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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1882.

The Weather To-Day.

For the Middle Atlantic States, including the District of Columbia, light rains, clearing in the southern portions, winds shifting in south and west, slight change in temperature, slight rise in barometer. Fair weather is indicated for the middle southern States on Sunday.

Yesterday's thermometer, -7 a. m., 38.95; 11 a. m., 38.85; 3 p. m., 40.95; 7 p. m., 38.95; 11 p. m., 38.25; maximum, 41.75; minimum, 38.85.

NEAR DEAR people, hang up your stockings, and the congressional Santa Claus will fill them with reform sugar plums.

A MAJORITY of the voters of Indiana will soon be in the field for the democratic presidential nomination. Will they all unite on the winner?

THERE WERE 3,163,159 legal voters in 1880 who did not vote at all, not caring whether GARFIELD or HANCOCK was elected. About 2,000,000 did all the voting that was done.

WE TAKE no stock in the great storm which Mr. WIGGINS, of Canada, says will sweep down on us Sunday, the eleventh of March. What does anybody know of futures in weather stock?

NOW THAT everybody is in favor of civil service reform it is not long since such great questions are more for equanimity exercise than for practical results. If all are in favor of it, it can safely be dropped.

A LADY living in West Washington has gotten her second divorce from her husband. The sooner she marries with him again and gets yet another separation, the sooner the rule of three will have wrought her out of trouble.

YESTERDAY was white-sun day in the criminal court. The star route defendants had such a benefit as must have made each of them feel for republican wings and pin feathers in the neighborhood of his shoulder blades. Men so pure as these were represented to be deserve no less than to be walked in from this wicked world, and its contaminations.

SOME of the most watery-blue-blooded Bostonians cavorted at any place where Governor-elect BUTLER is to be present. It is too awfully droll. Imagine such glibly as in this practical age. Prof. WILLIAM EVERETT, of Harvard, is the latest specimen of this school. When it is considered how comparatively few people know of his existence his conceit is simply grotesque.

THE citizens' committee have at last brought the detective scandal to the attention of the district commissioners, as will be seen by the letter of the chairman, published elsewhere. It now becomes the duty of the commissioners to institute an investigation themselves, irrespective of any action that the citizens' committee may take, and they ought to go about it at once and in earnest.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY WOODFORD, of New York, the office holding Mark Middle of the day, who backed up to the President last fall, with his coat tails parted, and cried out, "Kick, kick," and who is endearingly called "STICKY" for short by the boys, spoke in New York at the New England dinner. But then who ever saw a dinner or anything else at which he wouldn't speak?

THE chances are that long before the next congress meets the people will bitterly repent their action in giving the democratic party the upper hand in that body. -New York Tribune.

And then they will bitterly reproach themselves for having been deceived by the virtuous campaign slanders against the republican party which they read in the New York Tribune, founded by HORACE GREELEY and founded by WHITE-LAW REID.

THE Boston Journal shows by the record that in Massachusetts the rule has been for the republicans in the legislature not to caucus; but it also shows that there have been several exceptions to the rule. As a caucus on the present occasion would insure the success of the candidate supported by the Journal it favors a caucus, and agrees to stand by the result. It would appear from this pledge that the Journal is either a member of the legislature or owns some who are. Else its support of, or opposition to, the caucus nomination would be a matter of no consequence. Only members of the legislature can vote. We do not see the Journal, and have no idea as to who is its choice.

RED CLOUD has arrived in Washington with his tomahawk, which he proposes to bury in Commissioner Price. There was trouble in RED CLOUD's neighborhood last summer of a sort that would not have been heard of had Secretary Teller's common sense policy toward the Indians prevailed earlier. It is to be hoped his visit here will result in getting justice as between his people and the nation; and that once it is gotten at, he will go home and go to work and never come here

again. There has been overmuch nonsense with Indians in the past. They are not pleasant people, but they have their place and their rights. Let them have their rights, and then let them keep their place, which is removed from this latitude.

Hark, From the Tombs.

