

THE AGE OF PROGRESS.

We frequently hear and read the phrase "this is an age of progress and old doctrines must give place to new; that old doctrines—antiquated ideas must vanish before the spirit of progress and old fogies get out of the way and give young America an opportunity to spread himself. We have endeavored to find out how much of political wisdom lies hidden under the "specious generality," but in vain, nor are we even told what class of old things are condemned as effects, and what sort of new things are to take their place.

The thoughtless repeaters of this clap-trap phrase, mean that the Constitution is one of those old things and that it must give way to the spirit of progressive despotism? If so, it is giving way fast enough, we think, to satisfy the most impatient young Americans. A Federal Union of States is an older idea than the Constitution itself. That too, is fast giving way to the new idea of centralization. Does young America endorse the change, as in accordance with his ideas of the spirit of progress? The framers of our government based their hopes of its perpetuity upon the intelligence and integrity of the people. This too is an old idea, but long since exploded; the spirit of progress has buried these two elements of wise and free government too deep to be reached by the hand of resurrection, and given us, in their stead, a mass of corruption and ignorance unparelled in the history of any government since the dawn of Christian civilization.

This sequel to the explosion of one old idea, should make even young America reflect upon the mischievous tendency of that spirit of progress which mistakes every change for an improvement. It is a very old idea that the qualifications for office are embodied in the Constitution—"Is he honest? Is he capable? The spirit of progress has abolished this test and substituted the questions—Is he a Radical? Is he thick enough to affiliate with his party? The old boy, Thomas Jefferson, originated the first test, but he and the test have passed away and, in their stead, the spirit of progress has given us Grant and his test. Is young America content with this sort of progress? If so, we have a satisfactory answer to his idea of progression, which is a sort of political landslide that heads neither the desolation in its wake, nor the ruin which awaits its advance.

Party organization is an idea as old, perhaps, as civil government. This idea young America has exploded, in this State, and what have we as the result of the change? Signal defeat, and a disruption of party affinity which leaves us at the mercy of demagogues and with no hope of future success until we progress backwards from the new, to the old idea, until the disorganized mob is brought back into line, and young America is taught the simple lesson, that success depends less upon numbers than compact organization.

The New York Herald and the Sun seem to have been awakened, at last, to the fact, that the legislation of Congress intended, in its humanity, for the exclusive benefit of the South, may prove a two-edged sword. They now see that the direct blow has decapitated the liberties of the South and that the other edge will perform the same feat for the North. The Herald says in Louisiana: "If the action of Judge Durell is in conformity with existing law and if the course pursued by the Administration at Washington be legitimately within the province of the Executive, the end of free government has been reached."

The Sun, commenting upon the same state of affairs, says: "Heretofore these things" (elections) have been settled by the counting of votes and the returns and, in the last resort, by the courts of the respective States; but all that sort of thing is done away with now. The belief of the President settles the question of elections, and he "recognizes" with the army "the lawful government." How much better than to be at the trouble of counting votes! Shall we not soon dispense with voting altogether? Yet, with usurpation and tyranny staring them in the face, what are these papers doing to avert the impending calamity? The one protests and denounces; the other sneers and gives in; meanwhile the Administration, met by a stronger opposition, and encouraged by tame submission and the support of its army of corrupt dependents, needs its hold upon the throat of the Republic and exalts over the feeble throats of its expiring liberties. The Gulf of political rain gaps as wide for the northern traitor, as for the Southern rebel, and it is but a trifle more to the people of the North have looked and still look, with calm indifference, if not with pleasure, upon the cruel wrongs done to the South, but when their ambitious rulers—ambitious of brute power, not of noble fame—turn the point of the bayonet northward, they will have learned too late, that misguided fanaticism backed by all the pernicous agencies of universal corruption—the tyranny of ill-gotten wealth and ignorance maddened by passion—have shaped for themselves a destiny far more wretched and degraded than that of the Southern slave for whom they are sacrificing their own freedom and all its attendant blessings. But it is useless to reason with madmen and knaves—neither by the tyrant's whip can we awaken them to a sense of their fully in surrendering the glorious heritage of free government bequeathed to them by the god-like framers of the old Constitution.

