

THE POLITICAL CAULDRON.

A Cursory Review of the Speaker-ship Campaign.

Rival Headquarters Opened—Mr. Randall's Visit to New York—Impediments in the Way of Mr. Blackburn—Influx of Hungry Office-Seekers—Disappointment at the Manhattan Club Dinner.

A Struggle for the Mastery.

Mr. Blackburn, of Kentucky, opened a hopeful campaign on Saturday evening last by formally establishing his headquarters in parlor No. 5, at Willard's Hotel. Mr. Randall will not be outdone in enterprise, and will open his headquarters at the same hotel to-day, when he returns from the Manhattan Club janitors, to attend which he left Washington last Thursday, but which he did not attend because, as it is reported, his private interview with Tilden at the Everett House lasted too long, and which Mr. Blackburn could not find it convenient to attend.

Thus the great campaign of the Forty-sixth Congress is to be opened on the Democratic campaign ground. The faithful unwashed are coming to the centre rapidly, in search of the plunder promised through Democratic swing in both Houses. There will be more slouched hats, ready vestments, and uncombed hair in view than at any time since the late rebellion, for the hungry have discovered that there is pork in the Congressional barrel to be scrounged for, and their name is legion.

Blackburn has his ardent men on hand, with the following showing: They say that Randall's roster does not show to exceed seventy-five to eighty names, and that they know of some twenty to twenty-five of that number who will not vote for Randall in the caucus. This is less than a majority, but it is the showing of a hungry and sanguine antagonist. When the struggle comes Blackburn will discover that he has marshaled his forces up the hill, and then can march them down again with misfired rifles and severed arms. It will be his finest time, and for the simple reason that the Democratic party does not confront the sentiment of the country with a rebel figure-head in the House of Representatives.

Blackburn and his corps of Confederate brigadiers are very fierce for the fray, and would bear off the Speakership but for the fact that his election would mean a change of the Government to a more positive form during the week, but there is already music in the air. There is a great tribulation, for the Democratic party is in great tribulation. For the first time in four years it now stands in dread of the people, and yet the Bourbon leaders have but a poor appreciation of public sentiment at this time.

A Hitch at the Manhattan Club Love Feast.

There was considerable speculation last week over the visit of ex-Speaker Randall to New York, and it was quite generally stated that he had gone there to secure the indorsement and assistance of Mr. Pillsbury for the Speakership of the Forty-sixth Congress, and it was further stated that, in consideration of such indorsement, he would make a speech eulogistic of Tilden at the Manhattan Club dinner on Friday night. Whether Tilden at the last moment felt reluctant to attempt to carry Randall or whether Randall concluded that Tilden would be an extra weight is not stated; but the programme failed to be carried out. The New York World of Saturday says:

The Manhattan Club building in Fifth Avenue, was thronged with guests for the usual monthly meeting, and the parlors of the institution were tolerably well filled, as ex-Speaker Randall had announced his intention of making a speech in vindication of Mr. Tilden, and had invited for the purpose during the afternoon at the New York Hotel. The canvass for the Speakership of the Forty-sixth Congress did not, however, begin, as was anticipated, until the evening of the 9th, when Mr. Pillsbury, who had performed *Hamlet*, according to the bills, at his theatre in the adjacent square, but *Hamlet* was lacking to the play at the Manhattan Club. Mr. Sumner Cox, who had been invited to give the *World* its recent joke at the ex-Speaker's expense ("the pen is mightier than the sword"), came in early and shook hands plentifully all around, but upon learning a rumor that Mr. Randall was in the cloak room, he "precipitately retreated," as was said, to see "Pillbury" at the Standard.

THE INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

Washington Tactics Adopted in the West. INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 8.—The history of Indiana does not show so shameless and barefaced a proceeding as that by which the regular session of the General Assembly was broken away to-day and to-night. The Republicans in the Senate made every effort to get the appropriation bills up, but the Democrats stoutly refused. Not more than thirty votes could be obtained at any time for a suspension of the rules, thirty-four being required. The leaders of the Democracy were determined to force an extra session to cure defects of the regular session, if possible, and to show a respectable record to the people.

About five o'clock Speaker Cantrone left the chair, and the General Assembly was adjourned until Monday morning. At once, upon hearing of this, the Senate took the same action. The Speaker hurried back to the House, assumed the chair, and while the members were all on their feet, asked them to reconsider their action, which they did, and agreed to meet at eight o'clock to-morrow.

In accordance with this irregular proceeding seventy-one members of the House met, with the Speaker in the chair, and were about to proceed to business, but a motion was given by a few clear-headed Democrats and were nearly all the Republicans.