That dear old remnant of a by-gone age, known as the democratic party, has not within its fold a member who can, at shorter notice or with more antique method, give out the old creed which animated that involuntary political association, when men were afraid to not belong to it lest they might be scourged as abolitionists, than can the Hon. WILKINSON CALL, of Florida. He rises in the senate at intervals and begins where YULEE and BENJAMIN and IVERSON, and all their companions of 1850-1, left off. The demagogue of that period is good enough for him. In a speech on the PENDLETON bill for abolishing party politics, Senator CALL said, on Thursday, that he believed that the best means of working a real reform would be found in the restoration to the states of the control of their own domestic affairs, the protection of the elective franchise in the states from the interference of the judicial and executive power of the national government, and the creation of a non-partisan federal judiciary.

How those mournful cadences take us back to the days of the "democratic institution" of slavery, which was cruelly arrested in its march to the snows of Washington territory, where federal intervention was to rebuke the pretense that it could be confined within an isothermal line. The domestic affairs of the slave states were then free from the profane touch of national power, and, as for the free states, they had no slaves, and had therefore no domestic affairs within the meaning of the constitution, as interpreted by the democratic party. Those were the days when "fanatics" in the free states were pelted with stale eggs by constitutional democrats in answer to their claim that slavery depended on local laws and could not exist beyond their jurisdiction. Those were the days when STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS was read out of the party caucus in the senate for refusing to vote for a slave code for the free territories, and when the control of their own domestic affairs by the states was deemed incomplete until Mr. ROBERT TOOMBS could call the roll of his slaves from Bunker Hill monument. Those were the days when a democratic United States marshal was placed in command of the army and navy of the United States to enable a citizen of a slave state to invade the state of Massachusetts and bear from the horns of her altar a black man alleged to be an escaped domestic affair, whose control must be restored to the state, before the laws of which Massachusetts law, in its own home, must pale its ineffectual fire.

But why pursue the tale? The sacred idol has been broken. There is now no state in which any of the native residents are the goods and chattels of others. The states which cherished the right of property in man as the chief one to be contended for through fire and slaughter have been deprived of the control of their own domestic affairs, so far as that great right was concerned, and low lies the head of human slavery. Never again will the control of that particular domestic affair be restored to the states where once it was the soul and essence of political and social, industrial and governmental life.

"The protection of the elective franchise in the states from the interference of the judicial and executive power of the national government" is another object of Senator CALL's earnest longing. Perhaps the senator referred rather to the need of protection, in the states, of those energetic and public spirited citizens who are now sometimes interfered with by the general government for depriving others of the privilege of exercising the elective franchise. There is no complaint that democrats are not allowed to vote. The elective franchise cannot be suffering from any judicial or executive bulldozing or false counting at the hands of the national government. When any interference occurs it is in attempts to vindicate the right of citizens to vote against as well as for the senator's party.

Finally, the orthodoxy of the Florida statesman is made to include a demand for "the creation of a non-partisan federal judiciary." The fact that he does not express a desire for a white judiciary of the same kind suggests the idea that the courts of Florida are now as free from partisan bias as is the eloquent senator himself.

Oh! for the days of a non-partisan federal judiciary and the DREX SCOTT decision! Then there could be no partisanship, for the unbiased chief justice looked upon those whose political opinions were adverse to his own much as he said the people in earlier days had regarded the negroes, viz, as having no rights which white men were bound to respect. We can imagine the joy that would lift up the soul of the traditional constitutional national democrat on each occasion when a man of broad and non-partisan views like Senator CALL went upon the bench, and we can fancy him murmuring in the language of the epithet reported by JOHN PHOENIX—"one of the old kind—brass mounted—and of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Donate the Schoolmasters.

Notwithstanding the fearful statistics concerning illiteracy brought out by the census, there is an effort to get up a discouraging growl of dissent whenever it is proposed that the general government ought to assail this most powerful enemy of free institutions. The subject is only just beginning to be discussed. The proposition for aid out of the national treasury is received with favor except in an occasional newspaper office where dyspepsia reigns. The question is asked, however by those most friendly to the general idea of national aid for free education, how can it be done? What can the nation do except to feed the school funds in the states most needing help? And what guarantee can the giver have that the gift will be wisely used? These are serious questions. The southern whites are divided on the question of giving the negro a chance to improve. This division is not on a party line. It would make the very best party line that could be drawn in that region. Every friend of this government wants every citizen to have his rights, including his right to participate in the elections. Every good citizen ought to consider ignorance among voters as a dangerous political disease. The ignorant voter must be instructed.

