churches and schools of their own in Baltimore, and, said he, they have their own graveyards, too. As to theatres and restaurants, the good Bishop did not care about them at all, but he knows the colored people are too well accommodated with drinking places of their own, and they have very numerous public entertainments at scores of halls all over the city. Houses of public entertainment kept by respectable colored people are as plenty as the needs of the population demand, and no disposition is manifested to interfere with the white people by respectable colored people. Neither the Bishop nor Mr. Webb expressed any gratification at the passage of the bill, nor did they state any objection to it. Both were of opinion that the colored people could not be elevated in the social scale by legal statute, but must depend upon their personal worth and endeavor. They said that in a week, if the question was not agitated by the white people, it would be forgotten in Baltimore that there was a civil rights bill. If any overt acts are undertaken by colored people here they would be by strangers or designing politicians among the colored residents of the city."

THERE seems to have been a general rejoicing in Arkansas over the defeat of Congressman Ward's resolution to re-construct that State. A dispatch to the New York *Herold* says:

"The humorous features of settlement are numerous; whisky flows freely, and symptoms of universal hilarity are everywhere displayed by exultant Democrats. Several enthusiasts appeared to-day attired in blue dress coats with brass buttons, in honor of the stereotyped costume of Judge Poland, Chairman of the Arkansas Committee."

GEORGIA VS. THE WHIG.

IN 1860, BROWNLOW'S KNOXVILLE WHIG, a weekly newspaper, had the largest circulation of any political paper in Tennessee. About one thousand weekly papers went to the State of Georgia, and were circulated in the usual way. Georgia was so patriotic, so intent upon serving the interests of the country, that the officers of the law found it necessary to indict the editor, and publisher of the *Whig*, and actually found a true bill against him for high crimes and misdemeanors. They actually passed a law punishing all postmasters with fine and imprisonment for banding out the paper to lawful subscribers, thus coming in conflict with the law of the Federal Government. The plea of State sovereignty, which they are so much attached to now, and are so fearful that Grant will overthrow, they do not now harp upon.

The paper we now send into Georgia, is the KNOXVILLE WHIG AND CHRONICLE, and we presume they will let it go "scot free." At all events, if they are determined to keep the paper out of the State, they ought to convene an extra session of the Legislature, and frame a new law to cover the case.

We say to them, in no spirit of boasting, that subscribers are coming in upon us from the "Empire State of the South," and we expect, ere long, to have a fine list from that State.

The cry of "State sovereignty," which deceived the honest people of that State, will fail to cheat them a second time. We have no wish to deceive any man in Georgia who desires to become a subscriber to this paper, and, therefore, we state distinctly, that our principles shall be the same that they were in 1860, only more so. We are still the advocate of a strong central government, such as we have under Grant's administration. It works well in Arkansas and Louisiana.

HON. HORACE MAYNARD.

The nomination of Hon. Horace Maynard, as Minister to Constantinople, will be universally endorsed by his friends in this State, and out of it. It is an appointment, the fitness of which can not be disputed even by his political enemies. There have been very few men in public life, who, in point of education, culture and integrity, have equalled Mr. Maynard, and still fewer who have excelled him. In his sixteen years of continuous service in Congress, no man can point to a single corrupt act. He will faithfully represent his Government at Constantinople, and will give satisfaction at all times.

HOW THE BOUNTY BILL WAS LOST.

The soldiers' bounty bill failed to become a law through a slight misunderstanding on the part of the gentlemen who had charge of the bill. It is another illustration of what serious changes trifles sometimes affect. The bill passed the House by a very decided vote, nearly four to one. It then went to the Senate, where two important amendments were added, one of which was to borrow money to meet the new claims provided by the bill. In this shape it passed the Senate, by aid of the casting vote of Vice President Wilson. It was then sent to the House, that the Senate amendments might be concurred in. The House, believing one of the amendments unjust to the soldiers of many of the States, refused to concur in the action of the Senate, and called for a Committee of Conference. The committee met, and very promptly agreed that the Senate amendments should prevail, as that was the only shape in which the bill could pass that body. The report of the committee was presented to the House and adopted.