We have mentioned a few of the old ideas that are giving way before the march of progress, and now call upon young America for a list of the new ones that are to take their place. If he cannot do this, let him cease his twaddle about the spirit of progress, and learn that time and experience are

the tests of wisdom. Let him learn that those ideas which once culminated in the honor of the government and the happiness and prosperity of the people, should not be lightly exchanged for the wild experiments and crude conceits of New England fanaticism backed by inordinate ambition and self-righteousness. From no other quarter comes the suggestion of those changes, or progressive ideas which young America adopts and sugar-coats with the high-sounding designation—spirit of the age. We are for progress in the arts and sciences—in fact, in everything calculated to develop the hidden sources of wealth, but when it comes to tampering with long tried moral and political axioms, our motto is—"go slow." Foggy is a title of honor, at a time when young ambition, without law, or chart, or ballast, would try its seamanship amid the breakers of revolution.

It is reported that Alex. H. Stephens said that Grant has done nothing in relation to Louisiana, but his duty in enforcing a decree of a United States Judge. But suppose that Judge was appointed as a partisan rather than a jurist and accepted his appointment as Executive instructions to the decisions he should give in such cases, would not this slightly modify Mr. Stephens' encomium? It is at least no violation of decorum to suppose that Durrell knew what Grant and his party wanted, and that his acts have been shaped by that knowledge, and if so, Grant, not Durrell, is responsible for the lawless proceeding.

A DISPATCH from Nashville to the Courier-Journal, says a movement is on foot to unite the Independents and Radicals against the Democrats. Doubtless Old Andy, if he has been approached on the subject, answered that "Barkis is willin," but whether the disorganizers who were deluded by him, are willing to go over to the Radicals, is a question we think, they will answer with an indignant negative. We know some who bolted with Johnson, who would spurn such a proposition, though we suggested during the canvass, that the bolt, on the part of the leading independents, was the first step towards the Radical camp.

STOKES' second trial for the murder of Jim Fisk, closed Jan. 4th, the jury rendering a verdict of murder in the first degree. At the announcement of the verdict, the prisoner turned ashy pale, and his sister wept aloud. Judge Boardman on Monday last sentenced Stokes to be hanged on Friday, the 28th of February next. His counsel were greatly surprised at the verdict, for they regarded the newspaper and public clamor, about the prevalence of murder, as partly responsible. They purpose to apply for a stay of proceedings, and ultimately, if possible, secure another trial.

It is reported by telegraph, that Grant's inauguration will be illustrated by a grand military display. Such a demonstration on a civic occasion, would be imperial in taste and effect, and as a display of power, well calculated to awe into submission the wicked northern patriots whose feeble remonstrances sound like a reluctant acquiescence. It is simply saying to the aspirant to regal power—we'd rather you wouldn't, but if you are determined to do it, go ahead.

John F. Conns & Son, dealers in furniture advertise their new stock for the new year. They keep a supply to meet the wants and tastes of all. As undertakers they are prepared to attend to this branch of their business in all its details. Apply at their old stand for further information.

W. A. McGill, the artist, has his gallery in the Fowler hall building, in perfect readiness to receive and to be prepared to take any and all kinds of pictures in the very best style, at reasonable prices. He sets forth various reasons in his advertisement why you should call on him, to which we refer our readers.

Capt. Vallant offers his choice stock of boots and shoes at a great reduction in price. He keeps the best of goods, as all who have tried them will verify. He also politely asks all who owe him to pay up. We hope his modest appeal will bring the amounts due him.

See statement of condition of the First National Bank. The officers of this institution show up things all right.

See cards of W. Roach and Seat, Knapp & Co. In reference to the prompt payment of their losses paid by the Equitable Insurance Company, of Nashville, at their branch here, conducted by those reliable gentlemen, Kennedy & Fagan.

S. B. Stewart has an advertisement concerning his new and admirably arranged drug house. We spoke of this last week, and now ask all to call and see his stock and make their purchases.

