

National Republican.

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WASHINGTON, APRIL 25, 1879.

The issue narrowed down—Federal supremacy against the Rifle Club.

This extra session of Congress costs the tax-payers from \$12,000 to \$15,000 a day.

The House made a mistake last Monday. The 1,385 bills then introduced should have been hit on to the legislative appropriation bill.

Whether the bull-dozers, tismie-ballot manipulators, and Democratic corruptionists generally, or the United States Government itself, shall have control at future Federal elections—that's the pending question!

Since Grant's much-abused Cabinet has been heard from in the person of ex-Secretary ROBERTSON on the floor of the House, the mistaken idea that it was composed of "nobodies" has disappeared altogether.

The Democrats have not only captured and filled the State offices in Maine, but they have walked away with the penitentiary, as it were. The warden of that institution has been taking a political census of its inmates, and reports that of the 220 "gentlemen" under his keys, 218 are Democrats, one is a National, and the other is a Republican. Comment is unnecessary.

The Democrats in Congress continue to be very valiant and keep their mouths open to the sea. But when President HAYES gets ready to check a few votes down that somewhat distended organ there will be some spluttering, straining, and gulping, after which they will go home leaving the Government unstarved and in stalwart condition, calmly awaiting complete Republican restoration in 1880.

The anti-Grant men have it that ex-Secretary BORTLE, who is now travelling in the East with General GRANT, has written a letter to a friend in this country which contains a positive declaration that he (GRANT) will promptly decline to run for President next year or at any other time.

General GRANT is a brave man, but we do not believe he would array himself positively in antagonism to the express wishes, not to say commands, of his fellow-countrymen. Let us have the letter!

When Senator BLAINE does put on his war paint and assume the attitude of a Stalwart he always earns the title the New York Tribune has bestowed upon him of being a Senatorial Gattlinggun. His debate with eight of his Southern Democratic contemporaries last Wednesday was one of the greatest achievements of his public career.

He enjoys the proud satisfaction, as one of the results of that notable forensic encounter, of having struck a chord which aroused the enthusiastic sympathy of every Republican, worthy of the name, in the entire country.

The post not long ago cited the "fact" that JOHN TYLER was once President pro tempore of the Senate and afterward elected "President," as a precedent for you, Mr. THURMAN! There is about as much truth in this alleged fact as there is justice and law in the assumption that Mr. THURMAN is our President de jure. The Memphis Avalanche (Dem.), with a better and more reliable knowledge of the political history of the country, puts it in this way:

Sorry to say it, Mr. THURMAN, but you are Senate President pro tem. No. 50, and only one—JOHN TYLER—ever became President of the United States, and he wasn't elected to that office.

The real facts of the case seem to destroy the "precedent." The post had better stick to its de jure idea. It harms no one and pleases the children.

The speech of Mr. ROBERTSON, of New Jersey, a mere extract of which we gave yesterday morning, for want of space, was highly creditable to himself and his State.

Indeed, no man has entered Congress under a cloud that the same body of which he is a peer had attempted to cast upon him ever made such time against defamation and prejudice as he has done since he took his seat in the present House. By the dint of intellectual supremacy he has silenced all the jeers and taunts of his opponents and attained a position where he has few equals as an eloquent and powerful debater.

His last effort places him in the front rank of the able debaters of the Republican faith, of constitutional law, and the great principles of right and justice which belong to a republican form of government.

Mr. ROBERTSON addresses himself to his audience with a catholic spirit and with attractive grace. He deals in argument clothed with good rhetorical drapery and carries his auditors with him ready captives to his graceful discourse. The strongest men on both sides of the political line listen to him with profound attention, while the lesser lights twinkle in contented admiration. But few men have entered either House of Congress under more favorable auspices than attend New Jersey's great commoner.

It is semi-official, but we do not believe the announcement made by the Washington Republican that a veto of the army bill may be expected. "The Republican," it rather looks to us, is leading Mr. HAYES—Harris, N. C. Observer.