Senator Logan, who had charge of the bill in the Senate, when the Conference Committee's report was presented, had been misinformed as to the action of the House, and stated that it had receded from its refusal to concur in the Senate amendments. Upon this information he considered any action of the Senate upon the Conference Committee's report unimportant, or he might have succeeded in securing its being adopted. As it was, the Senate tabled the report by a vote of 30 to 24. Had the House, which was almost unanimous for the bill, instead of adopting the Conference Committee's report, simply receded from its former action, as Gen. Logan understood it had done, the

bill would have passed. Everybody supposed it was a law. It had in effect been passed by Congress. The bill was engrossed and signed by Speaker Blaine and Vice-President Wilson, and was before the President for approval when the situation was discovered. The Attorney-General advised the President that the bill had not passed Congress, and was not legally before him for his approval. This is the way the soldiers lost their bounty bill. It is one of those mistakes that often happen in the last hours of Congress in the haste of closing the work of a session.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION.

The great question now before the people of East Tennessee, in particular, is, shall the great railroad leading from Bristol to Chattanooga, the use of two hundred miles, finally prove a success, or shall it be destroyed?

We desire to make a few brief remarks, pointed and plain, upon this subject; and in what we say, we wish it distinctly understood that we intend no personal reflections upon any party or parties who may have questions of controversy with the road unsettled. Nor do we come before the public in a complaining spirit, intending to influence public sentiment for or against the road.

We have thought, for many months past, that the suits in the courts of the country against the road were multiplying so rapidly as to render the stability and usefulness of the road questionable. We suggest that parties who have just claims upon the road be met by arbitration and compromise. The officers of the road are a high-minded and honorable set of men, and as such they would be willing to do justice to the parties who claim to have been damaged. In every instance the claimant would receive more than would be given to him by a jury of the country—when lawyers' fees and costs are deducted. If these suits are continued, they will increase in number and in violence, and may so seriously embarrass the operations of the road as to destroy it, and then the prosperity of East Tennessee is done for. Destroy this road, and you will ruin the country. The high prices you are receiving for real estate will dwindle down fifty per cent., and will never come up again during this generation.

The question now at issue has narrowed down to this point: Shall the road be run by the employees, or shall it be run by the stockholders whose money built it? We may be allowed to say, in closing this appeal to the parties in litigation, that we are not a stockholder, or have we been requested by any friend of the road to say a word, either by way of apology for the plaintiffs or defendants. We have at heart the prosperity of the road, and the satisfactory adjustment of the claims against it. In other words, "Let us have peace!"

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

The Democratic leaders in Congress are talking about reading Alexander H. Stephens out of the party, because he voted in favor of suspending the rules in the House, so as to take up the Louisiana Compromise measure. Some of them were so incensed that they talked about denouncing him as being false to the sentiments of his constituents. It is said that his age and infirmity was all that kept them from carrying out their purposes. His Georgia colleagues charge that he was led to this course because the President allows him to control the Federal patronage of his District. It will be found, no doubt, that Stephens has a mind of his own, and that he will not be deterred from voting his sentiments, by implied threats or empty sneers from his party associates. It is predicted that he may prove troublesome to his party leaders in the next two years.

Now that the 43d Congress has adjourned, and its acts have passed into history, the newspapers will begin to do it justice. A Washington special to the New York *Herold* says: "The Congress which is just now busy with its last duties deserves credit for one auspicious virtue. It has allowed very few jobs to pass. The present session has seen the death of almost every job, large or small, which has appeared before it, and this in spite of vigorous efforts on the part of lobbyists and some members."

Mrs. Goodwyn, of Alabama, a grand-daughter of the late President Tyler, is making quite a reputation as a dramatic reader. She is to give readings in New York City soon.

THE TORRETT ISSUE.

The Supreme Court of Tennessee decided at Nashville last week that the notes of the Bank of Tennessee issued after May 6th, 1861, and commonly known as the Torbett issue, are legal and valid issues of the Bank, and that the State is bound to pay them. The facts connected with the issue of these notes are notorious. They were put forth to aid the State then in rebellion against the lawful authorities of the Government of the United States. They were issued after the State went into rebellion, and as we now recollect the testimony, by the order and through the influence of Gov. Isham G. Harris. The notes outstanding amount to at least \$1,500,000, and no one knows how much more. They were sold after the war very cheap, as few believed they would ever be paid. The people generally looked upon them as part of the rebel debt repudiated by the amendments to the Constitution. The decision of the Supreme Court of the State may be appealed from, and the case carried to the Supreme Court of the United States. We are not advised whether any one feels interest enough in the case to carry it there or not.

