

WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH IT?

And Other Questions Over Which the Sovereign People Are Exercising.

The legislature of Tennessee has now been in session for a month, and the great questions for which the members of that body were elected by the people, and sent to legislate upon, are as yet unmodified and untouched.

It would require the divinations of a greater oracle than we claim to be to solve this mooted problem, but we know what the people do want, and what they will hold them to a strict account for if they fail to perform.

That is a prompt and speedy settlement of the state debt, upon a basis equitable, fair and just alike to the state and its creditors; a proper and lawful assessment of taxes upon the railroads whose charters have expired, and a calm, dignified and practical legislation upon a few other questions of pressing need and immediate interests to the people of Tennessee.

For over four weeks past they have fretted and fumed and procrastinated over the election of a U. S. senator and the choice of a few state officials—the latter of which, by bribery and corruption, chicanery, fraud and treachery (to their shame be it said) has at last fallen into the hands of our political enemies—until the people to whom they made so many fair promises, and whose interests they pledged themselves, upon the stump, to protect and defend, have become tired and worn out, and are now anxiously and earnestly enquiring if they are not going to settle down to work and perform some of the duties for which they were elected.

We know that this mighty body of Solons felt wearied and exhausted after the herculean struggles through which they have lately passed, and we are not surprised or vexed that they should wish to adjourn for a week or two, and be permitted to return to their admiring and well-wishing constituents, so that each one could recede in person the brave and valiant deeds of which he himself was the hero; but this sort of heroics, after awhile, grow stale and pall upon the appetites of a people who are care-worn and burdened with the weight of a heavy debt, which broods like a nightmare upon their minds and clogs the prosperity of their state.

They look for practical results from a congress of their representatives, and nothing short of a plain, practical, common-sense legislation upon these paramount questions of the hour will satisfy them and bring from them that coveted plaudit, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

As we stated, the legislature convenes again next Tuesday, and now that the election for state officers is over, and the disappointed office-seekers have packed their carpet-bags and hid themselves homeward to chew the bitter cud of blighted hope, we confidently expect some practical and sensible legislation. There is not much general legislation needed.

We have spoken of the main questions that are to be considered—the state debt and the assessment of the railroads. The whole country expects and demands that something shall be done, and as most of the members were elected for this especial purpose, we can look for no hesitation upon the part of the legislature. We cannot think that the low-tax democrats will offer any serious opposition to a fair and just settlement, and while it is to be settled, we desire and sincerely hope that it will be settled by the democratic majority in the legislature. We want the settlement to be a democratic measure, and carried through by democrats.

WHAT WILL THE REPUBLICANS DO?

The republican members of our legislature all went before the country and asked the suffrage of the people of the state, not merely on their national politics, but chiefly on the ground of their being state-credit men, and pledged their solemn faith to their constituents that, if elected, they would vote for a speedy settlement of the state debt. But now that they have failed to elect a majority of that body, and, consequently, a United States senator, we await with great interest to see how they are going to vote upon this vexed question.

If the bond-holders offer a fair compromise, are they willing to vote with the democrats to settle, or are they going to unite with the low-tax democrats (whose political faith they profess so heartily to despise, save when they can use them as cats-paws, as they did in the election of state officers), and prevent any settlement of the state's indebtedness? We wish we could think they will do the first of these alternatives, but in the light of their party's past history we can hardly hope for such action on their part. They know well enough that, after the state debt question is eliminated from the politics of Tennessee, and the democrats are once more united, they will be in a hopeless minority in the state. Then away go all these new-fledged hopes of getting entire control of the state government, and all their boasted gains from the ranks of the democracy will vanish into thin air.

Can they, under such circumstances as these, be expected to rise above party self, and vote for the honor and credit and prosperity of the state? The republican party is the most partisan the world has ever seen, and its history for the last twenty-one years has proven that it scruples at nothing, however mean or devoid of principle, to serve its own selfish ends and to perpetuate its power. How, then, can we hope that the republican members of our legislature will do that which will be a death-blow to their own political existence. It is folly to presume upon a thing.