Those who do not intend to finally extinguish the political rights of the negro will labor to make his exercise of those rights a blessing to society instead of a curse. The states have not the resources sufficient for this great missionary work. They cannot expect the nation to take the risk of state influence hostile to free schools. If they are in earnest in advocating national aid for educational purposes, then they can really accept that aid upon such conditions

as congress may attach thereto touching its disbursement. The congress could appropriate a given amount annually per capita for the illiterates returned in the United States census, upon condition that it should only be expended under the direction of United States agents, and under a system to be approved by the United States commissioner of education. The acceptance of the grant under such conditions would make these the law of the state as well as of the United States, and thereby perfect co-operation would be insured under national direction. Thus the states could be given the schoolroom and the schoolmaster, instead of the money with which to secure them; and the gift would be none the less gracious, because distributed directly among the people by the nation under a friendly agreement with the state. This is not mere sentimentality. It is a matter of very troublesome facts, and one of the greatest subjects, next to the distribution of the clerkships, which can engage the attention of congress.

Shipbuilding and Shipwrecking.

The revival of shipbuilding in this country is a consummation devoutly to be wished. The people would undoubtedly approve any reasonable bounty to be paid American shipbuilders, whether directly or as a mail subsidy, whereby the disadvantages might be overcome under which they suffer as to cost of labor and length of transportation of materials. Great shipbuilding enterprises would not only employ thousands of men in a now almost abandoned industry, and in the mining and transportation of coal and iron, but, in case of need, the means would be at hand for instant use in the construction of the navy with which some day we may have to tardily resent a blow. Meek as we have sometimes been toward other nations in the presence of wrongs and outrages upon American citizens, there is, nevertheless, a latent spirit of self-assertion in the American character which will some day, under provocation invited by our long sufferance, burst out with the same irresistible energy as that which characterized "the uprising of a great people" in 1861. Better that we should be able, even at such a time than later, to commence the building of a navy, and that for that purpose we should find a class trained to the work and available for either public or private yards.

But important and desirable as is this encouragement to American shipbuilding, the American carrying trade, in American owned ships, no matter where built, is also of great importance. Any vessel owned by American citizens ought to be under the protection of the American flag, and foreign built ships so owned ought to be subjected only to such a protective policy as applies to other foreign manufactures which are allowed to compete with our own. The war between the shipbuilders and the ocean carriers should not be one of extermination any more than that going on in our market between the American cotton factors and those of Great Britain. Capt. CODMAN and JOHN ROACH should both flourish. Shipbuilding in the United States should not be made impossible by free trade in the cheaper built English vessels, and the enterprising American who buys one of the latter in which to do business as a carrier ought not to be outlawed and told that he must look to the flag of the nation where his ship was built for protection instead of to his own. Protection of the American shipbuilding industry does not necessarily imply the limitation of the American carrying trade.

Mahone-Virginia.

The remarks of Senator MAHONE yesterday on the civil service debate were full of good practical sense, and brief though they were, they contain material on which he might well have elaborated. But the chief points of interest were his direct thrust at Senator BAYARD and his tramping out of the mean falsehoods, with which the papers hostile to the administration have been loaded down for months, concerning the use of patronage and the assessments of office holders in Virginia. He has given the lie to all the stories against him, and has given the facts as they stand at the departments. If the removal of one clerk and three colored messengers sums up all the deceits by Gen. MAHONE's request in the several departments here, of which such blood-curdling tales have been told in the Post and elsewhere, then it would seem that he has been dealt with most foully by those who have furnished the false information, and all papers which do not desire to be known as wholly reckless of the truth will denounce those who have led them into such quagmires of falsehood. The three colored men removed were holding places as Virginians, and were not entitled to be so classed. The statement by Gen. MAHONE of the number of Virginian office holders, the number of them to whom circulars were sent and the number responded to, releases the wind from the bladders of slander upon which the bonbons and their straightened loquaces have been floating. The intrepid lying done against MAHONE is the best proof of the man's power and the hatred it inspires among his enemies.