Tim arrival of our delayed mails brings us the detailed statement of Treasurer Morrow's estimate of the current actual expenses of the State, heretofore alluded to in our dispatches.

The prospect is not a very encouraging one, although presented in a more favorable light by the Treasurer than the facts warrant. The amount of our expenditures to be provided for is \$2,653,591. The assessment for 1874, upon which a tax can be levied, is \$289,000,000. To this the Treasurer adds \$51,000,000 of railroad property; but as most of these roads claim that their charters exempt them from taxation for 1875, and will contest any attempt to levy a tax by litigation, it is useless to expect any aid from that quarter to meet the expenditures for the present year. But, even including this railroad property, the Treasurer admits a deficit of \$230,585 upon a forty cent tax. Mr. Morrow then makes an estimate upon a sixty cents basis, and is compelled to admit as follows:

"Now, if all collections can be made within the year as above, including the tax on railroads, then we should have a surplus in the Treasury of \$349,815, but if collections average as they have since 1865, then even this tax would hardly yield enough to meet our demands as they mature."

He says that experience shows that only 35 per cent. of the taxes are collected in time to be of use during the year for which they were levied.

THERE is a time for all things, the wise man said. So Andrew Johnson thinks, perhaps, and consequently he refuses to take part in the canvass in New Hampshire. There is a time to speak, and a time to keep silence.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL IN NEW YORK.

Intensions of Hotel-Keepers and Restaurant Proprietors.
[New York Tribune, March 3.]

At several of the most prominent hotels in the city, where inquiries were made yesterday as to the action proposed to be taken in relation to the Civil Rights bill, the managers were found to be very reticent upon the subject, and disposed to evade the question. At the Fifth Avenue Hotel, Mr. Griswold said he did not think that the bill would trouble the New York hotel proprietors. To the question if he would permit colored men to have such rooms as they desired, he said he did not allow his present guests to dictate to him as to what portion of the house they would occupy; they were assigned such rooms as he saw fit to give them, and if they were not satisfied they were at perfect liberty to go elsewhere.

He declared that his course would be such as was for the best advantage of the house and for the comfort of his patrons; but if a colored man came he would give him a room. In answer to the question if he would allow colored persons to sit at the general table, Mr. Griswold said that there was more than one dining room to the hotel, that he certainly would not refuse to feed a colored guest, and would take him into such of the rooms as he saw fit.

At the Grand Central, H. L. Powers, the lessee, was called upon, and in reply to the question whether he would entertain colored guests, he said that he did not think he would be either honored or troubled with them. When asked if he would allow them to sit at the general table, he said that the hotel was provided with three dining rooms, and as he did not allow any one to dictate in his establishment, he could dispose of colored guests as he saw fit, and that if he saw fit to put any one in the smallest dining room he should do so.

The reason why so many men—and women also—do not succeed in life is that, like Micawber, they are waiting for something to "turn up." It is better to make an opportunity than to wait for one; and infinitely wiser to do well the humblest work than to stand lazily hoping for more congenial occupation.

New York Letter.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., March 1, 1875.

To the Editors of the Chronicle:

It will possibly interest your readers to know how the people in Brooklyn, and New York city, talk about the Beecher-Tilton trial, now progressing in this city, and also how it looks to an East Tennessean, fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to get a ticket of admission, and witness how the great moral tragedy is conducted.

The court house of Brooklyn is an immense building, but, like your new postoffice and court house building, is cut up into many small rooms, so that the room where this trial is taking place is not larger than the circuit court room in Knoxville, capable of holding from one hundred and fifty to two hundred people. Only those provided with a ticket of admission, given by either the Judge or some member of the bar, engaged in the case, can enter the court house. This would seem sufficient precaution to prevent a jam, but such is not the case, for tickets have been given out to five times the capacity of the room. In addition to this, many forged tickets have been printed, which adds to the crowd seeking admittance, and you can imagine, perhaps, the feeling of some fellow who has stood in the line, shivering with cold for two hours or more, and when at the door, just as he thinks he is ready to walk in, finds the much prized piece of pasteboard which he fancied sufficient to insure him entrance, only a bogus ticket, and he compelled to stand aside and let his more fortunate neighbor walk in.

