

THE EUGENE CITY GUARD.

EUGENE CITY, OREGON.

SATURDAY, MAR. 10, 1877.

The Magnitude of Recent Events.

It may well be doubted whether the people of the United States realize the true condition of the government at this time or not. It is possible that they do not fully comprehend the magnitude, the enormity perhaps, and at least the importance of what has transpired since the 6th of November, 1876. The Presidential election has been succeeded by events that must affect our institutions forever. That the elections in South Carolina, Louisiana and Florida were influenced by fraud and Federal interference to the detriment of the States named, no one well informed can doubt. That after the votes were cast they were either illegally or fraudulently counted, is not denied by any honest or intelligent person of any party or section. That the majority of votes in those States were cast for Tilden, Hendricks and the Democratic candidates for State offices, is virtually admitted by Radicals, as will be explained directly, as well as claimed by the Democracy as well known. It is also a matter of history now, that no effort has been made by the party in whose interest these frauds, crimes, abuses and violations of law were committed to conceal them; the chief object of that party has been to openly encourage deception, fraud and violence that it might profit thereby. There were thirty-two companies of U. S. troops in South Carolina, a company to each county in the State, to insure a peaceable election and a fair expression of the will of the people—it was claimed—but when the result showed a majority opposed to Radicalism, the cry of "intimidation" was raised and prolonged as if to illustrate how the party in power had stultified itself. If such intimidation succeeded in the presence of U. S. troops, of what use were the troops and why did the U. S. officers send them, at no little expense, into that State? If U. S. troops and Federal interference could not secure a fair election, why were they used? These questions suggest their own answers. The courts of South Carolina attempted to right the wrongs of the people, but U. S. troops and a United States Judge interfered again and the will of its people was overthrown or thwarted for a season, possibly for years.

Into Florida after a peaceable election troops were sent to see a fair count (?) After weeks spent in preparing for a fraudulent return, a corrupt board of canvassers made a report of the result, so clearly wrong that it was overthrown by the Courts of Florida! In Louisiana the Democratic majority was about six thousand by the returns of the poll books—no one disputed this, but a plan, an old and long used plan, had been arranged to count in the Republicans, regardless of the votes cast and contrary to the will of the people. The result in that State had to be announced by a returning board; that board was made up of partisans, all of one party, and known to be capable of committing any outrage or stooping to any degree of crime or infamy. It pretended that "intimidation" had been practiced to such an extent that it was necessary to "throw out" a whole parish in one place, two or three parishes in another parish, to change the votes in another and so on till the Democrats were effectually "counted out." To apparently justify such proceedings thousands of affidavits were forged and sworn to, as if fraud, violence and usurpation were incomplete without forgery and perjury to keep them company and finish the monument of infamy. That perjury in every form was resorted to in all the States named, there cannot be a question; that State and Federal officers either violated or disregarded their oaths there is not a doubt; that they each and every one of them expected to profit by their own wrongs is too plain to argue. Thus briefly we review what was passing in three States from Nov. 6, 1876, to Feb. 1, 1877; meanwhile Congress was in an uproar and the people of the whole country were harassed and distressed by doubt and kept in a state of excitement by telegraphic reports prepared for that purpose. The electoral votes had been cast at the State capitals and the result announced, but that fact made confusion twice confounded. Then began in Congress a series of disputes and conflicts of opinions; investigating committees were sent into the three States named, at a great cost, evidence was taken, frauds exposed, forgery discovered and perjury published so that we became accustomed in a very short time to hear of the most brazen forgery and open perjury without a twinge of the nerves; they became stale from being so common, and from them all eyes were turned to Congress. The people were already gorged with evidence of perjury, forgery and falsehood that had been strewn thick as autumn leaves from the Capitol at Washington to the bayous of Louisiana and everglades of Florida. Still Congress afforded no relief. The shadows of great crimes hung over the Capitol and high officials were industrious in circulating rumors and false conclusions. The President imagined that war was inevitable and began the concentration of troops in Washington and the removal of arsenals to Republican and Northern States. Doubt overshadowed the land till the mountain labored and brought forth a monster, or rather a nameless monster, the Electoral Bill or "Compromise" as it is familiarly called. It is just possible—and time may reveal the fact—that that act and the acts of the "Commission" organized under and by it, may do our country, its people and their in-

stigations more harm than a ten years' war.

