

If there is one thing more than another that does our very soul good and carries us into a state of transcendent beatitude, it is to see a sinner turn aside from his wicked ways and walk in the paths of truth and soberness.

We have long wept and prayed over the unregeneracy of our very bad neighbor, the Clarksville Democrat, and it is with emotions of sincere pleasure that we notice in that hitherto hard-hearted and stiff-necked journal, indications of a penitent and contrite spirit.

It is the following from last week's Democrat which gives us so much pleasure. Some people may think it is a reproduction of one of those pious editorials which appeared in the Chronicle during the last campaign, but seriously it is from the Democrat and here it is:

If it is worth fifty cents a load to ship flour from Clarksville to Erin or Memphis, and in carrying on a vigorous river competition the railroad chooses to reduce the rate from Clarksville to twenty-five cents, but does not reduce the rate from Erin. How is the Erin shipper hurt? He pays no more than is fair, and reasonable, and that is all he has a right to demand. To insist that the rates should not be reduced from Clarksville would be to deprive the citizens of Clarksville of the natural advantages given by their situation.

This is a point we have repeatedly urged and illustrated by the parable of the men who worked different lengths of time in the vineyard and got the same pay for their labor. The fellows who worked all day long because they received no more than those who worked a few hours, though their stipend was as large as they had contracted for.

The original sin in the Democrat's nature was too strong to allow it to experience and express a full conversion at one kneeling at the monner's bench, so it hedged about the above with the following, which we consider a very remarkable hypothesis:

If, however, the road should be allowed to reduce the rate from Clarksville to twenty-five cents, and in order to save itself from loss, to raise the rate at Erin to seventy-five cents, then the Erin shipper would have a right to complain. The railroad would be taxing him in order to make it to carry on a war of rates at Clarksville. This is precisely what is sought to be accomplished by the establishment of a railroad commission.

Does the Democrat not know that every railroad in Tennessee is limited to certain charges by its charter? Does it not also know that no road in the State is now charging, from any point, so much as its charter allows? The fact is, when the Democrat yells the injustice of the "long and short haul idea" it yields the whole thing, and would do better to make a clean breast of it. This is a virtual admission that all of its talk about "improper discriminations" was humbug and stuff.

There is no necessity for adding the State with an expensive commission that will have nothing to do but relieve the State Treasury of about \$10,000 a year.

A Railroad Commission will impede railroad building in the State, because it will take the management of the property out of the hands of the owners and put it in the hands of three incompetent politicians. It brings the railroad into politics and that would ruin any business in the world.

What the people want and need is that the present commission bill be repealed and the matter be allowed to rest there.

If the Democrat will accept to this, our of business will be full. We come not to the righteous, but to call sinners to repentance.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

Before President Cleveland had taken his seat he had come to an open rupture with a large portion of his party in Congress on the silver question.

The "silver men," as they are designated, wrote the then President elect, requesting that he should not commit himself in presence of the suspension of silver coinage. Mr. Cleveland declined to comply with their request, and in his direct and unequivocal way wrote a letter in which he took the position that the coinage of silver dollars should be suspended. He favors a bimetallic standard but thinks gold will be driven out of the country and the value of the currency depreciated by the unlimited coinage of silver.

To this letter the "silver men" replied at length, urging a contrary opinion. Mr. Reagan, of Texas, wrote a separate statement in which he took the ground that the President had departed entirely from the Democratic principle on this question.

The question promises to play a very important part in the politics of the immediate future.

On Mr. Munford has introduced a bill to amend the commission act, which may be got all out of his own head and may be the dirt. We have heard and we felt somewhat relieved on his account when we learned that this bill had been introduced. We were afraid that he had gotten himself into an unfortunate predicament, between the devil and the deep blue sea, as it were. The devil appeared in the fact that he had prepared the New-Johnson bill, and the disapproval of that bill by certain powers that be in this country, whose displeasure Mr. Munford would no means incur if he could avoid it, was the yawning gulf on the other side. We have seen Mr. Munford's bill, but we opine that it is one of those happy dodges which statesmen in like positions very often make.

Mr. HENRY JAMES has a story running in the Century Magazine, the hero of which is a Mississippi. So far, he does more credit and justice to Southern character and ideas than Mr. Cable has ever done. Mr. James probably don't feel the necessity of carrying favor with Northern readers by trucking to their prejudices.

THE PENITENTIARY.

THE CHRONICLE has quietly awaited the sworn testimony in the penitentiary matter before expressing any opinion as to the truth of the charges that have been made. A sufficiency of such evidence has been brought out to justify us in speaking. In fact, our silence would no longer be justified.

We now say without hesitation that the convicts in the branch prisons of the State are subjected to inhuman treatment and that those institutions are a disgrace to civilization. The evidence produced in the libel suit against the editors of the Banner is our authority for this assertion. It appears therein that the convicts in these branch prisons are ill-fed, badly clothed, over taxed in their work and beaten without mercy when such tasks are not accomplished. That they are frequently made to work on Sunday, that their feet are often frozen from exposure, that they are forced to sleep in the wet clothes in which they have worked all day in water, and that their sleeping apartments are crowded and filthy. This is bad enough, and sufficient ground for the opinion we have expressed above, but it is not all. There are individual instances of extreme cruelty, and where death has resulted from whippings.

