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EIGHT PAGES

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1899.

OUR LOCAL POLITICAL FRIENDS.

The Virginian-Pilot comes to ask no favors of such of Mr. Martin's friends as have gotten control of the local political machinery. This paper is a firm, immovable, and abiding friend of the Democratic party. More than once has the Virginian-Pilot asked the public to withhold judgment, when a question was raised as to the fairness and justness of some act of the local party leaders at the time severely criticised.

The Virginian-Pilot does come now, gentlemen, to ask that you will make a fair fight in the Senatorial race. Because you have the machinery now, on account of Mr. Tyler's lateness in announcing his candidacy, do not use it against fellow members of your own party to rush through nominations for candidates for the Legislature. Give Tyler a fair showing; give the people a fair showing; or as sure as the sun shines, and a just Heaven rules over the affairs of men, you will be called to account. An undue haste will prove a boomarang to recoil upon your heads. Have no part in another Martin investigation; have no more grumbling and bickering.

The word has gone forth in the upper and western sections of the State that Norfolk city and county are held by the throat by a few politicians with no other interest at heart than their own personal interest. This paper has indignantly denied such a report. Let us still rest upon the honest belief and confidence that the Virginian-Pilot has in you. Let no slanderous charge of undue haste have the least foundation. Fight for Martin (if you feel that it is to the best interest of the State to do so), in a fair and open manner, but in the name of the party, in the name of right, in the name of all that is proper and just, fight in a fair and open manner.

This is not the only battle to be waged. Politics make strange bed fellows. In a few years, aye, in a few months you may feel driven into your own vitals the shaft set loose, not at random, but at J. Hoge Tyler. This city is an anti-Martin city, and there is no fact better known. Tyler has, as yet, no organization here, but the voice and sentiment of the people, though slow to rise, is mighty and all prevailing when, like a mad torrent, it is started. Be careful, be conservative, be wise.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The prophets in Richmond give Martin the cities and Governor Tyler the counties. If this be a fact, Tyler will win the race.

But why this prophecy? It is because, say the prophets, that Martin has been organizing all these months; because he has the "basement" officers in Richmond with him, and because he has leading politicians in the cities with him. Nothing is said about THE PEOPLE, except that Mr. Martin hopes that his friends will rush through the primaries before the people realize what is going on.

And so that is what Mr. Martin depends upon—the failure of the people to vote, and the "rushing" of primaries.

It certainly looks that way. The election takes place in November, and yet here is grand old Norfolk county, in the middle of July, selecting a delegate. We sincerely regret this step and wish that Hon. M. S. Newberne should have put his foot down upon it. If Martin is not afraid of Tyler, why has he adopted this practice? If he is willing to meet him fairly, why is he using such machinery as he controls at such an unfair advantage? Are we to have dissatisfaction and grumbling?

Gentlemen of the party, this does not pay. You are fighting within party lines—opposing men, whose time and money have been at your service as servants of the Democratic party. It is their voice that calls a halt and asks you to consider. You may soon be a candidate again or have a friend who is, and have thrown in your face the "quick primary."

So it is Tyler in the counties; and Martin in the cities—because Martin got in his organization in the cities, but could not in the counties. It is not known exactly what the sages mean by organization, but if it means a suppression of the choice of the people by unfair methods, it is greatly to be deplored.

TO THE RECORD.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Harrisonburg Spirit of the Valley, does us the honor to quote the following from our columns:

"Republicanism is for the Money-power; Monopoly, Scarcity, Despotism and imperialism.

"Democracy is for Manhood, Competition, Plenty and Liberty.

"Which are you for?

"Which is right?"

And then it adds the following comments:

"Results and achievements are what parties must be judged by and not by unfounded claims made by over-zealous partizans. Under Republican policies this country has grown and prospered as it never grew before, and as no country either in ancient or modern times ever grew and prospered. Never in the history of the world was the condition of all, but especially of the working man, so good as it is here in this country, and never was there a time when their liberty was more secure.

"It is the Republican party which stands for 'Liberty, Plenty, Manhood and Competition,' as proved by the record."

Right! dear friend—that "parties must be judged not by unfounded claims made by over-zealous partizans." But you at once proceed to make unfounded claims, in direct violation of your own rule, while our claims are absolutely self-evident, so well are they founded in fact.

Is not Republicanism for the Money power? What party passed the gold monopoly act of February 12, 1873? What party passed the banking monopoly act of February 25, 1863? What party, in and out of Congress, by legislation, in administration and banking contracted the currency, and made money and currency so scarce that large districts of Virginia, as well as of other States, have had to return to barter, and endure all the evils of little or no money in circulation, and no credit on account of scare money and the reduced value of all property outside of our great cities? What party invented American imperialism and despotism, introduced them into our politics, and is now practicing them, not only in the Filipines, but in our own States, in all conflicts between capital and labor—as General Merriam in Iowa? These questions carry their own answer to all informed persons. And the Republican party and the things it serves came together, for the first time in free America, in 1861.

As the Democracy opposes the Republican party, with all its might, in everything above enumerated, of course it follows that it is for Manhood and Liberty as against Militarism, Colonization, "military aggression," subjugation, despotism and imperialism. That the Democrats are for competition against monopoly and plenty against scarcity is apparent from the fact that they have opposed the silver demonetization act from its first appearance (over a quarter century ago) to this moment, when the repeal of that act is one, at least, of their principal demands,—that act being the source of monopoly, trusts, combines, and the contraction of the currency which, making money scarce, has made everything, in effect, scarce, despite the bounty of heaven. The richer are getting richer, no doubt, for nobody ever doubted that, and the Republicans are actually offering the fact as a proof of the prosperity of the people who are robbed to make up these figures that reveal the cash amount put into the pockets of the speculators upon their wrongs and misfortunes!

