

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

ECHOES FROM THE PINE TREE STATE—HOW THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED AND IS REGARD-ED IN WASHINGTON—THE POLITICAL CON-SENSE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY—MORTIFICATION AMONG THE MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT HAYES CHURCH—GRANT TO VISIT WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 18, 1880. Whatever it may turn out to be, the result of the election in Maine is a disappointment all round. A disappointment to the Republicans because they had expected a victory, and an agreeable disappointment to the Democrats because they had conceded defeat. It goes to show that the judgement of the wisest political leaders is not always infallible, because the calculations of the shrewdest manager have been blown to the four winds. The result demonstrates that political leaders have miscalculated the political atmosphere. Two weeks ago the national democratic committee gave up the fight in Maine and stopped sending speakers into the state. Now, in the light of events this is explained by the apologists that they were conducting a still hunt, and had hopes all along of success. One very clever theory of the defeat is that it will wake Senator Conkling up. He has long had a personal grudge against Senator Blaine, and now that the latter has lost his own state, Conkling will be especially solicitous to carry New York for the Republicans, this to serve notice on the Maine Senator, that after all the Presidency can be carried without the Pine Tree State. At the Interior and Post Office Departments, there is considerable gloom. But little public business has been transacted during the last three days, most of the clerks being engaged in discussing the political situation and the prospects of the future. One strange feature of the situation is that neither Democrats nor Republicans can make any satisfactory explanation as to what contributed to such an unexpected result. One thing is sure, that from this time on till the 2nd of November we shall have nothing else but politics—politics in the morning with our breakfast, politics in our business, at our luncheons, politics at our dinners, and we shall no doubt take politics to bed with us. And then, when 'tis done, will it be done? or will it hang on all winter long, as it did in '76, and nobody be sure of anything? Whatever is the result let us pray that it will be so decisive that no electoral commissions will be necessary. Let us have at least one quiet winter so that we may know exactly what the harvest will be in the spring trade, harvests don't generally come in the spring, but political harvests come in the spring every four years whether or no.

Some of the friends of the President, who belong to the same church, are quite scandalized over his proceedings during his present term. They say that during the President's stay in Washington he conducts himself with the utmost propriety, permitting no beverage stronger than Appollinaris to be placed on the White House table, conducting regularly Sabbath evening prayer meetings at the Executive Mansion, absenting himself from balls and receptions, and invariably refusing the offers of private boxes at the theatres, which were so promptly accepted by Gen. Grant. As in marked contrast with this they point to the action of the President in participating while in Salt Lake City, in Saffery festivities with the ungodly Mormons, in occupying a box at a theatre in the city of San Francisco in full view of the whole audience, and most culpable of all, in his going to a dancing reception in Monterey, although, as we are informed by the telegram, he did not dance himself. If the President continues to fall from grace in this style, it is not unlikely that he may be "disciplined."

Gen. Grant is soon to be in Washington. He has promised his old friend Ned Beale that he will be here by the first of next month and stay a fortnight. If only Rufe Ingalls and General Sherman were here, what a good time they would have Grant is more familiar with five Generals that I can name than with anybody else in the world. Here they are: General Beale, General Sherman, General Ingalls, General Van Vleet and General Macfoely. He uncorks himself with them as it were and gets over all his reticence. He feels free and easy and at home. With them he will play Boston all night long.

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NATIONAL PLATFORM.



ADOPTED BY THE CINCINNATI CONVENTION.

The Democratic party of the United States in convention assembled, declare:

First—We pledge ourselves anew to the constitutional doctrines and traditions of the Democratic party as illustrated by the teaching and examples of a long line of Democratic statesmen and patriots, and embodied in the last national convention of the party.

Second—Opposition to centralization and that dangerous spirit of encroachment which tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever be the forms of government, a real despotism; no summary laws; separation of church and State for the good of each; common schools to be fostered and protected.

Third—Home rule, honest money, the strict maintenance of public faith, consisting of gold, silver and paper convertible to coin on demand; the strict maintenance of the public faith, State and national, and a tariff for revenue only.

Fourth—the subordination of the military to the civil power, and a general and thorough reform of the civil service.

Fifth—Right to a free ballot as the right preservative of all rights, and must and shall be maintained in every part of the United States.

Sixth—The existing administration is representative of conspiracy only, and its claims of right to surround the ballot boxes with troops and deputy marshals, to intimidate and obstruct the elections, and by unprecedented use of the vote to maintain its corrupt and despotic power, insults the people, and imperils their institutions.

Seventh—The great fraud of 1876, by which, upon a false count of the electoral vote of two States, the candidate defeated at the polls, was declared to be President, and for the first time in American history, the will of the people was set aside under the threat of military violence, struck a deadly blow at our system of representative government. The Democratic party, to preserve the country from the horrors of a civil war, submitted for the time, in the firm and patriotic faith that the people would punish this crime in 1880. This issue precedes and dwarfs every other. It imposes more sacred duty upon the people of the Union than was ever addressed to the conscience of a nation of freemen.

Eighth—We execrate the course of this administration in making places for political criminals, and demand a reform by statute which shall make it forever impossible for a defeated candidate to bribe his way to the seat of a usurper by villainies upon the people.

Ninth—The resolution of Samuel J. Tilden not again to be a candidate for election, the exalted place to which he was elected by a majority of his countrymen, and from which he was excluded by the leaders of the Republican party, is received by the Democrats of the United States with sensibility, and they declare their confidence in his wisdom and patriotism and integrity, unshaken by the assault of the common enemy, and they further declare to him that he is followed into the retirement he has chosen for himself by the sympathy and respect of his fellow-citizens, who regard him as one who, by elevating the standard of public morality and adorning and purifying the public service, merits the lasting gratitude of his country and his party.

Tenth—Free ships and a living chance for American commerce on the sea and on the land, no discrimination in favor of transportation lines, corporations or monopolies.

Eleventh—Amendment of the Burlingame Treaty; no more Chinese immigration except for travel, education and foreign commerce, and therein carefully guarded.

Twelfth—Public money and public credit for public purposes solely, and public lands for actual settlers.

Thirteenth—The Democratic party is the friend of labor and the laboring man, and pledges itself to protect him alike against the scoundrels and the commune.

Fourteenth—We congratulate the country upon the honesty and drift of the Democratic Congress which has reduced the public expenditures to \$49,000,000 a year; upon the continuation of prosperity at home and the honor abroad, and above all, upon the promise of such a change in the administration of this government as shall insure its genuine reform in every department of the public service.

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