

DAILY DEMOCRAT.

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H. A. BURKE, Managing Editor.

NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 16, 1880.

TRIPLE SHEET

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC "AN ARABIAN NIGHTS," by the Arabian Night Combination.

WEATHER PROBABILITIES.

For the West Gulf States, partly cloudy weather, occasional rains, southerly winds, stationary or higher temperature and barometer.

The Memphis Avalanche still doubts, in a blind sort of way, the success of the jetties. As this does not hurt the jetties, and seems to do the Avalanche a world of good, it is unnecessary to attempt to set the matter right.

The Blaine men will crow all the louder now that Kentucky and Missouri have instructed for Grant. It is a way they have, but it falls somehow to secure delegations to Chicago.

President Hayes says he has no intention of removing Col. Mosby from the consulate at Hong Kong, but expresses the opinion that he will write too many letters. Seward thought so too.

The Irish Home Rule members in the English Parliament will number 66—a gain of six over their representation in the last Parliament. Of these, thirty-six, a considerable majority, are followers of Parnell, and believe in an active policy being pursued to carry out the end they have in view.

Wednesday was a good day for Grant. Three States held their Republican conventions, Iowa, Kentucky and Missouri, and in all cases instructed their delegates. The net result is 54 delegates for Grant and 22 for Blaine. Grant has now 180 delegates instructed or pledged, a large majority of all those elected.

The managers propose that Senator Conkling shall be president of the Chicago convention, and it is understood that Don Cameron is to make the motion to that effect. Thus far so good. It is safe to say that if the first part of the programme is carried out subsequent proceedings will possess little interest for Blaine and Sherman.

The Sherman boom does not seem to have crossed the Mississippi. Of about eight hundred delegates to the Republican convention in Iowa the Secretary received just one. Yet the bureau at Washington feels much encouraged, and is preparing to move on other States, with the hope of an equally encouraging result.

Our sanction was renewed last evening by a call from the talented city editor of the Mobile Register, Col. Erwin Sedgwick, who visits our city as one of the guests of the Army of Northern Virginia. We regret his short stay with us, but feel assured that our army friends have made his visit a pleasant one.

The reaction in prices which was predicted by wise political economists some time ago has apparently come, and wheat, corn, pork, lard, and even iron, have tumbled down from their dizzy heights. This is the natural effect of a boom—political or business. It is rushed until it is carried beyond the proper bounds; there is then a dropping back. The decrease in prices is no evidence of any real decline in business, or in the prosperity of this country.

At the recent meeting of the Chicago Presbytery the committee on foreign missions made a strong point in the review of the work done during the year. "It would cost the United States War Department," says the report, "\$1,450,000 to kill fifty-eight Indians. The economy of converting them at a cost of \$12,500 is manifestly conspicuous." The suggestion contained in the last quoted sentence may not meet the views of the War Department, but the general public will accept it as eminently practical.

Hardly a day passes but we hear of some railroad being gobbled up by one of the great railroad kings. Jay Gould, Tom Scott and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad are swallowing up the other roads as rapidly as possible. Yesterday was the Louisville and Nashville Company's day, and the captured road was that portion of the Alabama Western extending between Montgomery and Selma. This road, the Louisville and Nashville, has now beyond doubt the largest railroad connections in the South.

The Blaine men pretend to find some consolation in the fact that on the last ballot in the Republican convention at Cincinnati in 1876, to nominate a candidate for the Presidency, "the plumed knight" secured only 30 votes, from the New England States, whereas he is now assured of 43 from that section and in all probability will get 60. The other States, in which they predict he will gain over his vote in 1876, are Indiana, California, Michigan and Ohio, all of which voted solidly against him then.

Serious doubts are entertained if Senator Grover, of Oregon, will again occupy his seat. It has been vacant now for three months, during which time the Senator has been on a sick bed in Central New York. His constitution is said to be entirely broken down and he is threatened with paralysis. It is even said that his death is likely to occur at any moment. Politically speaking, this would not seriously affect party prospects just now, as the Legislature of Oregon is Democratic. Senator Grover's term does not expire until 1883.