We utterly disclaim any purpose of "buffing" Mr. HAYES, as our North Carolina contemporary is pleased to term it. On the contrary we have too high an estimate of the President's "amiable obstinacy" to undertake such a performance with any hope of success if we were tempted to the work, which we are not. We confidently believe,

though we may be mistaken, that President HAYES will veto each of the three appropriation bills with party provisions attached, netted by a high sense of duty to the right under existing circumstances. Though we may have differed with the President as to some features of his administration, we have never given up the hope that when the South, in its intoxication of political power, should attempt to strike all the war measures of the Government from the statute book that the President would stand as a wall of adamant between them and all such purposes. In this we have abiding faith now, for we are convinced that the President loves his country and will stand by its laws and its Constitution with a patriotic fidelity, and we shall not be prepared to believe to the contrary until he himself, by his own act, shall furnish the foundation of such a belief. Under this deliberate conviction we have no reason for "buffing" him, as we most assuredly have no disposition to assume such an offensive attitude toward the President of the United States.

If the Observer will possess its soul in patience it will soon have an opportunity of forming an opinion from actual demonstration as to the correctness of our judgment regarding the future attitude of the President toward the pending measures.

The most fertile thing that can be done to a Copperhead who was too cowardly, perhaps, to take up arms for the South, and too disloyal to sympathize with the North during the rebellion, is now to hold up to his view scraps of the history of that bloody contest. It sends him into a perfect thrill of anger and presents him senseless and deformed, showing conspicuously that

There is not in nature A thing that makes a man so deformed and beastly as doth intemperate anger.

Cruel as this is to the disloyal Democrat, we may occasionally offend by reproducing some of the causes and symptoms that attended the rebellion. We do so for the reason that like causes and like symptoms now present themselves in Congress and out of it in the Democratic party, which seem to presage a repetition of history at no very remote period, unless the availing spirit born into that party of the other rebellion is brought in subjugation to right, justice, and propriety. If history offends, or if truth plainly spoken offends, we may offend again and often, perhaps; but for the sake of decency we trust that those who are offended at such things will clothe themselves in a spirit of moderation, and not glare at us "with fiery eyes and contracted brows," and talk incoherently of courage and manhood, and such inspirations never moved their hearts to action. We might pity those who are so tortured by the production of reminiscences of the war if they were not counterfeiting a loyalty that never entered their hearts, and are now practicing a gross deceit for petty advantage. In our judgment no greater punishment can be inflicted upon a Southern or Northern Democrat who didn't and wouldn't fight himself, but encouraged others to rebel, than now to reproduce for his consideration occasional scraps of history which call to mind the spirit of that occasion, and lead to a comparison of it with that which comes up from the same party in the present hour of pretended reconciliation.

MR. CONKLING'S SPEECH. Senator CONKLING'S speech on the army bill in the Senate yesterday capped the climax of the great debate upon the political features of that measure. He disappointed none of his friends and gave his opponents no cause for gratification, for the speech was an exhaustive answer to the Democratic postulate and a clear and incisive defence of the Stalwart Republican policy. In short, there is but one opinion regarding it from friend or foe, and that is that he left nothing unsaid which could or should have been said from his standpoint; that his mastery sarcasm was as biting as his arguments were unanswerable, and that he fairly won the title his friends and admirers have long claimed for him to recognition as the acknowledged leader of the Republican party in Congress. His argument of the Bourbons for their subservience to the dictates of the Confederate King Caucus, his close analysis of existing political influences, his exposure of the bombastic pretensions of the South in the matter of defraying the expense incurred in the execution of the laws, his historical illustration of the administration of justice under their provisions, and above all his terrible irony in alluding to the political recreancy of the Independent Senator from Illinois, combined to make this indeed what the Democrats have so often jeeringly asked for, the "greatest effort of his life." They will certainly refrain from asking him to make another one very soon.