The excitement seems to increase each day. You hear nothing else on the ferry boats, street cars, or places where men do congregate. In point of number, I think public sentiment is thus far about equally divided; but, judging from appearances, Mr. Beecher's friends, as a class, are much more respectable than Mr. Tilton's, and at this time Mr. Beecher seems to be gaining ground rapidly. The opening speech of General Tracy, which will probably be concluded to-day, has more than satisfied Mr. Beecher's friends. He charges conspiracy on the part of Tilton, Moulton and Henry C. Bowen, of the *Independent*, and if he can prove one-half what he promises to do, Mr. Beecher will escape "scot free." General Tracy seems to be fully equal to the task and is evidently using his "whole ability" to clear the good name of his pastor and friend. He puts both the plaintiff and his witnesses in a very unenviable light before the world.

I find one fact very much to the credit of Mr. Beecher, and which should go far towards clearing his name and fame of the present cloud upon them. That is, that those who have known Mr. Beecher the most intimately during his thirty years residence in Brooklyn, are now his warmest friends. He is certainly a wonderful man, filling his pulpit on each Sunday and Friday night, while this trial is going on, with his usual vigor and interest; at each of these meetings probably not one-fourth of those who go to hear him are able to get even standing room in that mammoth building.

The jury in the case are of more than usual (jury) intelligence, judging from their appearance, and what their verdict will be of course no one can tell, but my belief is that they will judge Mr. Beecher not guilty. KNOX.

Closing Hours of Congress.

The following is the closing address of Speaker Blaine upon the adjournment of the 43d Congress, as we find it in the Washington *Chronicle*:

GENTLEMEN: I close with this hour a six years' service as Speaker of the House of Representatives—a period surpassed in length but by two of my predecessors, and equaled by only two others. The rapid mutations of personal and political fortune in this country have limited the great majority of those who have occupied this chair to shorter terms of office.

It would be the gravest insensibility to the honors and responsibilities of life not to be deeply touched by so significant a mark of public esteem as that which I have thrice received at the hands of my political associates. I desire in this last moment to renew to them, one and all, my thanks and my gratitude.

To those from whom I differ in my party relations—the minority of this House—I tender my acknowledgments for the generous courtesy with which they have treated me. By one of those sudden and decisive changes which distinguish popular institutions, and which conspicuously mark a free people, that minority is transformed in the ensuing Congress to the governing power of the House. However it might possibly have been under other circumstances, that event necessarily renders these words my farewell to the chair.

The speakership of the American House of Representatives is a post of honor, of dignity, of power, of responsibility. Its duties are at once complex and continuous; they are both onerous and delicate; they are performed in the broad light of day, under the eye of the whole people, subject at all times to the closest observation, and always attended with the sharpest criticism. I think no other official is held to such instant and such rigid accountability. Parliamentary rulings in their very nature are peremptory, almost absolute in authority and instantaneous in effect. They can not always be enforced in such a way as to win applause or secure popularity; but I am sure that no man of any party who is worthy to fill this chair will ever see a dividing line between duty and policy.

Thanking you once more, and thanking you most cordially, for the honorable testimonial you have placed on record to my credit, I perform my only remaining duty in declaring that the Forty-third Congress has reached its constitutional limit, and that the House of Representatives stands adjourned without day.

With his last word the hammer fell, and Speaker Blaine left the chair, and took a seat at the Clerk's desk. Then followed a scene never before witnessed in the hall of the House of Representatives. All over the floor and in the space in front of the seats, which were densely packed, as well as the galleries, there was the wildest enthusiasm with waving of handkerchiefs by the ladies and clapping of hands by everybody, the two sides seeming to vie with each other as to which should be the heartiest in its applause.

And thus ended the second session of the Forty-third Congress.

THE CONVENTIONAL INTEREST LAW.

How the Bill to Repeal it Failed.