CITY CHARTER BILL.

In another column will be found the reasons assigned by Gov. Wills for not signing the act to reorganize the local government of New Orleans. However much the most enthusiastic advocate of a change in the form of our municipal government may have desired a new charter, it is quite certain that he never contemplated the passage of an act so contrary to the spirit of our institutions, and which trespasses so grossly upon the rights of the individual citizen as the bill under consideration.

The bill is in direct conflict with article 1 of the constitution (Bill of Rights), which defines the powers of government, viz: Its only legitimate end is to protect the citizen in the enjoyment of life, liberty, property, and when it assumes other functions it is usurpation and oppression.

In the face of this constitutional provision it is sought to invest a board of aldermen with power to suppress the amusements of the people, newspapers, bakers, jewelers, chemists, cotton classifiers, painters, carpenters, printers, engravers, coopers, architects, builders and mechanics, hospitals, saloons, beer houses, and hundreds of callings that affect the citizen in all the relations of life, and to fix the rates of wagonage, drayage and cartage.

No less objectionable is the attempt to empower the council to declare any business or property a nuisance, and without process of law to enter upon and take possession of it.

Section 25, which provides that no contract shall be awarded to any but a citizen of New Orleans, is most unwise and would subject the city to great loss in the future in carrying out any system of improvements, as it debars the city from purchasing from first hands articles not manufactured here.

Section 50 would destroy the power of the Council to carry on the very government which the act attempts to create, by giving a preference to the payment of old claims over current expenses.

Section 37 embodies an extraordinary grant of power to seize persons and papers in all questions where the interests of the city are involved.

Section 22 empowers the Council to sell all parks or other public grounds belonging to the city, and thus rob the people of any future benefit from the grounds which they have made such sacrifices to pay for, in the hope that one day they could be embellished. The act in question violates the constitution in attempting the enactment of special legislation upon subjects which are general in character, and presents to the reader a specimen of crude legislation, which can only be accounted for by the hasty and inconsiderate manner in which it was amended and passed through the House.

It will be remembered that all but a few sections of the bill were passed in the House within a few minutes time, without debate or consideration, and that the bill as a whole reached the Senate too late to receive that careful examination which the Senate appears to have given the mass of the business which originated in the lower house.

Complaints have been made against the power vested in the administrative bureau, but this act would create the most despotic government that was ever empowered to oppress a people, with questionable means for promoting the happiness or welfare of the citizen, but with power, in improper hands, for incalculable evil. Under these circumstances the Governor of the State has but performed an imperative duty in withholding his signature to the act.

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

It has been a matter for sincere regret with all well wishers for the success of the Democratic party that serious differences of opinion have arisen concerning the action of the delegates to the State convention from the First District in assuming the right to nominate a Congressman. As the DEMOCRAT stated heretofore, the objections do not appear to rest against the distinguished gentleman who has been named for the position; on the contrary, his frequent selection by that district, his recent election to succeed a Senator from this State, and his recognized position and services, preclude any discussion on that point. Nevertheless it must be admitted that discontent exists with the people who must vote, and upon whom depends success in the coming election.

We are not prepared to say to what extent this discontent exists, and the DEMOCRAT has refrained from saying anything that would in any way increase the acerbity of feeling, with the hope and belief that some way would be found to correct the matter and restore harmony. From the correspondence in another column it would appear that Gen. Gibson recognizes the doubt existing in the minds of both friends and opponents as to the power of the delegates to do more than select delegates to the Cincinnati Convention, and with that self-sacrificing spirit which is worthy of a gentleman who has received such high honors from the Democratic party, he plainly indicates to his political friends the propriety and necessity of inaugurating measures that will heal all dissensions.

As we have heretofore said, this district casts fifteen thousand Democratic votes, and the party can neither afford a lukewarm campaign nor one embarrassed by party dissensions; therefore, we trust that the example and the advice offered by Gen. Gibson will be acted upon by his political friends in such manner as to secure the united support of the Democracy of that district for a congressional nominee. Gen. Gibson has certainly not impaired his claims upon the people of his district, if the nomination should be again submitted for their action, by his prompt and self-sacrificing advice to his supporters.