But the especially significant part of this truly great speech resides in its direct and emphatic intimation regarding the Republican candidacy next year. There was no defense of General GRANT in this, where no defense is needed, but there was an assertion of eternal truths regarding the manner in which he executed the laws now pending repeal, and that, too, at the request of the Democrats themselves, which served to exalt the patriotism and prove the statesmanship of that great chief, and at the same time to impeach the Opposition for inconsistency in having begged for the enforcement of laws the repeal of which they now seek with seditions design and the intent of practical rebellion.

To conclude this hurried and brief allusion to a speech which will stand in history as long as there is an echo in the corridors of time it is only necessary to reiterate the statement that it was indeed the greatest effort of his life.

DEMOCRATIC MALEDICTIONS. Senator GARLAND, in addressing the Senate on the army appropriation bill on Tuesday last, pronounced a high rhetorical howl and indulged the following maledictions against the National Capitol, our national emblem, and the judicial altars of the Republic:

The Senator from Maine the other day undertook to lighten us by telling us this line of capital would have to go down and not be kept up, and our commerce would be suspended, and our Supreme Court and other courts. That there may be no misunderstanding on that proposition, so far as I am concerned, I have to say that I would see this building crumble and given up to the owls and bats and rats, and every scrap of our rot in its moorings, and the Supreme Court and all the balance of the Government suspended before I would see, without attempting to protect them, the rights of the humblest

citizen checked by legislation of Congress, or the humblest citizen of this country deprived of his rights in any way.

Perish the Capitol! perish commerce! and perish the Supreme Court and all other courts! to secure the privilege of the Democracy of despoiling the people of their elective rights at the ballot-box through the agency of crooks, repeaters, ballot-box stuffers, White Leagues, rifle clubs, and Union halls.

It is only against these things, there is any probability, or even possibility, that the Federal army ever be used to protect the purity and integrity of the elective franchise. The authority to use the military only extends to cases where the laws are defiled and violated and good order is disturbed by corrupt and vicious combinations of men too powerful to be controlled by the civil power and too corrupt and outrageous to be tolerated at the election precincts.

This is all that the friends of the electoral laws seek or expect, and it is upon these very points that the Democrats base their opposition to the existing laws which they are now striving to erase or strip from the statute book. They desire to throw the Federal elections open to fraud, corruption, and violence, and to tear away the safeguards that stand between law-breakers and order-violators and the elective franchise, which involves the dearest rights of citizenship.

Senator GARLAND virtually declares to the country from the forum of the Senate that before these laws shall remain upon the statute book as a terror to the Democracy, he would see the Capitol crumble in ruins and be given up to the owls and bats and rats, and every ship connected with our commerce rot in its moorings, and the Supreme and all other courts be suspended. Why? Simply because the laws which are antagonized shackle the ballot-box stuffer, the repeater, the bull-dozer and the armed banditti, who have taken the public offices in his and other Southern States away from the rightful majority of the people and bestowed them upon the minority under practices that these laws which are now being antagonized were enacted to prevent. This forms the gist of the contest now waging over the pending question and the Democratic malediction is—perish all else, rather than that the "war measures" born of the rebellion shall remain to protect the dearest rights of American citizenship. Tear down the Constitution—strike down the laws—trail the Old Flag in the dust—permit and commit any outrage against the Union and the integrity of the Government sooner than deprive the banditti the right to kill; the repeater the privilege of repeating; the tissue ballot voter the right to stuff the ballot-box; the false counter the free opportunity of plying his vocation, or that any other rascally incident to our elections shall be obstructed by the Federal power during the election of Federal officials. Perhaps the people of the United States whose only hope for the perpetuity of the Republic resides in the patriotism of the voting and fighting power of the nation and in the purity of our elections, will justify and sustain the position taken by Senator GARLAND, but we are not prepared to believe it. To destroy either the military power of the nation or to yield the elective franchise up to wanton outrage and corruption would be to sign the death-warrant of the Republic.