They laugh and chuckle at the divisions in the ranks of democracy in this state, and may be expected to do everything in their power to prevent any decision of this question and to foster a more bitter animosity and to widen the breach between the two democratic parties of the state.

Does not, then, every sentiment of party fealty, every law of self-preservation, urge the democrats of the legislature to come together and settle the debt themselves.

A COURT OF APPEALS. We learn that a bill is now before our legislature for the creation of a "court of appeals," in order to reverse the supreme court, which, especially in the middle and western divisions of the state, is covered with business and far behind with its docket. It is to consist of one judge from each grand division of the state, and will have equal jurisdiction with the supreme court, cases only to be appealed from it to the supreme court in cases where two of the judges cannot agree as to the law and the facts. Our supreme court is nearly three years behind with its over-crowded civil docket, and has been for years and we heartily endorse the establishment of such a court, if even for a few years, to aid it in clearing up its crowded docket. Something ought to be done in this matter, as this long delay in the final decision of causes quite often works great and irreparable injury to litigants, and piles up the cost of litigation to a burdensome degree.

The fact that the supreme court docket is far in arrears is, we think, no fault of our past present senate, or of the court, for they have worked hard and indefatigably to try to get even since the war. The docket became full and crowded immediately after the war, when litigation was rife, and has never been clear since. We think the people throughout the state would be glad to have such a "court of appeals," and we hope the legislature will, in its wisdom establish one. We think it would be far preferable to the court of arbitration which has been established at different times to aid the supreme court. Other states have such courts, and they work well.

A Washington special to the Cincinnati Commercial says: "Senator Bailey has returned from his unsuccessful contest in Tennessee, but cannot vote, because by a coincidence he is paired with another unsuccessful candidate, Mr. Paddock, of Nebraska, who has not yet come back. A gentleman who was in Nashville four weeks, engaged in the senatorial contest, said to-day that it was the republicans who deliberately allowed themselves to be defeated, not the democrats who caused the failure."

In the senate last Saturday when Mr. Logan called up his bill to place the retired list of the army with a pension, senator Bailey found that the senator with whom he was paired, Mr. Paddock of Nebraska, had not yet returned and consequently he could not vote. An arrangement was made however, by which his pair was transferred to senator Plumb of Kansas, whose pair was absent also, and senator Bailey planked down a decided "nay" to Mr. Logan's bill.

CONGRESSIONAL DOINGS.

The proceedings in congress the past week have been comparatively dull and uninteresting. In the senate Messrs. Hamlin and Thurman were appointed tellers for the electoral count meeting. In the house of representatives, our representative, Hon. Jno. F. House, and Representative Crowley were appointed a committee for the same purpose. The senate and house finished the electoral count and declared the startling news that Garfield and Arthur were the lucky men.

During the week the subject of the alleged census frauds in South Carolina was taken up, and the letter of the secretary of the interior was read. It was followed by a lively personal tilt between Senators Butler and Conkling.

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THOMAS CARLYLE.

On last Saturday, the 5th inst., died, at the advanced age of eighty-six, Thomas Carlyle.

Only very old men can remember the commencement of Carlyle's literary career. He was first known by his still classic translations of works by the great German writers, his immediate predecessors, and articles in the English magazines and reviews, which formed that powerful literature upon the attention of English and American readers. His name had been established by these among the greater lights of English letters before the appearance of his "Sartor Resartus" as a serial in Fraser's Magazine placed his claims in an entirely new light. This extraordinary work established for the forty years following the peculiar train of thought, and even the peculiar phraseology, which is now so well known, and which has been so fondly idolized and so mercilessly criticised as the Carlylean philosophy and style—a style which has not only had its idolaters but its imitators, the fate of the latter being that of ignominious failure.

The enquiry is naturally suggested, what are the principles of that philosophy, the characteristics of that style which so many have praised, so many decried and no one successfully imitated? Alas, the space allowed for this article renders any adequate answer to the question utterly hopeless—a voluminous analysis of Carlyle and his works might be attempted, a brief one is simply impossible.