A Momentous Question.

The republicans in congress cannot be too often reminded that the next house of representatives will consent to no law or joint resolution concerning the subject of counting the electoral votes for president and vice president which does not make that body absolute in its negative upon any vote which any one of its members may choose to dispute. There is at present no statute or rule on the subject. None can be made after the fourth of next March. Though the democratic candidate in 1884 should be defeated never so fairly, the Cronin case of 1876-7 shows that in its desperate lust for power the democratic party will, according to its opportunity, boldly seize what it cannot lawfully obtain. Besides this, republicans cannot deny that they themselves gave sanction and authority to acts in Louisiana and South Carolina in 1876-7, on which were based the electoral vote, which acts the very president who thereby secured his place so distrusted that he could not find in them sufficient warrant to justify him in guaranteeing the state governments chosen at the same time with the electors. We believe he was entitled to the electoral votes, because the only authorized state returns so declared. But we believe he was wrong in judging that the elections in those states went two ways at the same time, or that state certification was more potent on a national than on a state election return. But this is a digression. We only started to say that both parties can see better determine what rule shall prevail in the count of electoral votes than they can after a presidential election. General principles can be agreed on to apply to things yet to come and now unknown better and easier than they can be fitted to events that have resulted from a mighty contest for the presidential succession. There is not in either house now a majority with the power to be dictatorial. For this reason the present is the time to

guard against the possible shock of a contested presidential election, in which, in the absence of any established rule, each contestant might have the support of one branch of congress. The infirmities of human nature are such that with parties, as with individuals.

When soft the wavering balance holds.

"This seldom right adjusted." Why should the representatives of the people tempt Fate by leaving to chance, or to the party spirit in opposing houses of congress, the determination of the next electoral count? From November, 1876, to March, 1877, the country was almost on the verge of civil strife over the succession. Shall not the recollection of this move congress to attach as much importance to the subject as to the party feud through where dwell the clerkships?

The infirmities of the money system must not be reproduced by act of congress.—Washington Post. No; and they will not be if the smugglers who had the system abolished in the interest of their own system of revenue robbery can prevail.

ON THE AVENUE.

Walks and Talks With Public Men.

A gentleman just from Colorado brings the intelligence that Gov. Pitkin's health is still poor, and that the republicans of that state have reluctantly concluded they will have to forego his election to the senate. He is not yet out of the field, however, and may come in a winner, though his chances are believed to be wanting almost to the point of total extinguishment. Of the dozen or more candidates in the field, Messrs. Bonett, Chaffee, Hamill, and Talar are supposed to have the most strength. It is anybody's fight, for all that anybody can now see. The prospective fight two years hence between Messrs. Teller and Hill, will begin among politicians as soon as the one now pending is off the books. For that matter it has commenced already, and will cut no mean figure in the settlement of the dispute which is to eventuate next month.

Maj. "Ned" Burke, editor and proprietor of the New Orleans Times-Democrat, looks up as a possible successor to Senator Jones, whose term of office will expire in 1885. The major, though still a young man, has condensed the work of several lives in the last twenty years of his career. He had charge of the transportation of supplies for the confederate armies along the gulf and lower Mississippi during the war, a position in which he developed wonderful executive ability and powers of organization. At the close of the war he went over into Texas, locating in Galveston, where he built up an immense wholesale business and then collapsed. He landed in New Orleans a few years ago without a dollar, and went to work in a stone yard as a common laborer. He was ambitious to get on, and the easiest way he saw of making headway was to identify himself with the fire department prominently, as a stepping stone to political preferment. He watched his chances and one night he made a daring rescue, snatching a child, or sick woman or something else in the shape of helpless humanity, from a burning building. The fire laddies made a hero of him and he was elected captain of one of the companies. He pushed himself into the management of one of the New Orleans railways, was nominated for a city office and defeated. Then he tried for the sub-treasurership, the richest office in the state, and was elected, managing the state campaign at the same time as chairman of the campaign committee, and doing more probably to change the political complexion of the state than any body within its borders. When the new state constitution was adopted he had his own official term extended two or three years. He turned his attention to newspapering, as a stepping stone to political preferment. 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