

Evils in Politics—Who Responsible.

Some of our wisest and most reliable political thinkers and observers, have expressed the conviction, that the many evils which have environed the practical workings of our political system, are not so much attributable to the faults of the system, or the ignorance of the great majority of the voters, as to a feeling of repugnance entertained in the minds of a large fraction of the more refined and religious portion of society towards entering into the active duties of politics, lest by the performance of such duties, their skirts might become contaminated. This feeling, it may be called discount, has fostered a spirit of indifference and absolute neglect in this class, and encouraged the evils in politics of which they are always ready to complain. If we read the history of American politics understandingly, the best talent, refinement and virtue of the early fathers, did not esteem it repugnant to their sense of propriety or decency to enter actively and earnestly into every proposed measure, bearing upon the political welfare and happiness of the country, and of society. Wisdom and virtue were the qualities sought in a candidate for political honors, and individuals were brought forward who were supposed to possess these attributes in the highest degree. They did not announce themselves. It was considered disreputable for a man to bring himself out, much less to go about the country trying to persuade men to vote for him. He was honored by being selected by his fellow citizens in the first instance, and then the canvassing was done by them, and not by him. A man who would except, or offer a bribe, was henceforward looked upon as belonging to the lowest type of degraded humanity, and his political doom was sealed. In those days, politics was allowed to have a moral character; and the reason why it was so, was because intelligent, refined and religious men, took an active, leading part in politics. A man's political principles were based on his moral faith; or, in other words, his moral faith gave coloring to his political principles; and immorality, and corruption, and crime committed in politics, were just as bad as if they were committed in religion. An idea has become prevalent in politics, now-a-days, that a man may entertain views and do things in politics without blame, which would cover him with disgrace in religion. For example: In religion, deception is hypocrisy; in politics, it is shrewdness. In religion, lying is a sin; in politics, a professional accomplishment. In religion, fraud and theft are crimes; in politics, the party that commits them endeavors to shield the active criminals, while the opposition, in many cases, resorts to lying to make the crimes appear worse than they really are. They seem to forget that a crime is a crime wherever it is committed, or by whom, and should be so regarded and punished. Our modern politics is a dirty mess and no mistake; but it has in a large measure become so just by the persistent neglect of a large fraction of the refined and moral element of society. The remedy is for them to take hold as they did in New York and Chicago, and purify the political pool. If they do not, they should cease complaining of political corruption, as to their neglect it is largely attributable.

The Prince of Wales was slowly improving on the 15th inst. Some of the extreme Ritualists refused to say prayers for the Prince's recovery in the absence of orders from their Bishops. A sensation was produced by it.

Ungenerous.

The comments of some of the Democratic press upon the President's Message, are curious in their spirit of ungenerous hostility and chronic peevishness. They read the Message with a determination to be displeased with it, whether or no. They perused it with a sharp, anxious, cynical eye, born of unconscionable malignity, which hoped to discover errors, but in case of failure, was ready to resort to misrepresentation to make such appear. There is nothing noble or generous in the criticisms of these journals. A magnanimous foe will not withhold from his opponent the mead of praise and fairness, which is justly his due; but these representative journals of Democracy have been rendered calous to a generous, high-toned magnanimity, by a pre-determination to be displeased with it, and thus fortified against it, they have attempted to make it and its distinguished author appear as repulsive as possible to their readers. In their ungenerous and malignant animadversions, they have been compelled to acknowledge, or at least have inadvertently acknowledged, that the message appears upon its face to be "frank" and "open," and its author "kind-hearted," as well as a tolerably fair statesman." Grant has been heretofore represented by this class of the Democratic press, as an ignorant buffoon, incapable of anything statesmanlike, and even this acknowledgement, that the message indicates statesmanship, as well as a kind heart, is more than was probably intended by them. But the truth is, the message is one of the best, in many respects, that has ever been issued from the White House. It is remarkable for its simplicity of language, lack of verbosity, clearness, comprehensiveness and precision. No attempt at display is made, and yet it is elegant and eloquent in its simplicity and truth. The comprehensiveness of its statements of political facts, the clearness of its explanations, are remarkable when we remember that all classes of mind may read them comprehendingly, and with profit. These statements and explanations, too, are without exaggeration, or covering up, and its recommendations are wise and humane. It is one of the hardest messages to find fault with in the world, because it confines itself to historic facts, and its recommendations commend themselves to every good man's sense of justice and right; but these Democratic journals are equal to the difficulty. They say the President is a hypocrite; that while he talks like an angel, he has the devil in his heart; that he doesn't mean what he says. They say that while he talks beautifully about the humane Indian peace policy, and congratulates the country on the Alabama treaty, and offers good suggestions in regard to civil service reform, he has declared "martial law over a peaceful, law-abiding people, so that cotton speculators may seize the hard-earnings" of the people. Every one who knows what martial law is, knows that such statements are not true. Carrying out the Ku Klux laws, as he is bound by his oath to do, by suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, is not declaring martial law. Martial law is substituting the will of the military leader in the place of all other law. The suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, is offering military assistance to the civil officers, to enable them to enforce the civil law against criminals, whom alone, they cannot arrest without imperiling their lives. In other words, it is military assistance offered in cases where criminals have the upper hand of the civil law. As we have said before in this paper, should the President refuse to suspend the writ, in such cases as those Ku Klux were reported to be, he would violate his oath of office, and a charge of despotism could be successfully urged against him. This, however, is the point these Democratic journals harp on the most, and wherein they show their greatest unfairness.

