

The Unstable and Indefinite Reformer.

Evidently conscious of the sorry figure it is cutting in the role of disorganizer which it has been lately, in its peculiar way, playing, the Baltimore Sun finds it necessary every second or third day to stop to explain its position. Being admonished by the press of the State that the only effect of its platitudinous effusions, if any effect at all they should have, would be to create suspicion and distrust in the Democratic party of the State, and tend to weaken or disorganize it, the Sun came out with a lengthy and verbose disclaimer of any such intention, and gave assurance that it was a firm believer in Democratic principles and earnestly desired to see the party in the ascendency. As every sane person, who has reached years of reason, is presumed to contemplate the natural and necessary consequences of his acts and declarations, such disclaimer on the part of the Sun was merely tantamount to pleading the baby act. It knew, of course that its labored generalities and unspecific suspicions would have no effect upon the Republican party of the State except to unite it, and it cannot even claim that it intended or hoped to create dissensions in that party. Its whole purpose, then, if it had any purpose, was to render such Democrats as might read its weary effusions and be influenced thereby, hostile to the councils of their party and insensible to the obligation of its discipline. The tendency of this, of course, would be, by combatting the fundamental principle upon which all party organization rests, to bring about dissensions and lack of unity in the Democratic party of the State. Every sensible man, who is familiar with the present status of the two parties in the State, knows that any considerable amount of dissensions among Democrats will greatly endanger the supremacy of the party in the State. The Sun in its disclaimers, which are semi-apologetic in their character, lays stress on the fact that it has not made any personal or specific charges against any one. This is precisely what provokes the contempt of all practical men for the Sun's articles. If the Sun had specifically stated the acts of corruption in the Democratic party of which it threw out so many ominous innuendoes and high sounding insinuations, and adduced substantial proof thereof, and at the same time showed that such corruption is as great or greater than that which existed in the Republican party during its brief maladministration of the affairs of this State, then it might find some justification in the eyes of the people of calm judgment for its extraordinary course, which it has so suddenly assumed. But the nature of its attack upon the Democratic party, and manner in which it has been pursued, deserves, and we believe, has received the contempt of all fair minded and calm judging men. One day we find it reasoning from the absurd premise that the primary is some hideous and concealed power, foreign to, and necessarily hostile to the people, and thus endeavoring to arouse odium and distrust against the fundamental principle upon which a political party is operated. The next day we hear it querulously railing at the last Legislature, which enacted a law regulating primary elections, because it did not extend the law to the counties where no unfairness has even been charged, and in the next breath childishly exclaiming that the fact that such a law was admitted to be necessary is proof conclusive that the primary is a very odious thing and ought to be avoided and deprecated by all honorable men. With equal force the whole human family, because laws punishing murder and other crimes had been passed necessary. It is just such inconsequential balderdash as this, that the Sun has been filling its editorial columns with in the last three or four weeks. But, in its last "explanation of our position," the Sun takes all its naughty sayings back by asserting that all it has ever meant has been that the municipal officers of Baltimore city and the local judiciary ought not to be nominated by the regular political methods. If possible, this last explanation and retraction renders the Sun's position more ludicrous than it was before. If it had been what it meant why on earth did it not say so in such terms that it could have been understood. If it was only contending for that, and could have convinced the Democrats of Baltimore city that it could have prevailed upon the Republicans to eliminate the local affairs from its organized utility of action also, then doubtless, many of those who have seen nothing but unmeaning verbiage and querulous insubordination in what it has had to say, would have been in full accord with it.

The Kansas City Times has been investigating the political situation in Pennsylvania, Maine and Ohio, and finds that "it is admitted that Pennsylvania will be lost to the Republican party this fall, and the conditions obtaining in New York are so similar in character to those existing in the contest in regard to Democratic success in Pennsylvania that it is logical to predict a victory as well in New York." After Pennsylvania in importance, is a political point of view, as the Times see it, are the elections and results in Maine and Ohio. In both of these States it predicts a Democratic victory. After reviewing the issues in Ohio, the Times sums up: "As a matter of fact, therefore, the embarrassments surrounding the Republican party in their campaign in Ohio are so many, and the circumstances so potent and patent that are likely to weaken the party, it is very safe to claim Ohio will be won by the Democrats." The indications are that our Western namesake has a level head.

GARLAND, who killed Addison in an impromptu duel, has been acquitted, the jury returning a verdict of not guilty after a brief consideration of the case. Hereafter, in Virginia, when the quarrelling politicians get mad enough to fight each other, the aggrieved party may send word to the other to "come down the road" instead of following the formal rules of the code. This is a shorter and simpler plan, and, consequently, safer, in case of bloodshed and a consequent trial.

Proof of Naturalization.