After an hour of scrambling faces and disordered hair, the Speaker declared the only safe thing to do was to adjourn, and he dissolved the irregular and illegal body without motion. Nothing of the kind ever happened before. This was the last legislative day of the session, and only two bills, of secondary importance, were enacted into laws. No effort was made to take up the appropriation bills. It was a full and complete adjournment, and the House will probably be called for Tuesday next, to follow at once upon the expiration of the regular session. During the afternoon Governor Mendenhall and Governor Hendricks, of the House, and each made brief speeches, neither saying anything of particular interest.

Governor Williams will call an extra session of the legislature commencing on Tuesday next. He will recommend the passage of important bills and an early adjournment.

AN EXTRA SESSION CALLED. INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 8.—Governor Williams has called an extra session of the Legislature, to meet on Wednesday the 12th instant. The regular session failed to pass any of the appropriation bills, and the adjournment on Saturday, which was the last day on which bills could be legally passed. The regular session will adjourn to-morrow, the 10th.

THE BECK PROGRAMME.

A Democratic Congressman Resting on His Oars.

His Views on the Situation in General—Randall's Chances for the Speakership—Remodeled Democratic Ideas of the Yeto—The President Can Only Do What the Courts Would Do.

Chairman Atkins Discourses on Politics.

In his Saturday evening meanderings a representative of the REPUBLICAN ran against the Hon. J. D. C. Atkins, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the late House of Representatives. The General seemed to be in excellent humor with himself and all mankind—just the humor, in fact, to let the world know his opinions on political matters, the Beck programme, and the state of the Union in general, and the representative addressed tackled him accordingly—

"Good evening, General. Resting from your labors, I suppose?"

General Atkins—Yes; I am doing a good deal of doing nothing. I do not even allow myself to read or hardly think. I am resolved to get a good rest before the extra session begins.

N. R.—Speaking of an extra session, do you think it will be a long one?"

General A.—No; I think not.

N. R.—Do you anticipate any trouble in organizing this session?"

General A.—No, indeed; The Democrats will elect their Speaker without trouble, in spite of the Greenbackers and Republicans.

N. R.—But there is a rumor that you may be a candidate?"

General A.—No; Randall will be the man, without doubt. But would some of the Democrats not be nominated?"

General A.—Certainly not. More Republicans will vote for Randall than Democrats for any Republican or Greenbacker that may be brought out. Sam has been a fair man, and treated the Republicans fairly, and they appreciate it.

N. R.—How about Blackburn's chances?"

General A.—Well, my own opinion is that the Democrats cannot afford to elect a Southern man Speaker. I may be wrong, but I don't think so.

N. R.—What about the political measures which were attached to the bill that failed at the last session? Will they be insisted upon by the Democrats at the coming session?"

General A.—Most assuredly they will be attached to the bills and passed.

N. R.—But would the President veto them like as sent to him, and will that not bring about a deadlock?"

General A.—No. Hayes will not dare to do such a thing. Neither will the Republicans care to go before the country opposed to free elections.

N. R.—But do not the people want fair as well as free elections? And do you not think the superior law is necessary to secure that result, secured in New Hampshire?"

General A.—Well, I am willing to let the law stand as far as it is merely supervisory or testimonial in its character. I said so in my speech, and I said so in the conference committee. But I am opposed to allowing men to be imprisoned to keep them from voting. The Democrats will not submit to that.

N. R.—Then you think the President will not veto the bills as passed?"

General A.—What right has he to veto them anyhow? He has no right to interfere his veto except when the measures passed are unconstitutional. But I am opposed to allowing men to be imprisoned, and has rarely been used any other way.

After puzzling over the General's proposition as to the bill which was passed at the Opera House, under Kellar's manifestations at the Opera House.

THE PENDING SITUATION.

Another Open Letter from William E. Chandler. Under date of the 7th instant, Mr. William E. Chandler, the well-known New Hampshire Republican politician, wrote an open letter to the New York Tribune, in which he discusses the pending political situation from the standpoint of earnest Statesmanship. The opening paragraphs thereof are devoted to an arraignment of the Democratic party in the Congress for its share in forcing the necessity of an extra session, and in explaining and properly characterizing the revolutionary methods of the Bourbons. Very naturally the writer then takes up the President, for whom he has "thick eyes" had a word of praise, and discusses the possibilities and necessities of his action in the coming contest between Congress and the Executive as follows:

Necessarily the question of paramount importance in the struggle that is close upon us, is, what will the President do? Will he yield to the Democracy or will he stand firmly and stand firmly by his duty as a Republican President? I am rejoiced to be able to answer this question by predicting that President Hayes will resist the well-known Democratic attempt, by special act or by riders on appropriation bills, to withhold the protection yet possible under the laws to the colored men of the South in the exercise of a free, and to the white people of the whole country in the enjoyment of an honest ballot, and will write cordially with Republicans of every grade in the most honorable and consistent manner, and will not be deterred by the threats and anathemas of the first to denounce his treachery and delinquency in 1877. I intend to be as prompt to recognize and acknowledge his ability and courage in 1877, if he manifests itself, as he will be to-day.

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