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Grant as a Statesman.

We last week expressed our unwillingness to allow the military record of Grant to be forgotten, in weighing his claims to the Presidency, and promised to prove that he had succeeded in finding the wisest and safest system of progressive statesmanship. President Johnson, and a number of his predecessors, based the success of their administrations upon a purely legislative basis. They held then that the Executive duties were too insignificant to achieve renown; and therefore staked their success upon a legislative policy. President Grant in his inaugural address defined the proper Constitutional sphere of the Executive power; and he did it so concisely and completely that nothing can be added or omitted to advantage. The primary duty of the President is the faithful execution of the laws. Thus the Executive power is within its sphere co-ordinate with Congress, and can never be made too strong, because it represents the arm of the Government—the will of the nation legally expressed. The power to recommend is secondary and incidental. The Executive enjoys this right in common with all other citizens. He participates in the legislation of the country only through the veto power, which a President should exercise upon great questions, only in rare instances, and for ample cause. We propose herewith to give the first two paragraphs of the inaugural address, which contains more substance to the same number of words than any similar document with which we are acquainted:

"Citizens of the United States:—Your suffrages having elevated me to the office of President of the United States, I have in conformity with the Constitution of our country, taken the oath of office prescribed therein. I have taken this oath without mental reservation, with the determination to do to the best of my ability all that it requires of me. The office has come to me unthought. I commence its duties untrammelled, I bring to it a conscientious desire and determination to fill it to the best of my ability to the satisfaction of the people.

"On all leading questions agitating the public mind I will always express my views to Congress, and urge them according to my judgment; and when I think it advisable will exercise the constitutional privilege of interposing a veto to defeat measures which I oppose.

But all laws will be faithfully executed whether they meet my approval or not. I on all subjects have a policy to recommend but none to enforce against the will of the people. Laws are to govern all alike, those opposed to as well as those who favor them. I know no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effective as their stringent execution. In coming before you for the first time as Chief Magistrate of this great nation it is with gratitude to the Giver of all good for the many benefits we enjoy; we are blessed with peace at home, and are without entangling alliances abroad to forebode trouble; with a population of forty millions of free people, all speaking one language; with facilities for every method to acquire an education; with institutions closing to none the avenues to fame or any blessing of fortune that may be coveted; with freedom of the pulpit, the press, and the school; with a revenue flowing into the National Treasury beyond the requirements of the Government. These blessings and countless others are entrusted to your care and mine for safe-keeping, for the brief period of our tenure of office. In a short time we must, each of us, return to the ranks of the people who have conferred upon us our honors, and account to them for our stewardship. I earnestly desire that neither you nor I may be condemned by a free and enlightened constituency, nor by our own consciences. On my part I promise a rigid adherence to the laws and their strict enforcement. In addressing my third annual message to the law making branch of the Government, it is gratifying to be able to state that during the past year success has generally attended the effort to execute all laws found upon the statute books. The policy has been, not to inquire into the wisdom of laws already enacted, but to learn their spirit and intent, and to enforce them accordingly. I submit these suggestions with a confidence that your combined actions will be wise, statesmanlike, and in the best interests of the whole country.

We place first on the list of topics, the subject of education. The President alludes to it on every suitable occasion, and it should be observed that the measure, known as Hoar's bill, was first recommended by him in the sentence, "Educational interests may well be served by the grant of the proceeds of the sale of public lands to settlers."

"The subjects of education and agriculture are of great interest to the success of our republican institutions, happiness, and grandeur as a nation. "The time-honored and beneficial policy of setting apart certain sections of public land for educational purposes in the new States should be continued. "Educational interests may well be served by the grant of the proceeds of the sale of public lands to settlers. I do not wish it to be understood as recommending, in the least degree, a curtailment of what is being done by the General Government for the encouragement of education.