The second appellation of "Sartor Resartus," "The Philosophy of Clothes," probably suggests the most salient feature of his intellectual method. It describes his propensity to strip everything of its clothes, as he would say; that is, of everything adventitious, and penetrate through all that to what is essential, as the central fact of his subject. Thus a religious or political opinion is first stripped of all the partisan favor or disfavor it has been judged by; an individual character is divested of the encomiums of friends and the obloquy of enemies, and his work is scrutinized in the light of its abiding results, and, if these are good, the principle from which they issued is approved; if otherwise, it is condemned.

Perhaps the best illustration of his mode of treatment for historical subjects may be derived from that wonderful work, "The French Revolution." Previously to the appearance of this work, none but a partisan treatment of this vast convulsion had been attempted. One class of writers had dwelt upon the chivalric gallantry and the graceful bearing of the old nobles and the ferocity of the sans-culottes; the other sees nothing but grinding tyranny and revolting profligacy in the nobles, priests and kings of the old dispensation, nothing but a just retribution in the horrors of the reign of terror. It was reserved for Carlyle to show that both of these were true as partial inferences from a narrow and restricted point of view and to penetrate to the central fact of which both these theories were partial manifestations. He showed that so long as the kings and nobles really led the people and guided them for their good, so long as the churchmen really enlightened and instructed the people, it was well with all, but that these days had long been gone by; that, at the eve of the revolution, nobles and priests alike looked upon the people simply as existing for their profit and pleasure, having no rights or claims of their own, but that their superiors had no duties toward them. Such an aristocracy and priesthood, he contends, pronounced its own condemnation, executed its own death-warrant. And when it was swept away before the rage of a people tortured beyond endurance, there was no government, no organization of society. Then all the malignity of passion which a long reign of tyrannical corruption had engendered, all the cruelty and profligacy which ages of corrupt and profligate government had fostered, came to the surface and produced a chaos of murder, lust and tyranny before which the world still stands aghast. Those who had sown the thorns now reaped the whirlwind, and when the worst was said, the people might retort with Shylock: "I am even with you, touch me, I'll exact; if it shall so touch me, what'll I better my instruction?"

No atrocity is disguised, no cruelty extenuated, no horror, however sickening, is veiled. Indeed, the horrors of revolutionized Paris have nowhere been realized with so frightfully faithful a portraiture; nor nowhere is the central fact lost sight of that these are the baleful ingredients existing in all societies, which can only be restrained by just and enlightened government and pure and holy religious teaching, and that, where they do break forth and tear society to pieces, those are responsible whose system of government has been inspired by the greed of self-aggrandizement, and whose example has been an example of corruption and cruelty.

This was a new way of writing history, and in this new way of piercing to the marrow things is recognized the true bent of Carlyle's genius.

But we have glanced at only one class of his works, the historical; we have room for no more. Perhaps the force of Carlyle's genius can best be estimated by studying the influence he has exerted on contemporary literature. To omit all other writers—and there is not one who has not been directly or indirectly influenced by that commanding intellect—Carlyle's works have furnished the direct inspiration of Pound as a historian, of Thackeray as an analyst of society and Ruskin as an art-critic. That must be a many-sided mind which has done all this.

D. F. W.

Pennsylvania Legislature. The dead-lock in the Pennsylvania legislature remains unshaken. The twenty-first ballot for U. S. senator resulted as follows: Oliver W. Wallace 72, Green 55, Wolfe 12, McVeigh 4, with 11 votes scattering. The votes for Wolfe came from democrats, while the scattering votes were from republicans. It seems as if a dark horse would win yet.

LET THE FISH BE PROTECTED.

