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THE CAMPAIGN IN OHIO.

DEMOCRATIC INCONSISTENCIES EXPOSED

TWENTY YEARS OF REPUBLICAN CONTROL

Broken by the Artful Tactics of Demagogues

Ghegan's Bigoted and Fanatical Invention

Ewing and Pendleton Unite Upon the Destruction of the School System and Greenback Inflation — George's Record on the Greenback Question — The Evils He Saw in It in 1863 Contrasted With Its Present Virtues.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 7, 1875.

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: I have been asked on several occasions, since my return from Ohio, by persons whom I know to be deeply interested in the affairs of that State, what I saw and heard relative to the campaign inaugurated during my stay there, and what was the opinion generally entertained concerning the election which will occur during the coming autumn. I am not insensible to the fact that conjectures are frequently indulged in regarding political matters, by persons strictly partisans, in a manner highly calculated to mislead those who, however interested in elections, are not careful to examine into the condition and circumstances of the affairs by which, in very many cases, both State and Presidential elections are governed. It has been my lot for the past two years to be in the midst of, and at times to take part in, the canvasses in Ohio, and in both the contests the entire sections of population of that State it was my fortune to cultivate the acquaintance of many persons whose friendship and confidence, I believe, I have ever since enjoyed, and to whom I am indebted for much valuable information concerning their State affairs. The object of this letter, therefore, will be to state, as clearly as possible, not only the observations made by myself, but the accounts which I received from these persons, whom I believe to be in every respect intelligent and truthful.

I chanced to be in Cincinnati on the 10th of last month, where I found that considerable good feeling was manifested over the very able speech that had been delivered the night previous at Marietta, by the

HON. ALPHONSO TAFT,

who, I learned, had been a very prominent candidate for the office of governor before the convention which met at Columbus last June, and whose name had also been very favorably mentioned as the probable successor of the present Secretary of the Interior. The people of this populous and busy city seemed greatly encouraged by such a brilliant opening of the campaign, and felt confident that success would attend them, because the measures submitted to the consideration of the people were in every way favorable to the interest of both labor and capital, and because the men who were instrumental in bringing them forward, as well as those to whose care they are willing to intrust their keeping, are especially able and of the strictest integrity.

The general opinion that prevailed among many of the persons with whom I conversed was that so widely different were the political issues of this year from those of last year, and so much better understood by the intelligent and working mass, that an opportunity would be given to define more accurately the political opinions of all classes respecting the various issues now claim their attention to grave and important subjects, bearing largely upon both State and National politics. I was early impressed with the

THAT EX-GOV. HAYES

was a man of great popularity, and that his name added great weight to the Republican State ticket, he being deeply interested in the affairs of the State, and in full sympathy with the laboring classes. The German people seemed especially endeared to him because of the prominent part he took in an election held in that State several years ago, in which the question of color thereof largely influenced the votes. I was informed by persons conversant with the circumstances attending that election that there once existed a law in the State of Ohio which permitted colored men having more than a Anglo-Saxton African blood to vote at the various State and Presidential elections, but that the Republicans, anxious to keep step with the rapid march of progress and civilization, which had received a new impulse by the emancipation of slavery at the South, desired to strike out the word "white" then in the constitution, giving, thereby, all men equal political rights, and that at the head of the State Republican ticket asking for the repeal of the law a place had been assigned to a renegade Roman, Gen. Rutherford B. Hayes. Considerable opposition was brought to bear on the part of the Democracy against such liberal measures, but by the almost unbounded popularity of the ticket, coral among all classes of men he succeeded in being elected by a handsome but reduced majority, while, as I understood, all the other members of the ticket were elected by considerably small majorities. Though the question of color has long been settled in Ohio, the men by whom it was settled enjoy the