While States were trampled down by U. S. troops or disfranchised by usurpers and deluged by unscrupulous villains, the hopes of the people turned to Congress and the U. S. Supreme Court for redress of grievances; but when Congress shifted the responsibility of doing its duty to an unauthorized body, created by terms unknown in our laws, hope began to fail, and when all the corruption, infamy, partisanship and disregard for justice, truth, honor, dignity and sacredness of oaths, known to exist in the States referred to, were manifested, accepted and adopted by a majority of the "Electoral Commission"; the people were morally prostrated; Congress had abandoned them and its duty, and disarmed justice at a stroke by placing its ministers in a position to be forestalled so far as any contingency now existing might be concerned. Military and Federal interference in South Carolina is justified; the fraudulent returns in Florida are respected and the counting in and the counting out process in Louisiana in defiance of law and common decency are renewed and enforced by that Commission—by three Judges of the Supreme Court, by three Senators and two Representatives of Congress; every branch of the government is involved and consequently corrupted. Better had it been for the citizens of this country if an earthquake had swallowed Washington City before the first day of February, 1877. The people expected to see Morton, Frelinghuysen, Hoar, Edmunds and Garfield to follow the interests, vice and illegal practices of their party, but when they saw Bradley, Miller and Strong leading their influence and votes to sanction the greatest political crimes, it is plain that greater calamities than war can befall a country. These justices—chosen to expose fraud, to insure fair dealing, to explain and enforce the law, to investigate the returns and declare their true intent and correct result—literally shut eyes to facts, their ears to truth and their understanding to reason. They ask no evidence, seek none, and will listen to none, will have none, and thereby show their contempt for both justice and the binding force of an oath as much as any member of any returning in Louisiana could. If elections were carried by fraud—if the Democratic majority in any state was the result of fraud, force or intimidation, why not expose it? The truth is, that partisan and corrupt U. S. Returning Board wanted no evidence to convict its own party; its Radical members knew the crimes of its friends and the only hope for their continuance in power depended upon fraud and falsehood. By refusing to investigate or take evidence they admit that the truth is against them; they refuse evidence because it will damage their cause, and thus their show of honor, justice and impartiality fails at once. That high Commission by adopting the abuses in Florida and outrages of Louisiana made those acts their own; they justified frauds unparalleled in any free country and—as if to dignify the basest villainy—literally indorsed the vilest infamies ever practiced. The action of Congress in creating that contemptible Commission and the conduct of that Commission deserves and will probably yet receive as bitter denunciation and as many imprecations as Ateius—the just tribune of Rome—heaped upon Crassus, when he left Rome to wantonly invade Parthia; and that as many calamities will follow those acts as fell to the lot of Crassus, in Parthia, few students of history can doubt. If the perjury of that Commission is recognized, justified and accepted as law, the will of the people is nothing, no vote or voice can change the political color of a state except the board of canvassers—one man is a state—three or five, at most, in any State, according to its rulings, can control the state by making the result of any election according to their will. Elections will become mere farces, meaning nothing, affecting nothing, no power—excepting force—can overrule or overthrow an administration distasteful to the people. States now Democratic may always be Democratic and those under Radical rule may always be kept so, by the Florida and the Louisiana processes as recognized by the Electoral Commission. We have states enough with Democratic Governors to cast 193 Electoral votes—are they to be kept so right or wrong? Let Radical, usurpers and corrupt judges answer. This is not a pleasing picture to contemplate, but it is a true one—not half exposed!

