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Bnap's Shame.

We copy in the Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel, the transaction which, when exposed, caused the resignation and impeachment of Gen. Grant's Secretary of War. The testimony of Marsh, which bears the impress of truth on every sentence, tells the whole story. General Belknap was Secretary of War with a great deal of valuable patronage at his disposal. He lived in fashionable style beyond his means, for he appears to have had no means beyond the salary attached to his position. His wife was ambitious and fond of play. She had heard, or else she knew, that lucrative positions under Government were sold, and schemed to turn the patronage of husband's office to pecuniary account. She knew what places paid at what places did not, and she placed of them at the disposal of Mr. Marsh, who was also a personal friend on condition that he paid her a sum of money equivalent to a certain proportion of the profits. Marsh seems, did not intend to do and not hold the place himself. He simply farmed it out for a good round yearly sum to the parties who were already in possession. The payment, or payments, were made to Mrs. Belknap, but she died shyly after the sale of the office, and in the time of her death up to the first of January of the present year the money was received quarterly by the Secretary of War. One installment was given to him in person, others were sent to him by express. The sister of the first Mrs. Belknap, herself the present Mrs. Belknap, appears to have been cognizant of the arrangement from the time it was made, and it formed the subject of several conversations between herself and Marsh. When Marsh was summoned before the committee and exposure seemed imminent, a conference held at the Secretary of War's house. Mrs. Belknap was present and attempted to persuade Marsh to commit perjury to shield her husband. She sketched the outline of a statement which she thought would answer the purpose. But Marsh declined to accede to her request upon two grounds: the first was that it "would not hold water;" the second was, that though he had bought the office, he is unwilling to commit perjury to avoid the Seylla of exposure and the Charibdis of false swearing, he determined to leave the country, and went to New York to arrange for his flight. Upon the eve of departure he received a telegram stating that everything would be arranged satisfactorily. He therefore abandoned his intention and signed a letter to the committee, prepared by Dr. Tomlinson, a brother-in-law of Mr. Blackburn, of the committee, which, as he says, told the truth but not the whole truth. The letter was not considered satisfactory, Marsh was summoned to testify in person, and the explosion followed.

The only defense made by Belknap is offered at the expense of his dead wife's honor. He says that he knew nothing of the arrangement made by his wife with Marsh until the death of the former. This statement is in the highest degree improbable. The evidence is almost conclusive that Belknap was privy to the contract and that his wife was used in a bungling attempt to screen the villainy of the Secretary of War. There are hundreds if not thousands of appointments in the gift of the War Department; how was Mrs. Belknap to know the value of a post-tradership at Fort Sill in the Indian Territory—within a few months after her husband had accepted a Cabinet portfolio? If General Belknap says he knew nothing of the matter before his wife's death he certainly

learned of it after that event. If he was anxious to shield his wife's honor, if he was afraid that a reputation of the corrupt contract would cause the parties to expose the means by which it had been obtained, he might have allowed the appointment to stand, but he should have refused to accept one cent of the bribe money. Instead of doing this he quietly recognized the arrangement and continued to receive directly what he had before received indirectly, and drew his share of the spoils regularly as they fell due. From the testimony now before us it is plain that Belknap and his wife were jointly implicated in the transaction and that the payment were made to Mr. Belknap in accordance with a bungling design to conceal the fraud.

General Grant's conduct in the affair is not made to appear any better by his explanation. His excuse is as lame as the one offered by Gen. Belknap. He says he would not have made such indecent haste to accept Belknap's resignation if he had known that the Secretary of War was an active participant in the fraud. He declares that General Belknap deceived him by stating that he concealed the transaction only because he did not wish to disgrace the memory of his dead wife. Therefore he accepted his resignation in order to prevent his impeachment. The explanation will not relieve the President of any of the odium which justly attaches to his action. He was the author of the declaration that no Government official should resign while under fire. He had just learned that evidence had been adduced going to show that an appointment belonging to the War Office had been disposed of in accordance with the terms of a corrupt contract. The Secretary of War came to him with his side of the story and a request for permission to resign in order to escape impeachment, and without waiting to hear the other side of the case, without caring to inquire into the facts, with pausing long enough to communicate with the Investigating Committee of the Government, Gen. Grant made haste to comply with the request and to protect to the extent of his ability the guilty whom he had recently declared should not be allowed to escape. Did not the President know very well that Belknap could not be impeached if the evidence only proved that his wife took bribes without his knowledge or consent? Gen. Grant deserves the severest condemnation and the House should promptly vote a resolution of censure.