"The enlarged receipts of the Post Office Department are an index of the growth of education and of the prosperity of the people, two elements highly conducive to the vigor and stability of Republics. "Education, the ground work of republican institutions is encouraged by increasing the facilities to gather speedy news from all parts of the country. The desire to reap the benefit of such improvements will stimulate education. "The workingman is not forgotten. In every message there is a kindly word and the utterance of a striking truth. "Persons before things," is the keynote of his statesmanship when he states, "The true prosperity and greatness of a nation is to be found in the elevation and education of its laborers," a sentence worthy of being placed on our campaign banners.

"By the late war the industry of one-half the country had been taken from the control of the capitalists and placed where all labor rightfully belongs—in the keeping of the laborer.

"The freedmen, under the protection they have received, are making rapid progress in learning, and no complaints are heard of lack of industry on their part where they receive fair remuneration for their labor.

"The opinion that the public lands should be regarded chiefly as a source of revenue is no longer maintained. The rapid settlement and successful cultivation of them are now justly considered of more importance to our well-being than is the fund which the sale of them would produce. The remarkable growth and prosperity of our new States and Territories attest the wisdom of the legislation which invites the tiller of the soil to secure a permanent home on terms within the

reach of all. The pioneer who incurs the dangers and privations of a frontier life, and thus aids in laying the foundation of new commonwealths, renders a signal service to his country, and is entitled to its special favor and protection. These laws secure that object and largely promote the general welfare. They should, therefore, be cherished as a permanent feature of our land system. "I renew my recommendation that the public lands be regarded as a heritage to our children, to be disposed of only as required for occupation and to actual settlers. "The true prosperity and greatness of a nation is to be found in the elevation and education of the laborer."

BE SENSIBLE.—Do not be above your business. He who turns up his nose at his work quarrels with his bread and butter. He is a poor smith who is afraid of his own spark; there's some discomfort in all trades except chimney sweeping. If sailors give up going to sea because of the wet, if bakers left off baking bread because it is hot, if plowmen would not plow because of cold, and tailors would not make our clothes for fear of pricking their fingers, what a pass we would come to. Nonsense, my fine fellow, there's no shame about any honest calling; don't be afraid of soiling your hands, there's plenty of soap to be had.

All trades are good to good traders. Lucifer matches pay well if you sell enough of them. You cannot get honey if you are frightened at bees, nor plant corn if you are afraid to get mud on your boots. When bars of iron melt under the south wind, when you can dig the fields with toothpicks, blow ships along with a fan, manure the crops with lavender water, and grow plum cakes in flower pots, there will be a fine time for dandies, but until the millennium comes we shall all have a deal to put up with.

A Minnesota genius has invented and applied for a patent on a water velocipede. It is composed of two air chambers, cylindrical in form, eight feet in length and about a foot in diameter, placed in a parallel position, forming the boat proper, or so much of it as rests upon the water. Serpentine flanges or screws extend the full length of the cylinder, and are the propellers. On a platform above a one-wheeled velocipede is placed, from which, by a system of endless chains and mitred gearing, motion is given to the cylinders. It is said that with one man the boat will draw 3 inches of water, and that it can be propelled at the rate of one mile in four minutes.

Col. John W. Forney, in a recent issue of the Philadelphia Press says: "Our Democratic friends have had a delightful elysium of expectancy during the last twelve years, and they are now enjoying another. Losing control of the government by their sympathy and support of the rebellion, they have been constantly contriving how to get it back again. At last they had fallen upon the plan of turning Republicans, and as the Union soldiers said during the war, 'The reb is not half so dangerous as when he puts on our uniform.'"

The Louisville Courier-Journal, the leading Democratic organ of the South, wants to be "counted out." It is sick of Cincinnati. It wants no more "passive policy." It says: "We say to the untrifled, therefore, rally to us and support us, stick together and keep your powder dry, and no matter what comes of all this, we shall have done what we could in the right direction; we shall have preserved our integrity." Which is poor consolation to Democrats who have wasted their sweetness on the Cincinnati Convention in the hope of a new deal in the post offices.