It certainly cannot be very pleasant for Radicals to contemplate the fact that the means which have been used to secure the electoral votes in South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, and which have been recognized as binding by the Electing Commission, if practiced in other States will always keep Democrats in power in a majority of the States and keep the count on 193 Electoral votes. If a Returning Board may count out and count in at will in Louisiana or Florida, may not such Boards do likewise in other States? What is legal in Louisiana must be legal in Oregon, Ohio or other States. This is a short cut to national ruin and anarchy blazed out by the Republican leaders. While our votes and voice shall always be in opposition to such violations of law and Republican principles, we cannot very well avoid pointing to the Radical cut-off to despotism.

According to the rulings and decision of the U. S. Returning Board or electing Commission, nothing can render a man ineligible as an elector—he may be dead, disfranchised, convicted of crime, hold another office, be an alien, yet none of these can disqualify him. No provision of the Constitution, no law of the United States, no provision of any State Constitution or any State law can affect his eligibility—provided always he is a Radical and his vote is necessary to elect a Radical candidate.

Democrats Expected to Rivet their own Chains.

A Washington dispatch some days ago concluded thus: It is also considered that in case of any trouble that the Hayes' secretary offices opened in New York and other large cities would draw thousands of unemployed Democrats, just as was the case in the late civil war.

Yes, the Radical managers are contriving plans to have Democrats cut each other's throats to perpetrate Radical mischief. The above is a fair specimen of telegraph news; sent daily from Washington to keep up the tone of Radical patriotism. What there is in Hayes for Democrats to fight for we fail to discover.

The Democratic journals finding it more difficult than they, apparently, expected to make the people join in a general clamor for the overthrow of the constitution, have become illustrated and are now raising vociferously about the "vitality" of the Electoral Commission—Oregonian.

"Clamor for the overthrow of the Constitution" is pretty good. The Republicans don't "clamor"—they go ahead and overthrow the Constitution without clamor—as, for instance, they did when they counted the vote of postmaster Watts for Presidential elector.

Grant's last act was to recognize Nichols as Governor of Louisiana. The Oregonian thinks there is nothing inconsistent in this, as he got about 600 more votes than Tilden. But the people of this nation will take another view of that matter.

In the last hours of the House a resolution was reported from select committee on privileges declaring that Samuel J. Tilden received 196 electoral votes of electors legally and constitutionally appointed, and was there by duly elected President of the United States, and that it is the opinion of the House that Thomas A. Hendricks having received a like number of votes for Vice President, was duly elected. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 88 to 13.

"Can we suppose that the Democratic party would have refrained from jubilation had it won the victory," asks H. W. Scott. There is, we suppose, no doubt but the Democrats would have jubilated had the 196 votes belonging to Mr. Tilden been accorded to him. They would have been justified in so doing. But when H. W. Scott jubilates he joins his fortunes with Chandler, Bradley, Hoar, and the other thieves of the recent committee.

ASHAMED OF IT.—Geo. A. Steel chairman of the State Central Republican Committee, had the good sense to discountenance any justification meeting over the result of the Presidential count. He seems to be one of the few prominent Republicans who realize that fraud should not be made respectable by being publicly acknowledged.

The Oregonian still keeps up its wails that the Democratic party has abandoned its doctrine of State-rights. That paper may believe its own words, but no one else will.

In this issue we publish the inaugural message of the usurper, Returning Board Hayes. Had he omitted under the circumstances to advocate the observance of a constitution which he and his party have destroyed beyond hope of redemption, and his reference to the electing commission, in which he adds insult to injury, the message would have been shorter and consequently better. We shall refer to hereafter.

THE CABINET.—On the 7th the usurper sent to the Senate for confirmation the following Cabinet appointments: Wm. M. Evans, of New York, Secretary of State; John Sherman, of Ohio, Secretary of Treasury; Geo. W. McCrary, of Iowa, Secretary of War; Richard M. Thompson, of Indiana, Secretary of Navy; Chas. Devins, of Mass., Attorney-General; David M. Key, of Tennessee, Postmaster-General; Carl Schurz, of Missouri, Secretary of Interior.