We notice some bills have been introduced into the legislature to repeal the fish law. We wish to enter our protest against this unwise measure. Some few wholesale destroyers of the "speckled beauties," who fish for profit, and like the cook, who has no relish for her own dishes, never feed upon their own catch, and consequently suffer from a diminution of brain matter, may, no doubt, desire an abolition of these sensible laws; but the right thinking and public spirited citizens, who are in a large majority, not only earnestly desire that the present laws upon the subject may be maintained, but they are more generous and stricter. It is not a question of different interests between the poor man and the rich angler who whittles away his leisure hours with rod and line, but is one of broader interests—of food supply for the future. It is foolish for any one to say that the law will do no good. Just let him recur to the years immediately preceding the war—during which, there were no seines, nets, traps, gigs, bows and spears in our streams, and not catch a single fish, and then come down to the years immediately preceding the passage of this law, when every stream abounded with these destructive traps, and note the difference.

Immediately after the war, our streams were alive with fine fish as were ever drawn from any stream, but after the terrible ravages made upon them by seines and trappers, one might spend the entire day, even with those appliances, and not catch a single fish. We understand that since the enactment of the fish law two years ago, there has been a very decided improvement in the growth of fish in our county streams. It is a poor argument to say that the law will not and cannot be enforced. It can. We believe there are plenty of the devoted disciples of Seth Green in every county in the state, to see that it is strictly enforced.

Meeting of the Clarksville Bible Society. The Clarksville Bible Society met in its regular annual session at the Baptist church last Sunday night. The night was rainy and disagreeable, and the attendance was not so large as it would otherwise have been. The Hon. D. N. Kennedy, president, presided. Owing to the absence of Mr. R. E. McCulloch, who could not be present, the minutes of the last meeting were not read, but Mr. Kennedy stated the substance of what was done. The reports of the treasurer and depository were then read, giving a full account of the noble work of the society for the past year, which was very encouraging. The society is out of debt, with a balance in the treasury.

Mr. W. J. Ely was, upon motion, elected temporary secretary. Rev. A. D. Sears was made a member of the American Bible Society, being the first member of the local society who has ever been elected a member of the parent society. Subscriptions were taken up for the current yearly expenses of the society, amounting to a good sum. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President—Hon. D. N. Kennedy. Vice-presidents—Revs. J. D. Barbee, I. J. Spencer, P. A. Fitts, John R. Goodpasture, J. W. Lupton, A. D. Sears, Secretary—R. E. McCulloch, Treasurer—Polk G. Johnson. Depositories—Hilman & Lewis.

The same executive committee as last year was re-elected, with the exception of Capt. Tom Smith and Mr. W. J. Ely, in whose stead were elected Messrs. Chas. Baker and Fred. Fox. Some very appropriate remarks were then made by Revs. John R. Goodpasture and I. J. Spencer, and the society adjourned.

The next meeting will be held at the Methodist church the first Sunday night in December, 1881.

"WHITE BURLY." EDITOR CHRONICLE: I see in the Tobacco Leaf of a week or two past an article headed "How to grow and cultivate White Burly tobacco, in which they say, in speaking of how to sow the beds, "Sow about two large table-spoonful to the hundred square feet." Now, I am surprised to see such advice as this in a paper which pretends to have such profound knowledge upon the subject of tobacco and its culture. Every good farmer knows that this is about ten times too much seed to sow "to the hundred square feet," and that if he should sow his beds as directed, he would not have a plant fit for setting. Why, sir, the ordinary quantity of seed is about two table-spoonful to the hundred square yards.

I repeat, it seems to me that this is a highly queer advice to give to the farmer of a country where the chief crop is tobacco. But perhaps these White Burly seeds are as large as peas. If so, I'll take back all I've said. A TOBACCO PLANTER.

Administrator's Notice. Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Jesse Baggett, dec'd, I hereby notify all persons indebted to the estate to come forward and settle, and any persons having claims against said estate will file them as required by law, or they will be barred. H. M. SMITH, Administrator.

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It will pay you to give us a call before buying. Respectfully, COUTLER BROS. & STRATTON, 18 Franklin Street, Clarksville, Tenn. Feb. 12, 1881-4.