NO TROOPS FOR ELECTIONS.

After a prolonged debate the House of Representatives, by a vote of 116 to 95, adopted the proposed amendment to the army appropriation bill, and then by a vote of 118 to 95 passed the bill itself—a strict party vote, except that of Mr. Nichols, of Georgia, who voted in the negative. The amendment, which was so strongly opposed by the Republicans, stipulates that no money appropriated in the act shall be paid for the subsistence, equipment, transportation or compensation of any portion of the army of the United States to be used as a police force to keep the peace at the polls at any election held within any State. In his speech on the pending amendment Gen. Ewing, of Ohio, very clearly illustrated the inconsistency of the Republicans in denouncing the practice of putting riders on appropriation bills, and showed that during twelve years of Republican regime no less than 387 political riders

had been tacked on to appropriation bills. In conclusion he declared that no matter on which side the troops might be used at elections, they would be base instruments of the party despot who sent them there.

MILITARY PENSIONERS.

During the discussion of a bill to place non-commissioned officers of the army on the retired list after thirty years of service, Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, made a spirited little speech in opposition. He said he had due respect for the soldiers, but he thought they were already sufficiently honored and provided for. He called attention to the fact that while the national capital was filled with monuments to soldiers, money could not be raised by subscription there to erect a monument to a civilian, no matter how distinguished, nor would Congress entertain a proposition to retire on a pension public servants who had been faithful in a civil capacity. And yet, he said, there were civilians as useful at home and in public walks during the war, and of as much service to the country as any soldier in the field. He said that for those reasons among others he should always oppose all increases of the pension lists for purposes at all like those contemplated in the pending bill. These objections, it will scarcely be doubted, were honestly made by the staunch old Senator from Delaware, but it is to be regretted that the public mind has heretofore been indisposed to listen to such arguments. In fact, since the termination of the war, it has been regarded as more or less treasonable to even dissent from any measure, no matter how unnecessary or extravagant its provisions might be, looking to the bestowal of honors or emoluments upon persons who have been engaged in the military service of the country. At the rate the pension list has been increased during the past few years, if continued, it will not be long until one-half of the daily earnings of the un pensioned will be required to support those who have preferred claims upon the government. As Mr. Saulsbury intimates, it is time that the pension roll should be abolished. The laboring men of the country, who are contending with their employers for barely living wages, cannot look favorably upon any measures that contemplate the increase of the already grand army of public idlers. If officers and non-commissioned officers are entitled to government support after thirty years' service, why not place workmen on the same footing?

The city of St. Louis is in luck. It has just won a great suit against the Missouri Pacific Railroad, involving, principal and interest, the sum of \$920,000. In 1865, when the road was in a bankrupt and unfinished condition, it borrowed from the county of St. Louis \$700,000 in bonds. The interest was promptly paid on these until 1876, when the road passed into the hands of receivers under a foreclosure of mortgage. The county of St. Louis appeared in the courts and asked that its claim against the road should be recognized as binding, and that it should be sold subject to this claim. The United States Circuit Court sustained this view, and made a decree that whoever bought under the foreclosure proceeding should buy subject to the claim of the county, and established the claim as a lien on the road superior to any other interest then existing. When the road was sold the purchaser appealed from this decree to the United States Supreme Court. In the meantime the county made over its claim to the city of St. Louis, by which the suit was prosecuted and finally won. Pending the proceeding before the Supreme Court the road was again sold, Jay Gould this time becoming the purchaser. It will devolve upon him, therefore, to satisfy the judgment.