SOLID BILLS OF EXCHANGE.—The New York Express says two remarkable bills of exchange made their appearance in that market a few days since. They were for 300,000 francs each, drawn by the Aster estate on Hottinguer, of Paris, and endorsed by John Jacob Astor and the National Bank of Commerce. These bills were bought by August Belmont & Co., and in the course of transmission will probably go to the Rothschilds of Paris and receive their endorsement, and finally be accepted by Hottinguer. The combined wealth represented by the names that will be written upon these bills is something we believe without a precedent. The aggregate wealth of the Rothschilds is set down by eminent French authority at \$3,200,000,000; the Astors may be put down for \$250,000,000; the Bank of Commerce has a capital of \$10,000,000; August Belmont is estimated to be worth \$10,000,000, and Hottinguer \$25,000,000. This makes a combined wealth of three thousand four hundred and ninety-five millions of dollars.

A circular saw—a proverb that goes the round of society.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Like a fearful hurricane has swept over the political and social world of Washington the revolting story of crime and corruption involving the Secretary of War, and, sadder still, setting forth the fact that his wife received the bribes. The maiden name of Mrs. Belknap, third wife of the secretary of war, was Miss Tomlinson, of Harrodsburg, Ky. She first married Mr. Bower, and was the sister of General Belknap's second wife, who died in the latter part of December, 1870, and in consequence of her death there was no reception at the white house on New Year's day, 1871.—Mrs. Bower, who was then a widow, was a guest of the secretary of war during her sister's brief married life, and upon the death of Mrs. Belknap Mrs. Bower took charge of the infant that her sister left. The child died in the West and Mrs. Bower, after a trip to Europe, took up her residence in Gen. Belknap's home in Washington. During the ensuing winter the handsome, dashing widow presided with rare grace at the dinner parties and receptions that he gave. She is about thirty five years of age, of tall commanding presence, with dark lustrous eyes and a flashing smile that discloses a most perfect set of teeth.

Remarkably brilliant color, together with other personal charms, have given Mrs. Belknap the reputation of being one of the handsomest ladies in Washington. Her fine culture and fascinating manners won General Belknap's heart, and he married her just two years after her sister's death. Since she assumed the duties of a lady of the cabinet her receptions have been among the most popular, and her manner has been characterized by a genial warmth, elegance and grace. She professed not to care for the whirl of fashionable society into which she was thrown, but rather to prefer the quiet of her home and the society of her husband and beautiful child, little "Alice," who has been the pet of her mother's guests. Still, Mrs. Belknap is a woman possessed of great ambition, and indulged the most ardent hope that her husband would have been elected to the senate. Worth furnished all her toilets. Her reception and evening dresses were magnificent. Her neck and arms are of faultless beauty, and the diamonds which flashed on them were of great value, often being mentioned as among the most elegant worn in Washington. Many of these jewels were the wedding presents from General Belknap, who, it is now known, received dishonestly certain sums of money previous to his marriage with Mrs. Bower. Brilliant has been the secretary of war and Mrs. Belknap's social reign, and melancholy beyond description is the social and official downfall that marks one of the most painful phases of unbridled love of gain.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The public excitement over the frightful developments of corruption among high functionaries in the public service is on the increase, and every hour seems to add some new and startling fact to the shameful record. A prominent member of the House of Representatives, and a member of the investigating committee, openly expresses the opinion that three of the seven members of the Cabinet will be impeached. The evidence of Pierpont's interference in favor of Babcock, in the hands of the judiciary committee, is almost conclusive, and his impeachment is possible.

Heister Clymer is quoted as saying that everything in the war department has been saleable. Belknap sold even the wharfing privileges about Washington. Marsh and his wife have some information about the half million claim of the Kentucky Central Railroad. It is thought that the present Mrs. Belknap, or some-

body for her, received \$25,000 for her influence in the case.

There are about ten thousand contracts for the four next years awarded on straw bids by the postoffice department.

The bottom facts in the famous safe burglary business have been reached by Harrington's confession.

Wm. J. Purman, a member of Congress from Florida, is under investigation for selling a cadetship and other positions.

Ex-Secretary Delano and his son John have been summoned before the House committee for selling trading stations on the Indian reservations.

Gideon Wells will be before the House naval committee, on Thursday, to testify about the Secor claims.

Gen. Pope is now on his way hither from Fort Leavenworth to testify as to frauds alleged to have been perpetrated by Maj. Ingalls, late agent for five nations in the Indian Territory.

Belknap gave \$25,000 bail at four o'clock, and returned home. The grand jury still have the case in their hands.

It has leaked out that Schenck was recalled upon the express demand of the British Government. The delay in the official action of the President in complying with this demand was for the purpose of enabling Schenck to get safely to sea while the privileges of the Embassy prevented him from being arrested and sent to Newgate as a common swindler.