PONDEROUS RECOLLECTION AND ESTEEM

of a grateful people, whose influence and vote at an election soon to be held will count very considerably relative. It is both convenient and necessary to state here that the Democratic party in Ohio is composed of some very shrewd and intelligent men who, as leaders, are continually devising numerous skillful measures calculated to delude and lead astray many of that class of people whose business and occupation denies them the privilege of examining and clearly understanding public questions, and to this class they listen to make their appeals, which are often attended with success, to the detriment, however, of the country they feign to benefit. If I am permitted to revert to the election which occurred last fall, I will state, and I believe truthfully, that it was these cunningly devised measures that contributed largely to their success on that occasion. The attention of the people during that canvass was called to the consideration of questions, some of which were very foreign to those which properly belonged to the office of the candidates on their side aspired and to those concerning which the people had given little thought, and were, therefore, unprepared to act wisely upon them. It was in the raising of these unexpected issues, and the pressing of them upon the people, that caused such confusion among the illiterate classes and the absence from the polls of more than 60,000 voters who, in the day of the election. There is a floating population in this State, and doubtless in every other, containing many persons who, being unable to read, and yet anxious to understand the political situation, pay very earnest attention to every remark made by public speakers during the canvass, that they may have some knowledge of the question upon which they are to cast their votes. Unskilled in making neat distinctions, and at the same time apprehensive of

THE DECEPTIVE DESIGNS OF THEIR TRAINED ORATORS,

these persons are persuaded, by the most cunningly devised and subtle sophistry, to accept certain premises, purposely sophisticated to appeal to their peculiar interest or prejudice, so that they may be easily "worked upon" and made to render to their own selfishness and ignorance, and admit conclusions in every way erroneous and irrelevant to the question at issue. Such was evidently the case in Ohio last year. First, the leaders of the Democratic party, believing that the easiest way to reach the working classes would be to first reach their pockets, paraded through the State and declared to these people that a Republican Congress had purposely compelled plans to rob them of their hard-earned money for the passage of a measure familiarly known as the "salary-grab scheme." They represented themselves as champions of the laboring men, but never once thought it necessary to state that the members of their party then in Congress voted as eagerly for it as the Republicans, whom they so bitterly arraigned, and that the bill actually passed by reason of their willing aid and support. While it was quite evident among the more enlightened people that a large number of the Republican members were opposed to the measure of increasing their salary, and so manifested the strongest opposition to it, and that had as many Democrats, in proportion to their number, as Republicans voted against it the bill would never have passed, yet it cannot be doubted but what it had considerable influence among the more ignorant people, especially so since they knew that such measures as increasing the salary had been passed, during which some one was responsible, and they were ready to lay the charge to the first one publicly accused. The leaders of the Democracy understood this feeling and acted with rapidity. Secondly, they saw that a good opportunity was afforded them to appeal to

THE IGNORANCE AND PREJUDICE OF THE PEOPLE

in regard to the civil rights bill, and they were particularly cautious to make every provision appear in the most ridiculous light. They declared that they would regard its passage as one of the most obtrusive measures upon the white man's rights that had ever been brought before Congress, and that it was the inevitable duty of the people to rise up in the majesty of might and put it out of existence the party by which such offensive measures were sustained. Indeed, they not hesitate to say that they entertained very serious apprehensions of disastrous consequences to the business prosperity of steamboats and other common carriers in the South should the negroes be admitted in them on equal terms with the white, and, at all events, their admission in the common school could not prove otherwise than ruinous, not only in the South but even in any party of their own State. For Congress to pass a law admitting negroes in the staterooms of their first-class steamboats arranged expressly for themselves, and admitting them in their first-class schools established for their children, or to impose the jury in a "first-class court" to decide on the guilt or innocence of

THE PROUD DESCENDENTS OF JAPHETH,

was nothing of other privileges, was inconceivable, a blot upon modern civilization, calculated to drag up the dead bones of their departed fathers to join in resisting the approaching dangers to which they, their dutiful sons, were so segregatingly subjected. Thirdly came the question of temperance, which spread confusion in every district, and so effectually accomplished little else than to serve as a political weapon in the hands of political demagogues. Then came the financial question, the Southern outrages and other questions, for which the people being entirely unprepared to receive, were forced into the issue and grossly and wonderfully misrepresented. This misrepresentation caused the reaction in Ohio last fall, and doubtless the same is true in regard to many of the Northern States. The President's Southern policy was misrepresented, the condition of the finances was misrepresented, Cæsarism was introduced by the enemies of the Administration, heaped upon and misrepresented. Third termism and many other kind of *isms* were ludicrously invented for election purposes, and basely misrepresented. It was an election of *isms*, and these boasting politicians who claimed so much patriotism for their paternal land pretended to be greatly alarmed at the tendency of these isms to the centralization of power at Washington, and the complete annihilation of republicanism—the Republic, itself, they prophesied, would be put up at public auction and cried off to the highest bidder. This is the kind of sophistry these cunning demagogues used. Large numbers of people were suspicious of a Democratic scheme; they became disgusted, stayed at home, and refused to vote; while others were duped and made to believe that there was at least a tinge of plausibility in what was said. Confusion set in among both white and colored. They could not make up their minds what was the best thing to do. I talked with the people last September at Ironton and the southern part of the State, both publicly and privately.

