

Baltimore city has an active delegation in the General Assembly. Some weeks ago we had occasion to notice how Mr. Brandy of the city delegation was proposing legislation restricting the sale of brandy in the State; week before last Senator Hayes was insisting on Hayting (hazing) Mayor Latrobe; and now here comes Virtue and is going to promote virtue, but diminish the revenues, by abolishing the marriage license fees. We wonder what the city delegation will do next.

Some time ago delegate Coffin, republican, of Prince Georges county, introduced a bill prohibiting the carrying of guns, pistols, knives, bludgeons and other weapons in that county on election day. On motion of Hon. Leigh Marbury Southernland the operation of the bill was extended to this county also and in that shape passed the House. As the colored population, whom Mr. Southernland in part represents, are the only people in this county who carry such weapons on election day, and as the phalanxes that march up to the polls from the breakfasts are generally pretty well provided with such implements, we wondered what inspiration had prompted the Hon. Leigh Marbury's action. When the bill reached the Senate, week week, Charles county was on motion of Dr. Lancaster exempted from the operation of the bill.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has just received from Mr. J. R. Dodge, statistician of the Agricultural Department, a long report upon the numbers and values of farm animals in the United States and the wages of farm labor. From this report it appears that the whole number of farm animals in the country has increased since February, 1883, by about 4,000,000. The largest increase is in stock, and is principally in the States west of the Mississippi. There has been an increase in the value of horses, mules and all kinds of cattle, with a considerable decline in the prices of swine, and a small falling off in the values of sheep. In that part of the report which deals with the wages of farm labor Mr. Dodge submits a mass of statistics to show that both the value of farms and the wages of agricultural labor are greatest in those States where industries are most diversified.

Representative Talbot presented a petition to the House of Representatives from the Maryland Legislature asking the United States to pay to the State the \$72,000 which was loaned the General Government in 1790 for the erection of public buildings, the government then being in straitened circumstances. Interest is also asked for from the time of the loan to the present. A resolution for that purpose was passed by the Legislature in February, 11, 1843. Several reports favoring the payment of the sum have been made by committees to Congress and bills for payment have also passed the Senate and House several times, but unfortunately not by both bodies during the session. These facts were set forth in the petition. The petition is signed by J. Pembroke Thom, Speaker of the House of Delegates; Henry Lloyd, President of the Senate, and George Robert M. McLane, and has been referred to the judiciary committee for consideration.

One of the largest tobacco manufacturers in Danville has discharged his negro, and employed white labor in his place, and others are to follow his example. No body can blame them. The negroes to be sure are ignorant, silly and prejudiced, but as they have sense enough to know whom to go to in time of trouble, they are responsible agents, and when they antagonize every interest, provoke disturbances, and threaten the peace and safety of the community in which they reside, and the people of which educate, afford them the means of living, and support them when sick and infirm, they cannot be surprised that those people should have a right to do with them as possible. It is the blame lies chiefly with their scoundrel white leaders, but as they would not jump into the fire at the command of those leaders, they have sense enough to deter them from obeying their orders, and to exhibit ill feeling toward the people from whom they get their meat and bread. Experience is a hard teacher, and the negroes are the most stupid of pupils, but they are not to be human if it shall require many years longer for them to learn that the people among whom they were born and with whom they live, and who understand them, want to be their friends, and that the scoundrels who put them in antagonism to their white neighbors, and whom they follow so implicitly, have no interest in nor use for them except at elections, when they profit by their votes - Alexandria Gazette.

Among the answers to correspondents in a recent issue of the New York World the following explanation of the law regulating citizenship in that State and in California appears:

"American Citizens.—You cannot vote in California without residing one year before the election in that State, nor in New York without actual residence in this State during one year previous to the election. By a constitution and law persons in the service of the United States or attending as students at institutions of learning away from home are allowed to preserve their domicile in one place for the purpose of voting, though actually resident in another place. But actual residence is required in all other cases."

The accuracy and reliability of this department of the World has become well known, and the above may be relied upon as a correct exposition of the law of those States on the subject. It will be seen that it is in full accordance with the views heretofore repeatedly advanced by the Times upon this subject, as well as with the decisions rendered in such cases by the Superior Court of Baltimore city in this State; but in conflict with the decisions of our Circuit Court upon the question. Nothing could be more specific than the provisions of our constitution upon this subject, and it has always been difficult for us to understand how our Court could find authority for the decisions it has rendered in the matter. It is understood that the Legislature deems the matter to be already so well settled by the constitution and the law as it stands that no amendment or more specific provisions are deemed necessary. It is of the highest importance that our registration officers should preserve the identity of such people as live outside of the State and in an election district in which they vote, because it seems clear that, in the case of a contested election, all such votes would be thrown out.

The Legal-Tender Decision.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the legal tender case affords a very forcible exemplification of the Republican idea of a "strong government." In the former decisions upon the greenback question by that tribunal, it had been held that a great civil war which threatened the very existence of the Government was the emergency which justified the extraordinary power, not granted by the constitution, of making the paper bills issued by the Government a legal tender for public and private debts. This was thought by the leading jurists of the country to be a strained and unwarranted judicial interpretation of the powers of the Government and it was said that the Supreme Court had been especially packed by the appointing power with a view of securing that decision.

In the recent decision the eight Republican judges hold that the resumption of notes in time of peace, after they had been redeemed and turned into the treasury, was within the constitutional power of Congress; and enunciate the proposition that the Congress shall be the exclusive and final judges of the emergency which shall warrant the exercise of that extraordinary power, and that their decision in that regard shall not be subject to the supervision or reversal of the judicial department of the Government.