Dr. Tuttle's Hair Dye is the best in use. DONT HAWK, BLOW, SPIT, SNIFF, BLOW, BLOW, and disgust everybody with your Catarrh and its offensive odor, with Dr. Tuttle's Catarrh Remedy will speedily destroy all odor and arrest the discharge.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. The legislature convened at the capitol on Monday, Jan. 6. There was a quorum in both branches, but neither organized. In the Senate seven candidates for Speaker were nominated, and 21 ballots had without a choice. In the House five candidates for Speaker were nominated, and four ballots had the fourth ballot resulted for Trousdale (Dem.) 23, Hank (Rep.) 25, seated 19. The latter vote represented the Independents. There were absentees.

In the Senate the question of the eligibility of Maj. D. Richardson, elected from Rutherford, was raised, and its consideration deferred until after the organization. Maj. Richardson is not quite thirty years old, the age required by the Constitution.

On Tuesday the Senate effected an organization by the nearly unanimous election of the Mr. Lacy, of Memphis, as Speaker; George H. Howard, principal clerk of the former Senate, was re-elected; and Charles W. White, of Hawkins, was chosen enrolling clerk. The House voted ten times without being able to elect a Speaker.

On Wednesday the Senate completed its organization by electing Mr. Archie Thomas, of Robertson, principal doorkeeper. The House, on the twenty fourth ballot, elected Mr. McLaughry, of Greene, Speaker. Neil S. Brown, Jr., was re-elected principal clerk; E. B. Wade, of Rutherford, assistant clerk; and F. E. Williams, of Henry, enrolling clerk.

COUNTY FINANCES. We have not the space for the whole of the annual report of the committee, on the financial condition of the county, and can only make room for the concluding portion of said report, in which they make the following remarks and suggestions: "As respects the debt due from the county to the sinking fund, for money drawn from that fund by Judge King, for county purposes, paying school warrants and other county liabilities. This amount, whatever it may be, should be restored to the county to the credit of the sinking fund, and that justice should be done to holders of county bonds issued for railroad purposes, and that the proper amounts may be kept, as made and provided in case by State laws and in accordance with regulations and ordinances passed by the County Court. This arrangement creates no additional liabilities upon taxpayers. It only places liabilities under their proper heads.

We make the following suggestions, that the system of assessing taxes should have your special attention, at the present session, in the opinion of your committee, is radically wrong and grossly defective. We also are of the opinion, that the mode of collecting taxes, would be improved by the appointment of a collector in each civil district. We also, further suggest, the designation by the County Judge, of some one whose duty it shall be to attend to purchasing all necessary record books, believing that money will be saved thereby. Record books for the county should be purchased hereafter cost from \$800 to \$900 per annum. Your committee have not been able, with the information thus far furnished, to recommend or reject a proposition now canvassed for abolishing the County Judgeship. All of which is respectfully submitted.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Vol. L Williams has removed his stock of boots, shoes, caps and gents furnishing goods, to No. 23, next door to Q. C. Atkin's furniture store. Read his advertisement in to-day's paper and then go and examine his excellent stock.

John F. Conns & Son, dealers in furniture advertise their new stock for the new year. They keep a supply to meet the wants and tastes of all. As undertakers they are prepared to attend to this branch of their business in all its details. Apply at their old stand for further information.

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RIVER NEWS. Two or three years ago, "Buz" furnished us with the following sketch of our worthy fellow-citizen, Capt. Frank P. Gray, of the R. R. Co. We re-publish it now that others may know something of the history of the gentleman whose name is so prominently worn on a new and useful river steamer.

Capt. Frank P. Gray, of Clarksville, was born near York, Va., in 1818, or thereabouts. He was educated at the common schools, and then at the University of Virginia. He was a member of the Virginia Military Institute, and was graduated in 1838. He was then employed as a clerk on the old American, under W. A. Gray, and in 1840 he was appointed principal clerk of the new American, under W. A. Gray, and in 1841 he was appointed principal clerk of the new American, under W. A. Gray, and in 1842 he was appointed principal clerk of the new American, under W. A. Gray, and in 1843 he was appointed principal clerk of the new American, under W. A. Gray, and in 1844 he was appointed principal clerk of the new American, under W. A. Gray, and in 1845 he was appointed principal clerk of the new American, under W. A. Gray, and in 1846 he was appointed principal clerk of the new American, under W. A. Gray, and in 1847 he was appointed principal clerk of the new American, under W. A. 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