A clear-headed New York merchant has addressed a circular letter to Republican members of Congress, asking them to come "to a decision of some kind," in regard to the tariff. It is not of so much importance to business men to have any particular policy established, as to have some policy promptly and permanently established. Uncertainty destroys all mercantile calculations and paralyzes trade.

The New York Sun speaks of Grant's friends being driven to the last ditch. The Sun will remember that it was Grant's enemies, not his friends, who were in the last ditch business, and as it was then so it is now. The General is facing the same foe to-day that he was in 1865.

During 1871, 8,913 persons were convicted of offense against the game law in England and Wales.

Secession and State Rights.

IMPORTANT DECISION FROM THE U. S. SUPREME COURT.

From the New York Herald of April 24th we copy the following: "Upon an appeal from the Supreme Court of Georgia, in case of a contract involving the price of a negro slave, a very important decision was rendered in the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday last, touching the rights and powers of the States and of the United States, under the National Constitution, as it was and as it is. Before the Georgia Court the defendant (against whom the note for the price of the slave was held) pleaded that under the new State Constitution the Court had no jurisdiction over the subject, and the judgment of the Court was for the defendant and upon three propositions which rise to the wisdom of Dogberry.

Thus the Supreme Court of Georgia affirmed—first, that when the State Constitution of 1868 was adopted Georgia was not a State of the Union, but a conquered Territory, completely at the mercy of the conqueror, and that according to the Constitution of the United States in reference to the obligation of contracts, as to all other things, would not apply to Georgia; second, that her new Constitution does not affect this contract (the note given for the purchase of the slave), but only denies jurisdiction to her Courts to enforce it; third, that this Constitution was forced upon the State by Congress and is the act of Congress, and not of the State, and that though a State cannot pass a law impairing the validity of contracts, Congress can and has passed such a law in this State Constitution, and therefore the contract upon this negro slave is impaired, and the note for the money due on this purchase goes for nothing, being reduced to the same value as the promises to pay of the "Confederate States," which is the value of waste paper.

The Supreme Court of the United States reverses this Dogberry decision from Georgia, and against it affirms that the National Constitution created not a confederacy of States—but a government of individuals—in other words, a government of the people of the United States as a nation; that their object was an indestructible government; that the doctrine of secession is the doctrine of treason; that the States in rebellion were never out of the Union, and never absolved from the duties, liabilities and restrictions always incumbent upon them, that the present State Constitution of Georgia was the act of Georgia, and was accepted by Congress, and that the action of Congress on the subject cannot be inquired into, the authority of Congress in such matters being conclusive.

This decision is now part of the Supreme law of the land, and in sweeping away all these fallacies that the Union is a confederacy of States, that each State has reserved to itself the sovereign right of secession, and that the rebel States were out of the Union during the war of their Confederate rebellion, it will, we hope, convince even Alexander H. Stephens that his State Right dogmas are really dead and done for—dead and buried beyond redemption. In the single pungent declaration—"that the doctrine of secession is the doctrine of treason," the Supreme Court covers the whole ground, and makes all that has been done in the work of putting down the rebellion and in the work of Southern reconstruction consistent, cohesive, good and strong.

A Washington dispatch says that the House Committee on Appropriations have agreed to report Sargent's bill making an appropriation of \$10,000 for a life-size statue of the late Col. E. D. Baker, who was killed while leading a forlorn hope at the battle of Ball's Bluff. Should the House agree to the proposition, Horatio Stone will probably be commissioned to execute it, as it has been decided by the Committee that it shall be modelled after a miniature statue by this artist, now in the possession of Col. Stevens. It is to be hoped that the appropriation will be granted without delay. The statue is to be placed in the Capitol at Washington. Baker was one of the most self-sacrificing heroes of the war for the preservation of the Union, and deserves to have his image out in imperishable marble. An obelisk should also be erected over his grave in Lone Mountain.

A handsome, well-dressed, young lady of Chicago, one who belongs to a wealthy and respectable family, lately married a notorious hotel thief, who was in jail awaiting trial on a charge which will undoubtedly end in his being sent to the penitentiary.

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12-11

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