DAILY DEMOCRAT.

THE COLOR LINE.

I had started out to write of Washington street scenes, and here 1 am gossiping about Washington's blg families. Ac a matter of fact the largests families" in Washington are probably always will be unknown to fame. They are African. At the census office it is said the colored population of the District of Columbia is constantly gaining on the white population, and no wonder. Take a peep in some of the alleys of the Capital City, and see the myriads of pickaninoles running about therein. Where they all come from, where they all sleep, who cares for them, whence comes their food and raiment, meager as these articles are, combine to form one of the mysteries of life. A Washington po lice man told me he knew of one of these alleys in which, in a single block, there were 360 children by actual count. This seems incredible, but it must be re

membered that the building of alley house is one of the most profitable investments

capital can find in Washington. The houses are coops of brick, about fifteen feet wide and generally three stories high Each story may have as tenants an entire family, with all the way from two to a dozen children in each family. Imagine the appearance of an alley flanked by two rows of tenant houses thus peopled, the thorough-fare itself being no more than twenty feet wide. So great a nuisance has this business of peopling alleys with colored families become in Washington that a western senator has introduced a bill forbidding the erection of houses in alleys less than forty feet in width. It will not likely pass, however, for among the men who have invested money in these houses, and who are getting dividends of 15 to 20 per cent, a year thereon, are a number of United States senators

Speaking of the colored people of Wash. ington reminds me of a novel sort of contethat is constantly going on in the city. On the street cars about one half the passen-gers are colored and about one half white. The population of the District of Columbia is only one-third colored, but the street rallway people say a colored man or woman will ride twice as often as a white man or woman. Four or five persons you see on the sidewalks are white; on the street cars fully one-half, and I think more, are colored. Just why the colored people give up so much more of their money to the street railways than their while neighbors no one appears to know, but at a guess I should say it is because the colored people have a constitutional antipathy to walking. At any rate, there are so many passengers of both colors that the cars are nearly always crowded, and the men have to get up and give their seats to the ladies. Here is where the war of races comes in.

In Washington a wnite man will not rise and give his seat to a colored woman. In retaliation colored men refuse to rise and give their seats to white won.en. Thus it often happens that one will see all the seats in a car occupied by white women and black men. In all my experience in Washington I have never seen but three white men rise and give seats to colored women. and in one of these cases the woman was very old and infirm, and in the other two cases they were young and pretty and stylishly dressed. If all the colored women in Washington were of the working class it would not be such a delicate matter, but many of them are well bred, handsomely dressed, live in fine houses, and are in every way as much worthy of respect and courtesy as white women,

But what is one to do? As to women of his own he makes no discrimination. He rises to give a seat to any white woman, young or old, rich or poor. But it is obvieus that he does not want to do this as to colored women. There are few white men who will carrygallantcy sofar as to give their places to black washerwomen and kitchen maids. One feels tempted to show more

It is understood that nearly one hundred ons of peach pits will be sent East from California this year, to be used by nurserymen for seed, on account of the failure of peaches in the eastern states.

Current Events.

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Albany Opera House.

The Great

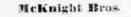
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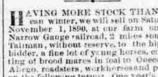
Boots, Shoes, Hats,



Bought for each in an eastern market, at such prices as will enable us to offer bargains, in the above lines, that will attract attention.

Call and see us





courtesy to the colored women who are evidently well tred and of good station, but discriminations are always dangerous and bothersome, and the white men conclude therefore, that they will not discriminate, but will sit while colored women stand

The husbands and brothers of the color ed women resent this hotly, and claim that a gentlemen who will discriminale against a lady simply because she is dark or black is not a gentleman at all. In retaliation, therefore, colored men doggedly sit while white ladies are standing, and scenes of this description occasionally lead to trouble especially when a southern senator or congressman is unable to find seats for the adles whom he is escorting.

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