If report is to be believed, James Gordon Bennett is about to engage in a journalistic enterprise that will completely overshadow the Stanley expedition to find Livingston and the Jeannette's search for the North Pole. It is said that he intends to establish a chain of two-cent morning newspapers, reaching from New York to the Pacific coast, and including Buffalo, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Kansas City and San Francisco. To conduct such an enterprise as this would require a large capital and almost unlimited energy. The former Mr. Bennett has, and it is understood that John Russell Young will supply the latter, he having been selected as the general director of the papers to be embraced in the scheme. The new journals are to share the telegraph facilities of the New York Herald, and are, like it, to be independent in politics. As a story was afloat some months ago that Mr. Bennett intended to print an edition of the Herald in the city of London, and as he has done nothing of the kind thus far, the present report may be taken with a large degree of allowance.

The telegraph has told us something of the effect of the English elections on the Continent and the general consternation they caused among the European powers, with the exception of Russia, which, of course, was delighted at the defeat of jingoism. It is said that one of the powers which is most interested in the change and which expects the most of it is Spain. All the Spanish newspapers express themselves delighted at the Liberal success, and declare that it must result in the cession of Gibraltar to Spain. The new Liberal government will, they think, take England out of European politics, and will advocate the theory of "peace at any price," so that a little pressure from Spain will gain back Gibraltar. As able statesmen as Castelar and Canovas pretend to believe this and announce that when Gladstone's government is installed, one of the first acts of Spain will be to demand its ancient possession, Gibraltar.

The House District Committee has reported a bill appropriating \$677,000 for the completion of the Washington monument at the capital. The task of erecting this monument has been one of the heaviest the government has taken on its hands. It was begun in 1799, so that it has been under way eighty-one years. In this period only 156 feet of the proposed height of 700 feet has been completed. At this rate three centuries will barely bring us to the glass pyramid which, it is proposed, shall be placed on the summit of this structure.

The impanelling of negroes on juries in Virginia has been a question before the public for some time. A number of Virginia State judges refused to summon negroes on their juries. The question was brought before Judge Reeves, of the United States District Court for Virginia, who decided that this was contrary to the fifteenth amendment, and that a negro had a right to be tried by his peers (negroes). The United States Supreme Court sustained this decision despite the protest

of the Virginia Legislature that this was an invasion of the rights of the State. One, at least, of the Virginia judges has changed his views on this question, and negroes are now called to serve on juries in Petersburg, where they had never served before.

Another story of famine comes to us from the province of Orenburg, in Russia, where, it is reported, the greatest destitution prevails. There is now scarcely a quarter of the globe we can turn our eyes to where famine and destruction are not prevailing. In Ireland, Galway and Mayo are the scenes of the greatest suffering; in Silesia, the people are living on flour made from clay; around Adrianople, in Turkey, the dogs are the only food available, and men and women drop down dead in the streets every day from lack of food; in Brazil the dead can already be counted by hundreds of thousands; and in far-off China by millions. There is probably no time in the history of the world when there was so much suffering of this kind. The United States appears to be the only country of its size and extent where crops are successful and where actual destitution does not prevail.

CURRENT TALKS.

GERMAN EMIGRATION TO AMERICA. The report of the Commissioner of Emigration of the German Empire contains some very significant figures. From it we learn that 29,377 emigrants left the country during the year 1879. Of this entire number 20,508 came to the United States. There is an increase of the total emigration in 1879 of over 9000 persons, while the emigration to the United States shows an increase of 10,436. The signs already apparent in the Empire indicate that the present year will witness an activity in emigration which will surpass the great movements of 1871 and 1872. This extraordinary exodus is generally attributed to the contemplated movements of the armies of the Empire. Similar movements are also in progress from Scandinavia and other portions of Europe, which, added to that from the British Isles, will swell the grand total of additions to the population of the United States to almost incalculable proportions. Speaking of the German emigration movement the New York Tribune comments the fact to the thoughtful consideration of the people who are trying to bring about the reformation of Gen. Grant. It thinks such a course will drive the great mass of the Germans in this country from the ranks of the Republican party, as it cannot be denied that they have grave apprehensions as to the result of a third presidential term.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES. Eighty millions of gold has been received in the United States from foreign countries during the past year. Our government has been collecting silver at a rapid rate—so much as two millions in a month—and yet the great operators in Wall street and financiers elsewhere are asking where all the money goes. An exchange undertakes to solve the conundrum by stating that the revival of domestic and foreign trade has absorbed a great many millions for its use, and that it has been the custom for the New York banks to disburse many more millions every fall to move the cotton crop. This heretofore has only been a temporary advance of the money to the cotton shippers, as was that of an equally large sum which went to the Northwest to move the grain crop. These were only short loans made by New York to the country. The past season, it is said, has reversed all this. Of the millions sent South to move cotton not more than two-thirds has come back, the other third remaining in Southern hands at present. Of the much larger sum sent West and Northwest for the grain and pork a very large balance is now in the pockets of the farmers, where it is likely to remain. For the first time in many years it is remarked that these farmers can show a respectable surplus in cash for the year's crop, after paying labor and store bills.