Returning Board Hayes rather astonished the natives in his selection of Cabinet officers. Right here we rise to ask on behalf of the Republican party what the d—ickens is going to become of the glorious institutions for which we have fought if ex-rebels are to be allowed a seat in the Cabinet.

The Senate, in extra session on the 7th on the objection of Hamlin, refused to allow the oath to be administered to Senator elect Grover.

Later advices say that Grover was sworn in and took his seat on the 8th.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GUARD: I desire through your paper to suggest to the managing directors of school district for Eugene City that at the next annual meeting to be held in April they provide for having a ballot box prepared and that such arrangements be made as to allow the citizens at least two hours in which to deposit their votes upon the various propositions that may come before the meeting, and also to express their preferences for persons to fill the respective offices.

This is the custom in larger towns and becomes necessary here as those most interested are unable to attend in a body or all at a specified time and besides unfortunately our city election in which there is more or less interest comes on the same day as school meeting.

The Inaugural Address.

The following is President Hayes' inaugural address:

FELLOW CITIZENS: We have assembled to repeat the public ceremonies begun by Washington and observed by all my predecessors, and now a time-honored custom, which marks the commencement of a new term of the Presidential office. Called to the duties of this great trust, I proceed in compliance with this usage to announce some of the leading principles on the subjects that now chiefly engage the public attention, by which it is my desire to be guided in the discharge of these duties. I shall not undertake to lay down irrevocably the principles or measures of the administration, but rather to speak of the motives which should animate us, and to suggest certain important ends to be attained in accordance with our institutions, and essential to the welfare of our country.

At the outset of the discussions which preceded the recent Presidential election, it seemed to be fitting that I should make known my sentiments in regard to several of the important questions which then appeared to demand the consideration of the country. Following the example and, in part, adopting the language of one of my predecessors, I wish now, when every motive for misrepresentation has passed away, to repeat what was said before election, trusting that my countrymen will candidly weigh and understand it; that they will feel assured that the sentiments declared in accepting the nomination for the Presidency will be the standard of my conduct in the path before me. Charged as I am now with the grave and difficult task of carrying them out in the Presidential administration of the government, so far as depends upon the Constitution and laws on the chief executive of the nation, the permanent pacification of the country upon such principles and by such measures as will secure the complete protection of all its citizens in the enjoyment of all their constitutional rights, is now the one subject in our public affairs which all thoughtful and patriotic citizens regard as of supreme importance. Many of the calamitous effects of the tremendous revolution which passed over the Southern States still remain. The immeasurable benefits which will surely follow, sooner or later, and the hearty and generous acceptance of the legitimate results of the revolution have not yet been realized. This difficult and embarrassing question meets us at the threshold of this subject. The people of these States are still impoverished and the inestimable blessing of a wise, honest, and peaceful local self-government is not fully enjoyed. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the cause of this condition of things, the fact is clear that in the progress of events the time has come when such government is the imperative necessity required by all the varied interests, public and private, of those States. But it must not be forgotten that only a local government which recognizes and maintains the rights of all is a true self-government. With respect to the two distinct races, whose peculiar relations to each other have brought upon us the deplorable complications and perplexities which exist in those States, it must be a government which decides the interests of both races, carefully and equally; it must be a government which submits loyally and heartily to the constitution and the laws of the nation, and the laws of the States themselves; accepting and obeying faithfully the whole constitution as it is. Resting upon this sure and substantial foundation, the benevolent and beneficent local self-governments can be built up, and not otherwise. In the furtherance of such obedience to the letter and spirit of the constitution, and in the belief of all that its attainment implies, all so-called party interests lose their apparent importance, and party lines may be permitted to fade into insignificance. The question we have to consider for the immediate welfare of those States of the Union is the question of government or no government; of the social order and the peaceful industries, and all the happiness that belong to it, or to a return to barbarism. It is a question in which every citizen of the nation is deeply interested, and with respect to which we ought not to be in a partisan sense either Republicans or Democrats, but fellow citizens and fellow men to whom the interests of a common country and a common humanity are dear. The sweeping revolution of the entire