Prophecies.

In the days of the illuminated prophets of God, there were those, uninfluenced by divine inspiration, who, for notoriety, or temporal reward, professed to prognosticate future events. They were the false prophets. With the glorious dawn of the Christian era, the school of divinely illuminated prophets of God was wound to a close; but the school of the false prophets has continued to furnish its creatures of deception to the present day. In ancient times, this latter class would pretend to forecast the destiny of a human life, or lives, the sequel of a military enterprise, or the fate of a nation, by the flights of birds, the entrails of animals, the utterances of heathen oracles, the stary constellations, dreams, etc.; and their shrewdness and knowledge of human credulity, often enabled them to forecast with a good degree of accuracy, as their utterances were so well guarded, as to be susceptible of different, and even opposite interpretations. In these days, astrologers, and fortune tellers, etc., which are but other names for prophets, hold themselves in readiness for a pecuniary remuneration, to forecast the destiny of any individual who may honor them with an interview. They do not, like the ancient heathen fortune-tellers, watch the flights of birds, or study the entrails of animals, or consult the heathen oracle, but they have simplified the business so much, as to be able to prognosticate very readily by studying the lines on the hand palms, or by shuffling an old pack of greasy cards. But few, comparatively, of our modern fortune-tellers, consult the stary firmament, for the very good reason that most of them know nothing of astronomy and some can scarcely read. There are some, however, styling themselves astrologers, who, for a dollar or so, will read one's destiny in orion or pleiades, or the milky-way, or anywhere else among the constellations, the main object being to secure the dollar, or whatever they charge. In traveling, better attentions are secured by feigning the waiters once in a while with quarters, halves, etc.; so a little extra compensation given to these astrologers, may very materially lighten up the dark spots in one's destiny. There is a prophesy just now disturbing Europe. The author of it was the venerable Anna Maria Jaigi. She is said to have foretold the deposition of the present Pope from temporal power, his re-habitation, etc. The prophesy now referred to is, that great darkness is to prevail over the earth for three days and nights, during which nothing is to be visible, and accompanying which will be a pestilence which will chiefly scourge unbelievers, although the faithful will not be wholly exempt from it. The trouble about this prophesy is, however, that it has all time for its fulfillment, so there is no use getting wood in, and provisions and plenty of coil oil, as it may not transpire for centuries yet unborn.

New York Indictments.

On the 15th inst., the Grand Jury of New York submitted four indictments to the Court of General Sessions. They were found to be directed against William M. Tweed, for felony. A bench warrant was granted to Chas. O'Connor on application for the arrest of Tweed, by the Recorder, no bail being mentioned. The Sheriff arrested Tweed in his private parlor in the Metropolitan Hotel in the afternoon, and placed him in the hands of his Deputies. Tweed immediately went in search of the Recorder to get bail. Failing to find him, he was kept a prisoner in the hotel all night. Next day, Judge Barnard granted a writ of *habeas corpus* to bring Tweed before him immediately, which was done, and Tweed bailed in the enormous sum of \$5,000! It is said that indictments have been found by the Grand Jury, against some twenty persons in all, some of whom have not heretofore been known as con-

nected with the frauds and ballot-box-stuffing. It has leaked out that James M. Sweeney has been indicted for felony, and that the proof is stronger against him than it is against Tweed. Two indictments are against Thomas C. Fields. A well known Police Judge has also been indicted for his connection with ballot-box-stuffing. A notorious fellow, who voted six hundred repeaters at the last election, is said to be indicted. The next thing is to see whether they will do anything more than indict and let such fellows as Tweed out on such tremendous bail!

The Right Name.

"An Old Pioneer" writing in the *Oregonian* of the 12th, says the name by which our river was known in 1828 was *Willamette*. He says it was so called by the Indians, and that the men and officers of the Hudson Bay Company so called and wrote it in their public documents and correspondence. He says in 1811 he went to Europe, and on his return in 1847 he was surprised to hear the river called *Willanette* for the first time.

EASTERN NEWS.

Stewart, ex-member of the Cuban Congress, will take the place of Tweed as Commissioner of Public Works, it is thought.

A fire in Chicago on the 14th on Michigan avenue damaged a block of dwellings, etc., to the amount of \$50,000.

Miss Jennie C. Clafin, of New York, has had her parents arrested for disturbing her and Mrs. Woodhull.

