

FOR TARIFF REFORM.

Probably the most notable accession to the democratic party this year is Congressman Ashbel P. Fitch, of the thirteenth New York district. Two years ago Mr. Fitch was elected as a republican, by a majority of 3,672, in a district usually democratic, which shows his popularity. The following letter, published in the New York World of the 16th, will explain itself without further comment:

FIRE ISLAND BEACH, Aug 13, 1888.
Hon. Donald McLean, President
Twenty-third Assembly District Enrolled Republicans.

MY DEAR SIR: I herewith resign my membership in the republican association of this district. This resignation, under the rules, carries with it, without further action on my part, that of my place in the district committee and on the delegation to the county committee and the chairmanship of the committee on resolutions and membership of the executive committee of the county organization.

My reason for this resignation is that I am not willing to advocate or support the new doctrines upon which the party managers have decided to make this campaign.

I am in favor, as were Garfield, Arthur and Folger, of a reasonable revision of the present tariff in the direction of decreasing the cost of the necessities of life, and of supplying American workmen with cheaper raw materials for manufacture. I believe that such a revision will increase wages and production in this country, and will lighten somewhat the heavy load of poverty and hardship which so many people in our city carry hopelessly from year to year. I am also absolutely opposed to any reduction of the tax on whisky. In a few months after the repeal of the internal revenue tax there would be more distilleries than there are schoolhouses in Harlem, and on every business block in our district a bucket-shop would, with profit, sell whisky bought at 25 cents a gallon for three cents a glass.

The republican party leaders have determined to make a campaign in which the expression of views such as those above indicated shall be described as "free trade attacks upon American industry," and those who hold them shall be credited with a burning desire to aid the British workingmen, whom they have never seen, as against their own friends and countrymen. Mr. Blaine's keynote for the campaign, applied to our district, is that we are from now till November to accuse the democratic and revenue-reform business men in Harlem, who in private life are in partnership with us in all commercial, charitable, social and religious affairs, of being engaged in a conspiracy, inspired by England, to ruin their own country and degrade their fellow-citizens. I have no desire to take part in such a campaign. I fancy that England has in this district about as many adherents as China has, and that the voters who will vote this fall in Harlem and Yorkville for a revision of the tariff are as sincere friends of American industry as any of us are. And I very much prefer, if necessary, to be in a minority for the rest of my life rather than to make a successful campaign on what seems to me to be a ridiculous and unfounded misrepresentation of the efforts and motives of my neighbors. I am, with sincere regard and respect, your friend, ASHBEL P. FITCH.

Tariff reform is the theme.

The fisheries treaty which has been before the senate a long time was rejected on Tuesday, by a strict party vote.

Harrison, with a scared look, peeps out of his little log cabin and enquires: "Wonder if that Blaine cyclone isn't about over?"

Blaine laid in a large amount of taffy (duty free) while in Europe, which he is now dealing out to his friends and neighbors over on the Atlantic coast.

Some weeks ago it was stated in these columns that the Irish World would support Cleveland for the presidency. This was an error. Patrick Ford is for protection for the sake of protection.

It is still doubtful whether Mr. Blaine or Mr. J. P. Foster has given the most efficient keynote to the republican campaign. It may be remembered that the keynote of the latter was, "We want money, and want it at once," from the manufacturers, who "are getting practically the sole benefit from the tariff laws."—Providence, R. I., Republican.

In the United States it is not good policy to subsidize a merchant marine, but it is good policy to give American manufacturers free raw material that they may enter the markets of the world, and that too in American ships. Nearly all lines of manufactured articles find a limited sale in foreign markets. And with free raw material American manufacturers could compete with and soon control the markets of the world.

Endicott got British blankets for the army, and now the administration is to dredge New York harbor with the aid of a British vessel. Why not move the capital to London at once?—Astorian. If the capital or anything else were to be moved to London it would of necessity have to be carried by a British vessel. Because under the republican policy American shipping has been allowed to decay to such an extent that Blaine, the representative of American institutions (so-called), was compelled to cross the Atlantic in a ship flying the British flag.

The New York legislature has passed a reform election law. It provides that the state shall furnish printed ballots for all the parties, and that each voter shall be furnished with a full set, and allowed to make out his own ticket by voting such parts as he chooses, un molested by any one. It is made a misdemeanor to accost a voter within one hundred feet of polls. It is believed that this will effectually prevent bribery at elections. The law relieves political parties and politicians of the expense they are now put to in providing tickets, and makes it possible again for a poor man to run for office.

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Lafayette, Aug. 17, 1888.

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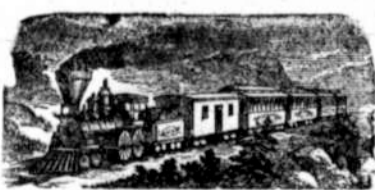
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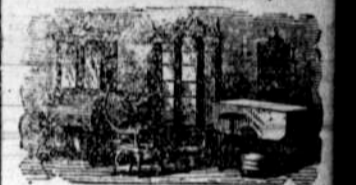
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