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WANTED. Oak Timber Lands! 3,000 to 10,000 acres of good White Oak Timber Land suitable for a Slave Factory and Saw-Mill, employing 20 to 100 men. Address, giving full description of timber, soil, title, distance from river or railroad, to J. W. BROWN, 221½ Canal St., Jan. 15, '81. St. Louis, Mo.

Regular Nashville, Clarksville and Evansville Packet. STEAMER BOLIVAR H. COOKE. W. R. GRACKY, Master. E. SCHOENLAUB, Clerk. Leaves for Nashville every Tuesday at 6 p. m. Leaves for Evansville every Tuesday at 6 p. m. Passengers and passengers taken at the very lowest rates. Through rates given to all points on the Ohio river. Jan. 15-17

Nashville, Clarksville, Paducah and Cairo Mail Line of Steamers. STEAMER B. S. Rhea, J. S. TYNER, Master, T. M. Gallagher, Clerk. Passes up for Nashville every Wednesday. Passes down for Cairo every Saturday at 6 a. m. STEAMER C. W. ANDERSON, J. A. O'NEILL, Master, Harry Sullivan, Clerk. Passes up for Nashville every Sunday at 6 a. m. Passes down for Cairo every Tuesday at 7 a. m. Makes close connection at Cairo with boats for St. Louis and the lower Mississippi river points. Through rates to principal points in Texas given to emigrants. Jan. 15-17

FARMERS AND MECHANICS' MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION. NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. Insurance \$2,000 Membership Fee \$1.00 Monthly Dues \$1.00 V. H. WEAVER, President. W. H. WEAVER, Secy and Treasurer. C. S. SMITH, Agent, Clarksville, Tenn. Jan. 15, '81.

Removal!

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We have moved into our new quarters, formerly occupied by McComb, Hunt & Co., CORNER FIRST and FRANKLIN STREETS, with increased facilities. We are prepared to supply the trade with any article in our line. All orders will have careful and prompt attention, and satisfaction guaranteed. DORITY, WOOD & CO., January 15, 1881.

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THOMAS ROHNER, WATCH MAKER AND JEWELER. Just received an elegant stock of Gent's Jewelry, Solid Gold and Rolled Plate, Solid Plain Gold and the elegant Set Rings with Pearls and Diamonds. Chains of all designs, from solid gold down to 50 cents pieces. Also, Studs, Sleeve and Collar Buttons, Lockets, Scarf Pins from \$15.00 to 25 cents per set. Watches of the best grades, Swiss and American, Ladies and Gent's in Gold and Silver; a new lot of the Celebrated Rockford Railroad Watches!

New Firm! New Goods! ANGLEN & WILLIAMS, 46 Franklin St., Clarksville, Tenn. Have just opened and now have for sale a complete stock of Staple & Fancy Groceries, Fine Chewing and Smoking Tobacco, Snuff and Cigars. Which we will sell as cheap as any house in the city. We respectfully solicit a share of the patronage of the citizens of the city and surrounding country. Goods Delivered Free to any part of the City. Sept. 4, 1880-ly.

J. F. WARFIELD, PROPRIETOR OF The Peoples Drug Store! (OPPOSITE FOX & SMITH'S) Franklin Street, - Clarksville, Tennessee, Keep constantly on hand a full supply of Pure Drugs, Stationery, Fancy & Toilet Articles, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Paint Brushes, School Supplies, etc. Prescriptions carefully compounded both night and day. Respectfully, J. F. WARFIELD.

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Second Round of Quarterly Meeting. Springfield station, February 12-17. Ashland City station, Ashland City, Feb. 18-23. Auburn circuit, at Mt. Pleasant, Feb. 27. New Providence and Bethel station, at New Providence, March 6. Walnut Chapel, Chatham circuit, at Walnut Chapel, March 13. Ebenezer, March 13. Palm Springs circuit, at Ebenezer, March 13. Cedar Hill circuit, at Cedar Hill, March 20-27. Rock River circuit, at Martin's Chapel, March 27. Clarksville station, April 2-3. WELBORN MOONEY, P. E.