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W. M. REESMAN, of Delaware; Charles Dow, Mrs. Dow, and Miss Hattie Dow, Pennsylvania; Charles Rogers, Baltimore; S. K. L. COVING and family, of West Virginia; and W. S. PARKER, of Massachusetts, H. L. are guests at the St. James.

MR. CONKLING'S SPEECH.

(Continued from First Page.) denounced it and said that the officers under it ought to be pitched into the river. The thing that had spread terror which had never died away. Strongly remembered the bloody assizes of the Democratic party. They had seen riot and the mutilation of the dead. They had seen an asylum for colored men in the name of the law, and the men from the Empire City, attesting the horrible barbarity of man. Remembering these scenes they asked the President to sustain them in paying the cost of the election, and the authority to use the military only extends to cases where the laws are defiled and violated and good order is disturbed by corrupt and vicious combinations of men too powerful to be controlled by the civil power and too corrupt and outrageous to be tolerated at the election precincts.

This is all that the friends of the electoral laws seek or expect, and it is upon these very points that the Democrats base their opposition to the existing laws which they are now striving to erase or strip from the statute book. They desire to throw the Federal elections open to fraud, corruption, and violence, and to tear away the safeguards that stand between law-breakers and order-violators and the elective franchise, which involves the dearest rights of citizenship.

Senator GARLAND virtually declares to the country from the forum of the Senate that before these laws shall remain upon the statute book as a terror to the Democracy, he would see the Capitol crumble in ruins and be given up to the owls and bats and rats, and every ship connected with our commerce rot in its moorings, and the Supreme and all other courts be suspended. Why? Simply because the laws which are antagonized shackle the ballot-box stuffer, the repeater, the bull-dozer and the armed banditti, who have taken the public offices in his and other Southern States away from the rightful majority of the people and bestowed them upon the minority under practices that these laws which are now being antagonized were enacted to prevent. This forms the gist of the contest now waging over the pending question and the Democratic malediction is—perish all else, rather than that the "war measures" born of the rebellion shall remain to protect the dearest rights of American citizenship. Tear down the Constitution—strike down the laws—trail the Old Flag in the dust—permit and commit any outrage against the Union and the integrity of the Government sooner than deprive the banditti the right to kill; the repeater the privilege of repeating; the tissue ballot voter the right to stuff the ballot-box; the false counter the free opportunity of plying his vocation, or that any other rascally incident to our elections shall be obstructed by the Federal power during the election of Federal officials. Perhaps the people of the United States whose only hope for the perpetuity of the Republic resides in the patriotism of the voting and fighting power of the nation and in the purity of our elections, will justify and sustain the position taken by Senator GARLAND, but we are not prepared to believe it. To destroy either the military power of the nation or to yield the elective franchise up to wanton outrage and corruption would be to sign the death-warrant of the Republic.

WAR ANNIVERSARIES. Pertinent Extracts from the Chronology of the Rebellion.

APRIL 25.—Colonel Earl Van Dorn, of the Texas troops, captured 450 United States troops, under Major Sibley, at Sabina, Texas; Fort Smith, Ark., taken possession of by United States troops under Senator Burland; Captain S. D. Sturgis made his escape with two companies of cavalry, with horses, equipments, and provisions; the Sixty and Chippewa Indians offered the services of 300 warriors; a detachment of Illinois troops under Captain Stokes, of the regular army, succeeded in removing from the arsenal at St. Louis about 20,000 stand of arms, besides 110,000 cartridges, cannon, equipments, &c., and conveyed them to Springfield, Ill.; the steamer Calawata seized at New Orleans by Governor Moore and afterward released by the Confederate government; New York Seventh Regiment of militia arrived in Washington via Annapolis.

1863. APRIL 25.—The city of New Orleans summoned to surrender; the forts on Lake Pontchartrain, in rear of New Orleans, evacuated; Fort Mifflin, on the Mississippi, captured by the Union; the bombardment of Fort Fisher, being planted, commenced the bombardment in connection with the fleet, which lasted all day.