LAHOR SYSTEM Of a large portion of our country and the advance of four millions of people from a condition of servitude to that of citizenship, upon an equal footing with their former masters, could not occur without presenting a problem of the gravest moment to be dealt with by the emancipated race, by their former masters and by the general government, author of the act of emancipation. That it was a wise, just and providential act, fraught with good for all concerned, is now generally admitted throughout the country. That the moral obligation rests upon the national government to employ its constitutional powers and influence to establish the rights of the people it has emancipated, and to protect them in the enjoyment of those rights, when they are infringed or assailed, is also generally admitted. The evils which afflict the Southern States can only be removed or remedied by the united and harmonious

EFFORTS OF BOTH RACES, Actuated by motives of mutual sympathy and regard and while in duty bound and fully determined to protect the rights of all by every constitutional means at the disposal of my administration, I am extremely anxious to see every legitimate influence in favor of an honest and efficient local government as the true resource of those States for promotion of contentment and prosperity of their citizens. In that effort I shall make to accomplish this purpose, I ask the cordial co-operation of all who cherish an interest in the welfare of the country, trusting that party ties and the prejudice of race will be freely surrendered in behalf of the great purpose to be accomplished. In the important work of the restoration of the South it is not the political situation alone that merits attention. The material development of that section of the country has been arrested by the social and political revolution through which it has passed, and now needs and deserves the considerate care of the national government within the just limits prescribed by the constitution and a wise public economy. But as the basis of all prosperity, for that as well as for every other part of the country, this improvement of the intellectual and moral condition of the people.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE SHOULD REST UPON UNIVERSAL EDUCATION. To this end liberal and permanent provision should be made for the support of free schools by State governments, and, if need be, supplemented by legitimate aid from national authority. Let me assure my countrymen of the Southern States that it is my earnest desire and regard to promote their true interests—the interests of the white and of the colored people, both equally, and

to put forth my best efforts in behalf of a civil policy which will forever wipe out of our political affairs the color line and the distinction between North and South, to the end that we may have not merely a united North and united South but a united country.

CIVIL SERVICE.

I ask the attention of the public to the paramount necessity of reform in our civil service, a reform not merely as to certain abuses and practices of so-called official patronage which have come to have the sanction of usage in the several departments of our government, but a change in the system of appointment itself, a reform that shall be thorough, radical and complete, a return to the principles and practices of the founders of the government. They neither expected nor desired from public officers any partisan service; they meant that public officers should owe their whole services to the government and the people; they meant that the officer should be secure in his tenure as long as his personal character should remain unimpaired, and the performance of his duties satisfactory; they held that appointment to office was not to be made or expected merely as rewards for partisan services, nor merely on the nomination of members of Congress as being entitled in any respect to the control of such appointments. The fact that both political parties of the country in declaring their principles, prior to the election gave prominent place to the subject of the reform of our civil service, recognizing and strongly urging its necessity in terms almost identical in their specific import with those I have here employed, must be accepted as coincident evidence in behalf of these measures. It must be regarded as an expression of the united voice and will of the whole country.

THE PRESIDENTIAL TERM SIX YEARS.

The President of the United States, of necessity, owes his election to office to the suffrages and zealous labors of a political party, members of which cherish with ardor and regard as of essential importance the principles of their party organization; but he should strive to be always mindful of the fact he serves his party best who serves the country best. In furtherance of the reform we seek, and as in other important respects a change of great importance, I recommend an amendment to the Constitution prescribing a term of six years for the Presidential office, and forbidding a re-election.

FINANCIAL.