SHADOWS OF COMING EVENTS. The New York Nation of a recent date published what purported to be an interesting phase of the civil rights question, based upon the rulings of the Supreme Court of the United States relative to the power of local school boards to make obligatory the reading of the Bible in the public schools. This decision of the final court is alleged to have been rendered in May, 1880, while the case was appealed from the April term of the Supreme Court of Illinois of the same year. The effect of this ruling, according to the Nation, was to deprive the Roman Catholic population of Illinois of the right to education in the public schools, which they are largely taxed to support. It is further stated by this chronicle of public events that an injunction had just been granted in the United States Circuit Court in Chicago to remove the said case into that court. "Every man," said the learned judge presiding in the Circuit Court, "has a right to an equal enjoyment of the privileges of education for which he is taxed; and to abridge this right is an invasion of the fourteenth amendment." A similar ruling is announced to have just been made in the United States Circuit Court in Alabama. Under date of September, 1880, is noticed that a late decision of the Supreme Court of Ohio, to the effect that the compulsory reading of the Bible in the public schools must be abandoned, has just been reversed by the Supreme Court of the United States. "Have not Protestant Christians," argued Mr. Justice Strong, giving the opinion of the court, "their rights under the fourteenth amendment, believing, as they do, that the Bible is the basis of education; and can they be constitutionally deprived of these rights in a State where their money goes to supply three-fourths of the expense of these schools?" It had been objected, on the argument, that this position was inconsistent with a late ruling in Chicago, by the United States Circuit Court there sitting, to the effect that reading the Bible in the schools could not be constitutionally enforced, as the effect was to impair the civil rights of Roman Catholics. "It proves," he said in the course of his opinion, "that under the fourteenth amendment the rights of no class in the community can be invaded, and that the fourteenth amendment, as it was lately remarked by a distinguished Federal judge in Virginia, Brown, J., in fact as well as in theory, proclaims liberty throughout the land. It might indeed be argued that this breaks up the schools, since they cannot at the same time read and not read the Bible. The objection, however, is irrelevant, and if the schools interfere with civil rights, so much the worse for the schools."

ROUGH ON BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. According to an article published in the London Athenaeum, Benjamin Franklin is not entitled to the credit of having first drawn lightning from the clouds. On the contrary, the Athenaeum confesses a sort of satisfaction, on behalf of the Old World, in being taught to anticipate this triumph of experimental sagacity, though only by a few days, in favor of an experiment made at the suggestion of Buffon by M. Dalibard, at his country house at Marly-la-Ville, about eighteen miles from Paris, on May 10, 1752. It is five days before the observation at Philadelphia by Franklin. It is stated that M. Dalibard's house stood on a high plain, some 400 feet above the sea level, and here a wooden scaffolding was erected supporting an iron rod eighty feet long and a little more than an inch thick. At about five feet from the ground this rod was connected with an electrical apparatus. On the day above designated a thunder storm came on. M. Dalibard was absent in Paris, but he had left the apparatus in charge of a faithful

sentinel, an old soldier named Collier, with full instructions. Collier presented to the conductor an iron key with the handle bound in silk, and was thus the first human observer who drew down, by tentative means, the electric spark from the clouds. This account is calculated to seriously impair our American Benjamin's "boom" in the lightning-rod business.

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