The worst feature of the whole affair, and which better than anything else proves the utter depravity of these places, was brought out in the testimony of Dr. Marks, a brother of the Governor. He swore that he treated a boy convict for a loathsome disease which he thought had been contracted by the practice of an unnatural crime.

The State cannot tolerate a continuance of these abominations, and all who are responsible should be made to answer for what has been done. We speak in the interest of no party or faction. It is simply a matter of humanity and it involves the good name of the State.

The life of a convict should not be that of a sybarite. The sentence to hard labor should be carried out in the strictest manner in every instance, but at the same time the Penitentiary ought to be made a reformatory institution and not a "school for crime."

We should not attempt to revive the horrors which the galley slaves of past ages were made to endure, nor should we imitate in our prison arrangements those horrid receptacles for Russian convicts in Siberia.

COL. COLYAR is trying to save his head from the guillotine that awaits all who are tainted with the Penitentiary barbarities by some very shrewd special pleading. He says, in speaking of himself in this connection: "It is a fact well known to his co-defendants that he made repeated arguments against making this lease, and only yielded when the fact was ascertained that he was almost if not quite alone. Facts since confirm rather than shake his opinion." You should have remained in this frame of mind, Colonel, and deported yourself accordingly.

But in your capacity as editor of the American and as an attorney you have used every means in your power to keep down the revelations made by the Banner. You are one of the ring, Colonel, and your head must roll off.

It was reported last week that Mr. Cleveland was hesitating between Judge Endicott and Mr. Collins, both of Massachusetts, for a Cabinet position. The Avalanche found food for reflection in this, Endicott being a descendant of the puritan who cut the cross from the flag, and Collins an Irish Catholic. Our Memphis contemporary might have turned and cogitated still further. The President is himself a combination of these two elements. His paternal stock were New Englanders of the Puritan type, and his mother was a member of an Irish family who resided in Catholic Baltimore.

The Nashville World should consider the ways of its whimsical ally, the Clarksville Democrat, and be wise. The World has not shown as frantically about the action of the Senate on the railroad commission bill and called the Democrats who didn't vote according to its diatribe, traitors, and all sorts of ugly things. But its Clarksville contemporary just gave a gentle flip and floated down stream as serenely as if it had been that kind of a duck all the time.

The Supreme Court has decided that Savage, Gordon and Taylor are entitled to their pay as Railroad Commissioners. The State has paid \$12,000 into the pockets of these worthless, and who can point out one dollar's worth of benefit she received in 1877? To the contrary, she was damaged immensely by the hindrance the commission put in the way of railroad building.

MR. CLEVELAND'S Cabinet, as officially announced, is Bayard of Delaware, Secretary of State; Manning, of New York, Secretary of the Treasury; Lamar, of Mississippi, Secretary of the Interior; Garland, of Arkansas, Attorney General; Endicott, of Massachusetts, Secretary of War; Vilas, of Wisconsin, Postmaster General; Whitney, of New York, Secretary of the Navy.

The slaughter of Tennessee statesmen has been fearful of late, and the gallant Bate is numbered among the slain. If the present Legislature had to elect a United States Senator, some men who would have stood a good chance for the position two weeks ago wouldn't now be thought of as candidates.

The young man who does the sentimental for the local edition of the Tribune and Sun delivered himself as follows in the last week's issue of that paper:

"The night had a thousand eyes. The day had a thousand eyes. You had the light of a whole day dies. With the setting sun. The heart beat on. When the light of a whole life dies. When love is done."

The Tipton Record supported Sage & Co. through the last campaign, but now very correctly observes: "The Democratic party cannot afford to monkey with the railroad business just at this juncture. The last election was a sufficient warning upon this matter."

It looks a little as if some of the members of the penitentiary investigating committee consider Mr. Cherry the Democratic party, and deem it their special mission to vindicate the party.

MATTERS AND THINGS.

Congress completed and passed all appropriation measures before adjourning.

LANDIS, of the Banner, has proved himself a very David in his conflict with the Penitentiary ring Goliath.

CLEVELAND is all right on the tariff. His position is that which the CHRONICLE has always adhered to.

The cabinet appointments were not immediately confirmed by the senate on account of Richard's objection to Bayard as "un-American."

Senators Lamb and Simerly were excused from the investigating committee and Senators Rogers and New appointed in their places.

At the eleventh hour a bill passed Congress which will have the effect of placing Gen. Grant on the retired list army officers with the pay of general.

There is no law for whipping convicts. If it is necessary for proper discipline, as in the lesser urge, they should have it legalized before they practice it.

One convict named George Banks, was killed in the mine while working on Sunday. How the news of that death must have shocked Bro. Cherry's christian piety!

Gen. Grant is affected with cancer of the tongue, and his physicians say he hasn't got long to live. His general health is very much affected but he is still at work on his war papers for the Century Magazine.