Judge Wm. P. Maulsby, of Carroll county, has contributed an article to the West- minster Advocate in which he takes the position that naturalized citizens, who have lost or mislaid their naturalization papers, are not compellable to exhibit copies of the record of their naturalization to the registration officers as a condition precedent to being registered under the new registration law, but that their own oath of their naturalization and that their original papers are lost or mislaid is sufficient evidence to warrant the officer in registering them as voters. The judge goes into a somewhat elaborate letter argument in support of his position. He bases his argument chiefly on that principle of the law of evidence, that, when the original instruments of documentary evidence are lost, secondary evidence of their contents is always admissible. This is certainly true as a principle of law, and it is also true that the law recognizes no grades of secondary evidence, and that oral proof of the contents of a lost paper is considered as good evidence thereof as an examined copy. Still we are doubtful of the correctness of the Judge's position upon this point, and think it would be much safer plan for the class of citizens he refers to to obtain copies of the record of their naturalization. The defect in the Judge's opinion, as it impresses us, is that the fact of the naturalization of an alien citizen, is a fact required to be proved by record evidence. The naturalization acts require the declarations of citizenship to be made in a court of record, and the minutes of such proceedings to be duly made upon the record. The certificate of naturalization which is delivered to the voter may be regarded, in a legal point of view, as a certified copy of a record, or an authentic certificate of a record. In this view of the case, the record itself is the original evidence of the fact of naturalization, and until there be proof of the destruction of the record itself no secondary evidence would be admissible, though an office copy would be a valid admission in proof of that fact as any other record fact. The circumstances contemplated by the Court in the New York case cited by Judge Maulsby in which secondary evidence of the fact of naturalization is said to be admissible appear to us to necessarily refer to the contingency of the destruction of the original record of naturalization. The Advocate in endorsing Judge Maulsby's views instances the case of the records of a court in which citizens had been naturalized being destroyed. In that case undoubtedly secondary evidence of the fact of naturalization would be admissible, and as there are no grades of secondary evidence the oath of a competent witness having knowledge of the fact, would, of course, be legal evidence of the fact, but while the original record exists, we doubt the correctness of the position taken by Judge Maulsby, and renew our advice to all naturalized citizens who have mislaid their papers to apply to the court where the naturalization was made for certified copies of the record, or duplicates of the original papers.

We do not think that the section of the constitution referred to by Judge Maulsby has any direct bearing upon this question. It provides that every "white male citizen of the United States" having the prescribed residence, shall have the right to vote. But the question presented here is whether an alien-born person, who presumes himself, asking the right of suffrage is or is not a citizen of the United States. The presumption is that he is not, and until he furnishes satisfactory evidence of that fact by proving a compliance with the naturalization laws of the United States the registrar would be justified in refusing him. As we have said, the legal evidence of such fact, being a matter of record, is, as we understand it, during the existence of the record, authentic exemplification of the record, and that appears to be the evidence required by the Federal naturalization acts; it cannot, therefore, be any unconstitutional exercise of power for the State Legislature to prescribe and require that evidence of the fact, as it seems to have done in the act of 1882.

A Mistake Somewhere.

In the "Laws of Maryland, 1882," just printed an issued, is an Act to repeal section one of article thirteen of the Code of Public General Laws, relating to Bastardy and Fornication, and to re-enact the same." The act strikes out the word white, and provides that "any justice of the peace upon information given him of any woman having an illegitimate child, may issue his warrant to a constable of the county or city, and the said constable shall thereupon take such person or persons, whose justice of the peace of the county, who shall require her to give security to indemnify the county from any charge that may accrue by means of such child, and upon neglect or refusal, shall commit her to the custody of the sheriff of the county, to be by him kept until she shall give such security."

This act is marked in the published laws "approved May 3, 1882." But the journal of the House of Delegates it appears, pp. 1575 and 1577, that, upon motion of Mr. Hammond, the enacting clause of said bill was stricken out in the House by a vote of 43 to 30, and it therefore cannot be a law if the House journal be correct. Now it really appears that the promulgation of our laws under the regime of the great law giver of Washington county has been all along and promises to continue to be a mixed up affair. For about eight months the courts and the people have been kept in entire ignorance of the laws enacted for their government at the last session and under which they are punishable; and now that they are promulgated in a single thousand volumes, we have at least one inserted that is not a law, and for all that is now known may rule out that ought to be inserted. It is a law we believe generally adopted in the courts that the officially published copies of the laws shall be evidence of the same in the courts of the State, but it is manifest that this rule must be abandoned under the present regime.

Never interrupt any conversation with a hacking Cough; it creates a bad impression. Better invest a quarter of a dollar in a bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup and cure it.

Immigrants for the South.

The Rev. Father Nugent, of Liverpool, who for the last few years has identified himself with the colonization of Irish families in this country, and who about two years ago sent a number of families from Concomera, Ireland, to a colony near St. Paul, Minn., where they have been unexpectedly successful in farming, was a visitor at Castle Garden Monday. He conferred with Secretary Jackson and some of the immigration commissioners with regard to other colonies of Irish families which he proposed to establish in this country next year. A letter from W. H. Smith, M. P., and chairman of the Irish emigration committee appointed by the House of Commons, in connection with Father Nugent's scheme, "was sent to the immigration commissioners, in which he says he is desirous of arranging to secure places for families from the west of Ireland, who will be sent to this country early next year. It is desired to have these families sent to the interior. It is not intended to send old or helpless persons, but "suitable families, capable of working, and who are not to be dropped into the slums of the city."