With respect to the financial condition of the country I shall not attempt an extended history of the embarrassment and prostration which we have suffered during the past three years. The depression in all the varied commercial and manufacturing interests throughout the country which began in September, 1873, still continues. It is very gratifying, however, to be able to say that there are indications all around us of a coming change to prosperous times. Upon

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Intimately connected as it is with this topic, I may be permitted to repeat here the statement made in my letter of acceptance. In my judgment the feeling of uncertainty, inseparable from an irredeemable paper currency, with its fluctuations of values, is one of the great obstacles to a return to prosperous times. The only safe paper currency is one which rests upon a coin basis, and is at all times promptly convertible into coin. I adhere to the views heretofore expressed by me in favor of Congressional legislation in behalf of an early resumption of specie payment. And I am satisfied not only that this is wise, but that the interests as well as the public sentiment of the country imperatively demand it. Passing from these remarks upon the condition of our relations with other lands, we are reminded by international complications abroad, threatening the peace of Europe, that our traditional rule of non-interference in

AFFAIRS OF FOREIGN NATIONS.

has proved of great value in past times, and ought to be strictly observed. The policy inaugurated by my honored predecessor, President Grant, of submitting to arbitration grave questions in dispute between ourselves and foreign powers, points to a new and incomparably the best instrumentality for the preservation of peace, and will, as I believe, become the beneficial example of the course to be pursued in similar emergencies by other nations. If, unhappily, questions of difference should at any time during the period of my administration arise between the United States and any foreign government, it will certainly be my disposition and my hope to aid in their settlement in the same peaceful and honorable way, thus securing to our country the great blessing of peace and mutual good offices with all the nations of the world.

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

Fellow-citizens, we have reached the close of a political contest marked with the excitement which usually attend the contest between great political parties, whose members espouse and advocate with earnest faith respective creeds. The circumstances were, perhaps, in no respects extraordinary, save in the closeness and the consequent uncertainty of the result. For the first time in the history of the country, it has been deemed best, in view of the peculiar circumstances of the case, that the objections in dispute, with reference to the counting of the electoral votes, should be referred to the decision of a tribunal appointed for this purpose. That tribunal, established by law for this sole purpose, its members, all of them, of long established reputation for integrity and intelligence, and with the exception of those who are also members of the Supreme Judiciary, chosen equally from both political parties to the deliberations, enlightened by the research and the arguments of able counsel, was entitled to the fullest confidence of the American people. Its decisions have been patiently waited for, and accepted as legally conclusive by the general judgment of the public. For the present, opinion will widely vary as to the wisdom of the several conclusions announced by that tribunal. This is to be anticipated in every instance where matters of dispute are made the subject of arbitration under the forms of law. Human judgment is never unerring, and is rarely regarded as otherwise than wrong by the unsuccessful party in the contest. The fact that two great political parties have, in this way, settled disputes in regard to which good men differ as to the law no less than as to the proper course to be pursued in solving the question in controversy, is an occasion for general rejoicing. Upon one point there is entire unanimity in public sentiment that the conflicting claims to the Presidency must be amicably and peaceably adjusted, and that when so adjusted the general acquiescence of the nation ought surely to follow. It has been reserved for a government of the people where the right of suffrage is universal, to give to the world the first example in history of a great nation in the midst of a struggle of opposing parties for power, hushing its party tumults, to yield the issue of the contest to adjustment according to the terms of law, looking for the

guidance of that divine hand by which the destinies of nations and individuals are shaped. I call upon you, Senators, Representatives, Judges, fellow citizens, here and everywhere to unite with me in an earnest effort to secure to our country the blessings, not only of material prosperity, but of justice, peace and union; a union depending not upon the constraint of force, but upon the loving devotion of a free people; that all things may be so ordered and settled upon the best and firmest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and glory, may be established among us for all generations.

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and settle without delay, for

I MUST HAVE MONEY.

Jan. 6, 1877. B. F. DORRIS.