It might appear, when abstractly considered, that the recent decision does not involve any very grave or material departure from the principle laid down by the Court in the former decisions upon this question. It might seem that the transition from the former adjudications that the civil war constituted a sufficient emergency for the exercise of the legal tender power, to the recent decision that Congress shall determine when the emergency exists, is an easy and natural one. But upon more careful examination it will be seen that the last decision, though probably a corollary which follows not inconsequently from the proposition previously established, is nevertheless fraught with much greater and more enduring danger to the business interests of the country. When it was understood that a great war alone would constitute the emergency which would invest Congress with this extraordinary and dangerous power of inflating the currency and unsettling values, in times of peace the business interests would feel ample security against it. But when it is known that any freak which may seize upon a majority of Congress and the Executive may precipitate this dangerous State of affairs upon the country, the insecurity of all invested capital becomes alarming.

But as great as are the dangers to the business interests of the country involved in the recent extraordinary decision, and as much as it is to be regretted and condemned; greater still, perhaps, are the menaces to the liberties of the people implied by the reasoning by which the majority of the court in their opinion work out their decision. Mr. Justice Gray, speaking for the majority of the court in the opinion, says: "The power to make the notes of the Government a legal tender in payment of private debts, being one of the powers belonging to sovereignty in other sovereign nations, and not expressly withheld from Congress by the Constitution, we are irresistibly impelled to the conclusion that the impressing upon the treasury notes of the United States the quality of being a legal tender in payment of private debts is an appropriate means conducive and plainly adapted to the execution of the letter and spirit of the constitution."

This, in a nutshell, is the Republican idea of a "strong government." All powers belonging to sovereignty in other sovereign nations, and not expressly withheld from Congress by the Constitution, are to be exercised by the Federal Government. All the powers wielded by the Czar of Russia, the Emperor of Germany or any other "sovereign nation" are to be exercised by our Federal Republic, unless they have been expressly withheld by the constitution. And this in the face of the plain letter of the tenth amendment that "the powers not delegated by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively or to the people."

It is eminently fitting and proper that this exposition of the legitimate consequences to which the Republican theory of "strong government" and a "higher law" unavoidably leads should be promulgated at this time by the Supreme judicial tribunal of the country. It is eminent proper that just upon the eve of the National election the "business interests," which the Republicans are laboring so zealously to alarm with the idea that the Democratic tariff policy is prejudicial to them, should realize, as they have already realized, the great and real dangers to their interest, as well as to the liberties of the people, contained in the "strong government" doctrine.

Perceiving this, many of the leading Republican newspapers of the country denounce and repudiate the decision. While approving of the "strong government" doctrine in the abstract and as long as its oppressions only bear upon the autonomy of the Southern States, these journals are not willing to accept the legitimate results of the doctrine when they come of general application. The New York Times, refers to it as a "mischievous power conferred upon Congress by the court" and speaking of the constitutional amendment recently introduced by Senator Bayard prohibiting Congress from making anything but gold and silver coin a legal tender, approves of it as a measure "to put back in the constitution the principle which the Supreme Court recently so rudely and violently wrenched from it." We believe that no thing has recently occurred in the history of our government that will more forcibly admonish the people of the dangers to be apprehended from the doctrine of implied powers and the safety and necessity to all interests in adhering to a conservative and strict interpretation of the Constitution as maintained by the Democratic party. As far as the merits of the recent adjudication is concerned, in our judgment it is effectually and conclusively put to the rest of the world in a few sentences of the able dissenting opinion of Mr. Justice Field, where he says: "If Congress has the power to make the notes of the United States a legal tender, it may make them pass as money, it may ask that necessity was there to invest it by the constitution with power to borrow money? If it can make money, why borrow it? It is not reasonable to suppose that were the question asked of a cable jurist as Mr. Justice Gray and the Chief Justice would have given their sanction to so absurd a decision, but must be admitted that the question are taken into consideration, as they had to be, it was difficult for the court to avoid the decision it has rendered. The question arises, where will the 'higher law' lead us to next?"

Much surprise was created among the friends and advocates of freedom reform at the action of the Senate on Friday, when the bill to punish bribery and other corrupt practices at elections was reached, in postponing action on the bill until Tuesday. This surprise was greater from the fact that Senator Bowles, the chairman of the committee on elections and the author of the bill, raised the objection to the prompt consideration of the bill. The Senator may have had valid reasons, not apparent to the outside observer, for his action; but it has certainly excited unfavorable comment which seems to be entirely justified, as it is feared that any postponement of the measure at this late day in the session may jeopardize its passage at the present session. The Baltimore Sun of Tuesday in an able leading editorial has the following comments on the matter:

"No one would then have imagined anything short of unanimity in the support of such a bill, and would have been surprised to suggest to any constituency that a bill so found on the floor of the Senate or House in opposition to a bill so found independent to every voter and honest in every ballot there after to cast. There yet remains time for the Senate to repair the disaster of Friday by speedily passing the bill, and to send it to the House for its approval. The House also passed the bribery bill, the appropriation bill for 1883, the public uniform bill, and other bills to establish a home for indigent at Spring Grove and the bill on the motion of Mr. Sewell, which would read the second time to increase the pay of public captains; to transfer Baltimore and Ohio bonds and the money to be received from the Reading settlement to the sinking funds of maturing State loans; the Wilkinson tobacco bill, the oleomargarine bill, the labor statistics bill, and the appropriation bill for 1884. 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