But our contemporary claims much for the Republican party, which came on the scene day before yesterday, as it were, when the Democracy had not only founded the government, established its liberties and independence, wrested an empire from the wilderness and made us the peer of all nations, but had vindicated to the world man's capacity for self-government, by a grand Republic that defied the despotisms of Europe, surpassed them in wealth and strength and presented a model of prevailing happiness and prosperity.

Republicanism came. It says it saved the Union. For what? To degrade American citizenship by casting it to racial and hereditary bondsmen; to make us all slaves to a war-born oligarchy of money, fraud and force; to fasten on us militarism and standing armies, colonization and imperialism, monopoly, trusts, combines, and a despotism of incorporated power and consolidated wealth of which government is but the servile tool, legalizing robbery and nationalizing buccaneering and piracy, and debauching even good men to the false glare that is not greatness and glory, but the meretricious incendiarism that fires the Temple of Liberty with the constitution, the Declaration of July and the Code of Christ.

THE HEROES OF REFORM.

That portion of the press and people that expressed a strong wish for a good candidate to represent Senatorial reform in Virginia are under double obligations to rally to Gov. Tyler and support him as the candidate of the people and reform. Committed to reform by their professions and arguments, by their advocacy of the conference and their approval of its acts and declarations, they are further bound by joining in the call for someone to lead the movement before the people.

It is both stupid and cowardly for persons and papers, or any of them, that thus united in declaring war for Senatorial reform and demanding a leader, to plead that the movement must make a formal nomination, through the regular Democratic organization, before they can take any decided part! Why didn't they say so before? Why didn't they take this stand from the first? It is equivalent to making announcement now that they are just as ready to go for anti-reform and its candidate, as for reform and its candidate!

This is amazing. But as anti-reformers refused to run and stand up like men and fight these rampant champions of reform, that so recently filled the stage with their mock heroism, now run at the first sight of an enemy and the sound of the first gun!

DO THE PEOPLE CONSENT FREELY?

The Virginian-Pilot is for Senatorial reform, no matter who or what is for or against it. It believes reform to be absolutely necessary, not only as a national means of political salvation, but to save Virginia from the depths of degradation into which so many States have already plunged, or been hurled, through a prostitution of their legislators to infamous influences and the betrayal of their sworn obligations to the people and the State. That all honest men, all good citizens and all the people should be unanimously in favor of this Senatorial reform, we are firmly convinced; and the Virginian-Pilot is for it, though every man and newspaper in the bounds of this commonwealth be opposed to it.

Not that this journal, in any case of this kind, professes revolution, or sedition. No. The Virginian-Pilot yields to the majority in all things, if it act in conformity to law, though it be in the most glaring error possible. But with a protest, and still holding our views, we should submit with the decency that becomes good citizens in a free country. For, let others think as they may the Virginian-Pilot infinitely prefers the worst self-government to the best possible rule enforced by usurpers against the will of the governed, whether by fraud or force.

Mr. Facing-Both-Ways has been resting in seclusion from his arduous labors. It is a hard task to be always on duty, either looking two ways at once, or looking one way, and rowing another; but good, true and brave men are equal to any sacrifice, and so Mr. Facing-Both-Ways is at the front, as usual. Grand patriot!

Senator Martin and Governor Tyler both stand unreservedly upon the Chicago platform. Both are avowed party men, and their race for the Senate will be run strictly within the lines of the Democratic organization. No political issue whatever is involved in the contest between them at the present time. In view of this fact, we suppose that most of the papers in the State will do as the Dispatch has done with regard to the matter and refrain from taking sides.—Norfolk Landmark.

Which means that they who are not for the people and reform are against them. There is no other issue between Governor Tyler and Mr. Martin.

The Virginian-Pilot is a young journal; but it finds that it is very "old-fashioned" in many of its views and convictions. As to these, however, new or old, its only solicitude is that they be correct in fact and just in spirit, with no collusion nor compromise with the principles, policies, or measures that would betray or injure popular rights or interests. All of us seek the strongest side, and we think the right side is stronger than the wrong. At any rate, we used to be taught in old times that God and the people ruled this country in the long ago, and we naturally like to be with the majority. Time will show which is mistaken.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

NOVEL COURTSHIP IN JAPAN.

A Japanese girl who desires to get married does not hesitate to inform the public of her desire. In a recent issue of the Japanese Journal, "Kanazawa Chimbum," one of these girls, who signs herself "Hosutjoshi," is very outspoken on this point, as the following notice shows: "I, the undersigned, am a pretty girl with abundant hair, flower like face, perfect eyebrows and a good figure. I have money enough to take life easy and to enable me to spend my years with some beloved man who will ever be my companion and who can admire the flowers with me by day and the moon by night. If any clever, accomplished, handsome and fastidious gentleman is disposed to accept this offer, I can assure him that I will be true to him for life and that, after life is over, I will be ready to be buried with him in one grave."

It is not an unheard of thing for European or American girls to advertise for husbands, but it is very doubtful if any European or American paper has ever contained such a poetical matrimonial advertisement as this one. Moreover, it is very doubtful if any European or American girl would ever think of offering to share the same grave with the gentleman, who might accept her offer of marriage. Verily, they do things differently in Japan.