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Upon reaching the city the military and civic organizations were met by the Mayor and the members of the Senate. The parade was announced and applause, clapping of hands and cheers welcomed them. The parade was led by the President-elect, Mr. Edmunds, of the Senate. Mr. Edmunds adjourned the senate without delay, and Mr. Hendricks took the gavel and called the senate to order in extra session. Prayer was offered by the chaplain, following which the vice president made a brief address. The new senators were sworn in, and after reading the message of the president conveying the senate the procession was formed and filed its way toward the platform on the central portion of the capitol, where the oath of office was administered to President Cleveland, after which he delivered the following:

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The President-elect will arrive tomorrow night, and will be escorted to the Executive mansion by an appointed committee. His first glimpse of his future home on the morning of the inauguration will be pleasant, for from the windows of the Arlington, beyond trees, fountains, and Lafayette park, an excellent view of the White House can be obtained. At about ten o'clock, Mr. Cleveland will proceed to the Executive mansion, accompanied by a committee of Senators, where he will be introduced to President Arthur, and they will go together, in an open carriage, in the midst of a grand civic and military procession, to the capitol.

A grand stand has been erected on the Eastern front of the capitol, and there the President-elect will take his oath of office, and the President will deliver his inaugural address. Only a few hundred will be able to hear his voice, but tens of thousands can see for the first time a Democratic President. After the ceremonies, President Cleveland and ex-President Arthur will quickly proceed to the White House, and after lunch, will take a drive on a covered stand that has been erected in the grounds of the Presidential mansion, and review the procession. The latter will be five miles in length, and embrace about twenty-five thousand men. It will approach the Presidential stand from different routes: its line of march will include portions of Pennsylvania avenue, Twenty-second street, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts avenues, and E. street. During the progress of the procession, Pennsylvania avenue will be kept entirely clear from curb to curb, both from vehicles and people, and the police have orders to arrest any one encroaching upon the line of march and will add greatly to the effect of the spectacle.

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The State Board of Health—The Report on the Sanitary Condition of the State. From the press of the Public Printer has just been issued a reprint of the first of a series of papers which will constitute the second report of the State Board of Health. The entire volume will be published at an early date, and if the remaining chapters on the subjects of contagious diseases, venereal diseases, and other diseases, are published in the first, it will be a public document of very great value. The pamphlet is devoted to the subject of venereal diseases, and is from the pen of Daniel P. H. D., the Chairman of the committee of the board to whom that topic was assigned. In the preparation of the report, Dr. Wright has drawn upon the knowledge and practical qualifications, those of the practical schoolmaster, the diligent and observant member of a Public School Board, and the thoughtful physician, and of a philosopher, who has always found in the attributes and characteristics of the young matter of profound interest. The report is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the public mind, and is a valuable addition to the literature of the State. It is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the public mind, and is a valuable addition to the literature of the State.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER. (From Our Regular Correspondent.) The streets of Washington are crowded with visitors who have come to the inauguration, and who improve their time while waiting for that event, by visiting the museums, art galleries, departments, and other places of interest and entertainment that this city, more than any other, affords. Old men may be seen among them, those who have not been in Washington since the inaugural ceremonies of that last Democratic President, and who look with admiration at the improvements that have taken place since then, and at the extensive preparations that are going on. The streets are a holiday appearance, and of course, the festivities on the fourth of March are the all absorbing topic.

The President-elect will arrive tomorrow night, and will be escorted to the Executive mansion by an appointed committee. His first glimpse of his future home on the morning of the inauguration will be pleasant, for from the windows of the Arlington, beyond trees, fountains, and Lafayette park, an excellent view of the White House can be obtained. At about ten o'clock, Mr. Cleveland will proceed to the Executive mansion, accompanied by a committee of Senators, where he will be introduced to President Arthur, and they will go together, in an open carriage, in the midst of a grand civic and military procession, to the capitol.

A grand stand has been erected on the Eastern front of the capitol, and there the President-elect will take his oath of office, and the President will deliver his inaugural address. Only a few hundred will be able to hear his voice, but tens of thousands can see for the first time a Democratic President. After the ceremonies, President Cleveland and ex-President Arthur will quickly proceed to the White House, and after lunch, will take a drive on a covered stand that has been erected in the grounds of the Presidential mansion, and review the procession. The latter will be five miles in length, and embrace about twenty-five thousand men. It will approach the Presidential stand from different routes: its line of march will include portions of Pennsylvania avenue, Twenty-second street, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts avenues, and E. street. During the progress of the procession, Pennsylvania avenue will be kept entirely clear from curb to curb, both from vehicles and people, and the police have orders to arrest any one encroaching upon the line of march and will add greatly to the effect of the spectacle.

It is a pleasant day, the pageant of the soldiers, the martial music, the marching bands, the gay companies of light and heavy troops, and the rattling decorations that make the inauguration so long to be remembered.

THE INAUGURATION.

GRAND CEREMONIES AT THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT.

Over one hundred thousand strangers were in Washington on the 4th inst., to witness the inaugural ceremonies. The city was joyfully decorated for the occasion, both public and private buildings being handsomely ornamented. The parade was the