A letter was also received from Edward M. Boykin, superintendent of the immigration board of South Carolina, in which he says he expects during the next two months a large demand for field laborers. Knowing that the harvest being ended, the great movement westward will be checked, he requests assistance in filling orders. He adds: "I find the Baltimoreans, Hungarians and Poles do best as farm laborers, not being hampered with the resident Germans. The German laborer, is not so well adapted to a laborer, but wishes a chance to take a better position, and in this he is naturally encouraged by the resident German, usually he wishes to hire him himself." This makes the difference, and I intend myself to reply to the Sir, "Noble George named Dehman for the purpose." Another letter from a large planer in Burke county, Ga., says: "We have a few white boys in the south-western portion of this State, and we are well pleased with them as laborers and desire to go more. We want labor and we have it, if we continue to come. The negro has virtually quit the field and taken to politics and preaching, and our fields are growing up with weeds and bushes and if you will inform us how to get the Bohemians we will come at a very great favor on the planting investment of Burke county. From what I can learn from the newspapers and other sources the entire State is in the same condition or labor."

Hon. Richard T. Merrick concluded a powerful three days argument for the prosecution in the star route case on Monday and since that time Mr. Wilson has been speaking for the defense. The argument for the prosecution will be concluded by the Attorney General. The prosecution has made a strong case, and the summing up by Mr. Merrick was a most able and convincing arrangement of the defendants and demonstration of the guilt of the chief conspirators, but the impression prevails that the jury is so constituted as to render a verdict of conviction improbable, if not impossible.

Notes.

A colored baby in Lee county, Va., was found the other day with a large rattlesnake coiled about it.

Next week every day from Monday to Saturday, inclusive, the officers of Registration of voters will be open in every district of the county. But a small proportion of the voters are yet registered, and it should not be forgotten that if any one does not go forward now and register he cannot vote at all. He loses his vote and actually disfranchises himself.

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The late Senator Hill had a large income, yet died almost poor. The Atlanta Constitution says that the explanation is easy. He never invested in property that yielded any return, he spent lavishly. He was charitable and generous in public and private. He endorsed papers freely, and paid by his indiscretion. He gave each of his children a piece of real estate, either a house or a plantation.

Excursions were run on Sunday to Grand Rapids, thirty miles from Toledo, Ohio, on the Narrow Gauge road. On a return trip five or six desperadoes with drawn revolvers committed during robberies. One citizen lost \$25 and was thrown from the platform. All the desperadoes escaped except Larry King, whom the police secured when the train reached Toledo.

Cardinal Manning, the eminent Catholic divine, has just finished his seventy-fifth year, but is still in perfect health. Cardinal Manning was formerly a shining light in the Episcopal church, and went to Rome to convert Pope Pius the Ninth. The result of his visit was that he was himself converted to the Catholic faith.

Miss Fanny Reeves, a white girl about twenty years old, who was spending her school vacation at home with her father, a well-to-do farmer at Port Jackson, Long Island, has eloped with Charles Jackson, a full blooded negro, twenty-eight year old, who had been ten years in her father's employ. She joined her father by climbing down a ladder placed at her chamber window.

There is a man living near Newman, Ga., who has been working a gold mine for forty years and has not found a speck of gold. He has dug his pits in a sack on his back. One of his pits is a quarter of a mile long, and he has found gold, he has never realized a cent of profit from all his labor, but is yet at work and sure of success.

A young lady in Philadelphia, who was wearing a handsome new dress, the sleeves of which fitted as tight as her skin, came near losing her life on Saturday. In attempting to remove her waist the cuff of one sleeve was so tightly wedged against a door knob that circulation was arrested and she fainted. Her fall brought assistance, and the sleeves had to be cut off before she could be removed.

A Martin-Henry rifle was accidentally discharged during a recent firing on Houshous Heath, Pa. The ball passed over the heads of the 100 yard range and went through the front door of a gentleman's house a mile and a quarter distant from the house. In this case the ball, after traveling 3,200 yards or only 230 yards short of two miles, had still force enough to penetrate two and a half inches of hard wood.

REGISTRATION NOTICE.

To the Voters of Charles co. THE undersigned, duly appointed officers of registration for Charles county, under the Act of the General Assembly of Maryland passed at the January session 1882. Enforced an Act to provide for the uniform registration of all the qualified voters in this State. Herby give notice, that at their September meeting, which will be on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 29th, 30th, 31st, 1st and 2nd of October, 1882, they will sit at their offices in their respective election districts, at the several places hereinafter named on each of the aforesaid days, with open doors, from 8 o'clock a. m. to 6 o'clock p. m., during which hours the legal voters of Charles county are entitled to apply for registration.

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