The young ladies of Waterville, Maine, having recently organized an anti-tobacco society, the young men of that town have organized an anti-courting society.

J. H. Riley, a well-known Washington correspondent, has been recognized as Consul General for the free States of South America, by the President.

President Grant has pardoned Charles Mellen, who, in 1869, was convicted of fraud against the Government and sentenced to five years imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$100,000.

The Supreme Court of Illinois has refused to admit to the bar Miss Hulett, on account of her sex.

The New York *Sun* says that Mrs. Garvey, wife of plasterer Garvey, has returned to the city from Switzerland, and is instructed by her husband to say that on condition of his not being prosecuted he will disclose all he knows concerning the Ring frauds. She intimates that her husband's revelations will implicate Mayor Hall, Sweeney and Henry Smith. Her proposition has not yet been replied to by Chas. O'Connor.

The New York Printing Company's establishment, and the New York Manufacturing Stationers' office, creatures of the Ring, were seized last week by the Deputy Sheriff to satisfy the Company's protested note for \$100,000 in the Ocean Bank.

On the 14th inst., the Internationalists of New York adopted an address declaring that the cause of the working classes, who have always fought for the liberty of the downtrodden, is the cause of the Internationalists.

It is stated that Fisk has settled Mrs. Mansfield's suit against him by paying her \$15,000.

Connolly is sick and confined to his bed at Ludlow street jail. He complains of an affection of the lungs, which has been increased by his confinement and lack of exercise.

Omaha has been selected by the Executive Committee of the U. P. R. R., as the actual terminus of that road.

In Lynn, Massachusetts, Wm. Brown killed his wife by stabbing her with a dirk, on the morning of the 16th.

An American girl, seventeen years of age, named Anna Bonney, has made a successful debut in an opera in Italy.

Eight children were taken from an orphan asylum in Brooklyn on the 10th, to a smallpox hospital.

The total eclipse of the sun is announced as having been seen from the southern hemisphere.

FOREIGN NEWS.

A new combination is organized in London to rescue the Erie Railroad from its present directors.

Lady Charlotte Burgoyne, wife of Field Marshal Burgoyne, died in London, December 14.

Nearly all the telegraph operators of England, who struck, have resumed work.

From Paris, it is stated that the Orleans Princes have determined to take their seats in the Assembly at an early day, and act with the Right Centre.

President Thiers, of France, on the 15th, addressed the Committee of Assembly, in favor of transferring the seat of Government from Versailles to Paris. A dispatch of the 16th states that he had an interview with the Orleans Princes of an unfriendly character. He charged Duc d'Aumale of breaking his previous agreement by endeavoring to interest Generals in his favor. Duc d'Aumale denied this; but Thiers said that he knew he had done so. The Orleans plan is for the Right to take advantage of Thiers' impatience, and at the first opportunity to force his resignation, and make the Duc d'Aumale President, and follow it with a declaration proclaiming Count de Chambord King, Count de Paris heir to the throne, and Duc d'Aumale Lieutenant General.

The Alabama arbitrators assembled in Geneva on the 15th, and the British Dominion cases were presented, with the argument. They then adjourned until April.

In the House of the Canada Parliament on the night of the 16th, after a warm discussion, a motion of want of confidence in the Government was passed by a majority of one.

The Federal Assembly of Switzerland has passed a bill interdicting the establishment of the order of Jesuits in Switzerland.

A Quebec, Canada, special of the 16th, says that last night in the Assembly one of the leaders created great excitement by charging bribery and corruption upon agents of the Ministry by electing papers from the galleries. The speaker had the galleries cleared by armed police, when the crowd organized a meeting outside which was addressed by prominent annexationists who claimed that annexation to the United States was preferable to armed Provincial tyranny.

There have been five thousand deaths from small-pox in London, Eng., this season, while at least one hundred thousand have been maimed, disfigured and pauperized, at a cost to the city of \$500,000.

A special from St. Petersburg to London, Dec. 13th, states that the Czarowitz Alexandria in a quarrel assaulted Prince De Russ, the German Minister. Friends interfered and the parties were separated. The incident caused much excitement, although there is no reason to apprehend any interruption of the good relations between Germany and Russia, as the quarrel is believed to be wholly personal.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* is obliged to make the humiliating confession that "the Democratic party, while still a powerful organization, does not show the numerical strength that would persuade a cool-headed party man to risk his 'pile' on its success, without some assistance from those who have been opposing it." The *Enquirer* still sticks to Tom Scott, and throws overboard its old love, George H. Pendleton.

W. H. Forrest, brother of the Confederate General N. B. Forrest, is on trial in Brenham, Texas, for murdering a man named Holt, nineteen years ago. Forrest fled after the murder, and upon his return three weeks ago, was recognised, arrested, and put on trial.

It is very dangerous for any man to find any spot that is sweeter to him than his own home.

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