"HOW WILL YOUR STATE GO?"

Inquired on several occasions. "We canno tcxactly tell," was the cautious and doubtful reply; "things look very precarious. At the appointed time the election took place. These "precarious things" brought about a reaction. The Republicans were defeated. The Democrats came into power; "but they were not happy," and their allies here in Washington made a "bigger to-do" over the result than they themselves made in Ohio. The Democrats knew that the people had been caught off guard, and in time they would discover their error, and return to their allegiance in the ranks of the Republican party. The election, however, and its excitement were over. The die had been cast, the result determined, and the people were relieved to reflect coolly over what had been done. In the winter the Legislatures met with a Democratic majority. The attention of all was turned towards the actions of this august body. It was not long before the people were able to see the cloven foot of the Democracy, the recklessness of the members of the Legislature, and how utterly they disregarded that true interest of the people about which they said so much last fall. The former Republican Legislature had given entire satisfaction to the people for nearly twenty years, and it had never, at any time, been guilty of corruption or dishonesty. Governor Allen acknowledged this willingly to be said that "the Democrats came into office last January, after our political opponents had held control of the State of Ohio for nearly twenty years, but we could not find after the most rigid examination a single case of official corruption." The Democratic investigation committee fully agreed with the Governor. In its report to the Legislature it said that, "so far as the expenditure of the last ordinates are concerned, very commendable honesty and fidelity had been observed, and that in the official conduct of no public officer, whether elective or appointive, has corruption been discovered." The Democratic Legislature while in session thought certain reformatory measures were necessary and ought to be speedily adopted, even though the present laws were not at fault in the predecessor, whose administration had given so much satisfaction. In fact, it was necessary to do something to recommend themselves favorably to the people for the next campaign. The temperance question would not answer again. The civil rights bill had become trite. "What will be the best method to pursue," inquired some of the ingenious leaders of the Democracy,

"IN ORDER TO SAVE THE STATE?"

All the schemes at in operation failed. John Geghan, who is a devout member of the Catholic Church, a shrewd politician and a member of the Legislature from Cincinnati. He thought he could see through the designs of the leader. He was confident that considerable animosity existed in his Church against the present school system. A leading Catholic paper in *that State* had stated in unmistakable language, "it will be a glorious day for the Catholics in this country when our school system shall be shivered to pieces. *Until then modern Paganism will dominate.*" It appears that an excellent and fitting opportunity had presented itself to "the Irish and German Catholics." It was evident that the Catholics were anxious to see the present school system shivered to pieces," and to see it they would act with any party that would promise its destruction; while, on the other hand, it was equally evident that the Democrats were anxious to remain in power, and to do so they would act with any sect sufficiently strong to accomplish this end. There is reason to believe that the Democratic party had acted with the Catholics on other and similar occasions, and had committed itself to the support of Catholicism in Ohio. Mr. Geghan, writing to his friend, Mr. Murphy, says: "We have a prior claim upon the Democratic party. The elements composing the Democratic party in Ohio to-day—fully two-thirds of said party—are made up of Irish and German Catholics, and they have always been loyal and faithful to the interests of that party." However true it may be that two-thirds of the Democrats in Ohio are Catholics, I fear Mr. Geghan has failed to calculate correctly what proportion of the people in Ohio are Democrats. If his calculation is based upon the vote of last year, which, I understand, lacks 62,000 of being the entire vote of the State, he will be terribly mortified this fall to find how widely mistaken he is. The popular vote of the State is about 540,000. General Grant's majority in 1868, over Governor Seymour, straight-out Democrat, was a few hundred more than 41,000; in 1872 his majority over Mr. Greeley, Liberal Republican, was nearly 38,000, and the mean between these majorities will be a correct estimate of a Republican majority there now in a fair election. But count as the Democrats may, the Catholic school scheme will not succeed. The people will declare with a loud voice in favor of free schools, and no division of the funds, whether that division is demanded by Catholic, Methodist, Baptist or any other denomination.