Our delayed letter from Nashville gives the following account of the failure of the bill to repeal the ten per cent. interest law:

The session of the week, "speaking legislatively," was in connection with that bone of contention—the bill repealing the conventional interest law. The House bill passed third reading in the House, under a call for the previous question, and was rushed into the Senate, where the opponents of this suicidal measure secured its rejection on first reading by a small majority. Then, in order to fix it and secure its burial beyond the possibility of a rejection by this Legislature, Haynes immediately moved a reconsideration of the vote by which it was rejected, whereupon Overton moved to lay Haynes' motion on the table. Had the motion to table been agreed to, the bill could not have been called up by any known principle of parliamentary law, but unfortunately the friends of the measure had received reinforcements in the meantime, and the motion to table was lost, so that the present status of the House bill is a rejection with a motion to reconsider, pending.

The Senate bill on the same subject was fully discussed in the Senate to-day, having been made special order for 11 o'clock. Speeches in its favor were made by Senators Hodges, Logan, Moseley and Aden, while Senators Ragland, Buchanan and Wade opposed the measure, the latter making a very able speech.

The discussion was prolonged until 2 p. m., the friends of the bill making several ineffectual attempts to secure an adjournment until 10 a. m. Monday, in order to have Senator Jones present, when a vote was reached, as it was known that he would vote for it. These efforts were all checked by the opposition, who were well organized, and knew their strength—or rather thought they did—though the result proved they had over-estimated it. When a vote was finally reached it stood 12 against 12. Marchbanks, who had been counted upon by the opposition, having changed from the negative to the affirmative before the result was announced. The friends of the bill were so confident of its rejection by this vote that Blizard, one of their number, voted in the negative, in order to be in position to move a reconsideration. Just as the Chair announced the result, that the bill had failed for want of a constitutional majority Blizard asked permission to change his vote, but was ruled out of order. If he had voted in the affirmative, the bill would have passed, but as it is, he will move a reconsideration, and the bill doubtless pass Monday, in which case it will certainly become the law.

LEGISLATIVE DOINGS.

A Revy of Solons Advised not to Fight Editors.

Our delayed Nashville letter of February 27th, says:

A little breeze was stirred up by the introduction of a memorial, in which Messrs. Jamison, Odell, Noblitt, Harris, Morgan, Newman, Shackelford, Walker and Spears entered their solemn protest against being sneered at by the Nashville *Union* and *American*, "or any other man," in the following words and figures, to-wit: "Mr. Speaker: We, the undersigned, a few of the supporters of the bill to be entitled an act to redeem the bonded indebtedness of the State," beg leave to enter this solemn protest against the appended article, which appeared in the *Union* and *American* of Feb. 25, and request that the same be spread upon the journals of this House.

"I said paper had then published none of the discussions on said bill which have taken place in this House, setting forth the utility, the practicality, the constitutionality, and the necessity for said measure. Neither has said paper ever published the bill referred to, nor any part of it, and therefore we consider its criticisms and comments unfair, unjust, and intended to prejudice and mislead the public. They seem to forget the time has come when, concerning our finances, reason and not 'bosh' sways the minds of the people of this State."

"2. In our opinion a portion of said article is an indirect insult flung in the faces of certain Democratic members of this Legislature, who don't deem it right to look through the eyes-glasses of the *Union* and *American* on all questions of State policy. Said insult is expressed in language unbecoming a Democratic newspaper, especially one that presumes to be the Democratic mouth-piece for this State."

This protest the signers thereof desired to have spread upon the minutes of the House, together with the editorial referred to, which was more than a column in length, but were finally induced to withdraw that request after considerable argument, in the course of which Ledgerwood remarked that the better way was to avoid stirring up newspapers, as editors generally said what they pleased, and were always in position to have the last word. And he was right.

Andrew Johnson.

The Washington *Chronicle* of Friday says: Ex-President and Senator Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, arrived here yesterday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, and was immediately driven to his lodgings at the Imperial Hotel, where he was assigned to rooms on the second floor, known as the saloon parlors. He had numerous callers during the day, comprising old District friends and men on news intent, to the latter class of whom, however, he was sublimely reticent, and said that he had no policy to be foreshadowed. What he had done was well known, and had since been approved by the whole country, and for that reason he was here now a Senator from Tennessee.

The New York *Sun* says: The Democrats of New Hampshire have vainly tried to get Andy Johnson to come up there and stump the State. He won't do it because he doesn't believe their Democracy is orthodox. Why don't they try Gov. Bill Allen of Ohio? He could speak from the State House steps and be heard in every valley and hillside from Northumberland to Hinsdale, and from Hanover to Rye Beach.