MR. GEGHAN'S "LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE BILL"

was, however, put through the Legislature together with a number of other "reformatory measures," doubtless to the disgust of many of their own party; for when the time of adjournment came it was hailed, even by a prejudiced Democratic press, with an unusual degree of gladness and criticism. "We trust," said the Cincinnati Enquirer, "that all the members of the Ohio Legislature will reach home in safety, and that few of them will ever find their way back to Columbus." The Toledo *Democrat*, in speaking of the discussion of the Wood county bribery case in the Legislature, said: "It was simply disgusting and disgraceful. It certainly equaled the worst exhibition of depravity ever given in the Legislature of South Carolina." The leaders of the Republican party attempt to frighten the best interest of the people on the school question. They talk with all classes upon it in a plain, common sense way, and the people are thoroughly acquainted with the issue, and all the demagogues, possessing all the cunning and sophistry of the devil, cannot deter them from the firm stand they have taken for the common schools. I do not think the people of Ohio have ever been acquainted with all the varied features of an election better than they are with those that have engaged their attention during the present canvass. I have understood that, in the spring that the Democrats had determined to make the issues with the Republicans on whatever question they presented to the people. Last June the Republicans met in Columbus, nominated their State ticket, and

DECLARED FOR "HARD MONEY."

Soon after the Democrats went there, nominated their State ticket, and declared for "soft money." Even men who had all along been found on the side of gold and silver were there, in the Democratic ranks, crying for more greenbacks "to meet the wants of trade." An inflated currency and a school system for the "liberty of conscience" were brought forth and demanded as measures calculated to promote the highest interests of the State. The Hon. John Geghan had skillfully perfected the school question to allure and catch the "Irish and German Catholics," by the passage of a bill bearing a very significant title, familiarly known as "an act to secure the liberty of conscience in matters of religion," and it now became the sacred duty of Hon. George H. Pendleton and others to carefully perfect the green back plank to allure and catch the greedy inflationists. This being properly done, the Democratic party had determined to sally forth to exhibit with pride the great political scheme of Geghan, Pendleton & Co. Mr. Pendleton doubtless thought that he could convince the people of his State that the thing necessary is more paper money, and that all this talk about gold and silver currency was nonsense and a mere clinging to old fogy ideas, and though he is perfectly willing to keep his eyes turned towards resumption, and freely admit that a return to specie payment, whenever the time comes, would necessitate contraction, yet, for the time being, and especially until "after the election," it is his sacred duty to demand, in unmistakable language, the emission of more greenbacks and their continued emission according to the estimate of the "wants of trade." This kind of talk did well enough to deceive the people with a year ago, but now they do not propose to be deceived any more, and they contemptuously turn a deaf ear to all such harangues. Laboring men as well as business men and those who handle large sums are taking a practical view of the situation, and have determined to look over the pages of history

AND DO THEIR OWN THINKING.

They say that when the greenbacks were first issued they accepted them as a measure rendered necessary by the war, when their country, which they took up arms to protect from the destruction of murderers and assassins, stood greatly in need of money and its credit abroad well nigh gone; that they regarded the greenback then as they regard it now, as a simple note backed by the promise of the "United States to pay the bearer" its value in coin "at the earliest practical period," and they considered that this note, just as the note of an individual able to pay in a reasonable length of time, would be increased in value as it approximated to the time of final settlement, when it would be worth dollar for dollar. And this is a good deal more than Mr. Pendleton did, who is now eagerly crying for inflation and merely keeping his eyes turned towards contraction. There is nothing about which the people are more disgusted than the manifest inconsistency of those men who are keeping up such a rumpus about increasing the volume of paper currency. Mr. Pendleton, who seems now to stand so solidly upon the inflation platform, said in 1868, in opposition to the first issue of greenbacks: "You send these notes into the world stamped with irredeemability. You put on them the mark of Cain, and like Cain, they will go forth to be vagabonds and fugitives upon the earth. What, then, will be the consequence? The currency will be expanded; prices will be inflated; fixed values will be depreciated; the savings of the poor will vanish; the hoardings of the widow will melt away." * * * "Private ruin and public bankruptcy, either with or without repudiation, will inevitably follow." But what now? The same greenbacks that were to bring all this ruin upon the people are the very identical greenbacks for which Mr. Pendleton now clamors and so much desires to see issued according to the estimate of the "wants of trade." There has been a radical change since then, and the order has been reversed. To-day, according to this theory, inflation is a great blessing, and the more of it the better the people will be