Another nobody appointed as successor to Belknap. The position of Secretary of War was this morning tendered by President Grant to Senator Lot M. Morrill, of Maine, who promptly declined the questionable honor. Subsequently the place was given to Alonzo Taft, an Ohio Circuit Judge, who accepts. Taft was a prominent candidate before the Republican Convention of Ohio for Governor last fall.

HARD TIMES.—The following brief article on this subject from the Black Shear Georgian should be printed on every press in the land, until its vivid truths absolutely annihilate the loungers who prevent us as a people from attaining to a condition of general prosperity:

"So it is, young man, and the longer you sit around town, holding your hands and twirling your thumbs, and sighing for better ones to come, the harder times will be. Spring is coming; seed time is here; the plow handles call you; the axe is to be swung; the music of the hammer and anvil must be heard, and the glistering of the brightened hoe seen amongst the tares of the field. There may be no place for you behind the counter, or at the desk, in the counting house, or conductor of the train, or fireman, or engineer; or do your aspiration amount to the professions? These all may be full, and no place for you. Yet there is work to do.—Bread makers and corn makers, they never lack a job. The field of honest labor, hardy toil, is never full, and in its dignity it surpasses all other occupations, being the first of your race, and bearing all the seal and signet of divinity."

Mrs. Margaret Boggs celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of her birthday recently in Germantown, Philadelphia. Her maiden name was Donaldson, and she was married eighty three years ago. She danced a minute with George Washington when she was eighteen and he was sixty two years of age.

GEN. LEE'S WAR-HORSE.—The bones of "Traveler," the horse which Gen. Lee rode during the war, was forwarded to the North by Professor McCulloch for the purpose of having them put together. They will be added to the Washington and Lee University museum.

When eyes are not eyes? When the wind makes them water.

And Still They Escape.

For a long time past we have plainly expressed our conviction that the reform of this administration is hollow and only designed to quiet the public mind by fair promises and fine appearances. To-day we are more firmly convinced of the correctness of this view than ever before, for notwithstanding the protestations that the public plunderers were to be prosecuted and punished, we find Niles G. Parker living at ease in Jersey City and Dublin J. Walker occupying a seat in the State Senate, although both of them have been convicted by a jury of their countrymen for embezzling public funds. We have repeatedly charged that the Republican party does not dare punish any political thief, and facts bear us out in the assertion. There have been some miserable mock trials, but between Judges skilled in the application of habeas corpus, Governors ready and willing in the use of the sacred trust imposed by the power to pardon which is vested in them and Solicitors ignorant or careless in the structure of their indictments and the development of their testimony, all the important prosecutions have resulted in the liberation of criminals and granting them the security of an acquittal or pardon to protect them from any further danger on account of their crimes.

The most recent instance of this mode of procedure is the case of the State vs. James A. Bowley, indicted for receiving a bribe as chairman of the committee on ways and means in the last General Assembly. The proof made for the State was that an agreement was entered into between Bowley and John B. Dennis, then Superintendent of the Penitentiary, that he, Bowley, was to receive one-sixteenth of the amount appropriated for the Penitentiary in order to secure his influence for an appropriation of \$80,000. The indictment charged that the appropriation bill was referred to the committee on ways and means, and that Bowley was elected chairman of such committee. The proof was that Bowley was appointed chairman, but that the committee had the right to elect its own chairman. There was no proof offered to show that the appropriation bill was ever referred to the committee on ways and means.—Therefore, in consequence of a failure of the proof to support the indictment in these two particulars, which were of no importance to the merits of the main issue, the defendant was acquitted. Such proceedings as these are not calculated to inspire any very great confidence in the integrity of the promises of the Republican party to reform. We know that an occasional mishap will occur to the most vigilant prosecuting attorney, but when every Republican officeholder succeeds in eluding the law by some device or other, there can be no doubt left that the effort to punish criminals of this stamp is not a very vigorous one. Leslie, Whipper, Moses and others have been charged with grave crimes by officers in high position, and yet they are not indicted. Why is this? The answer is plain. The whole Republican party as such is so utterly corrupt that there is nothing pure enough within its ranks to do the work of purification. The leader's fear investigation or prosecution, for when it begins they know not where it will end.—Anderson Intelligencer.

An English revivalist slid down the banisters of his pulpit in order to show how people went on back-sliding.

A Russian paper predicts that within five years all the European powers will have a war on their hands. Let's keep neutral and sell powder to each one.

Destitution in Colleton.

The Centerville Grange of Colleton County, of which Mr. R. S. Bedon is Master, has declared that great destitution is likely to prevail in that portion of the State during the present year. A committee reports that the farmers were crippled by the disastrous results of the war, and by the sudden fall in the price of long staple cotton and the transition to the cultivation of short staple cotton; and that the total failure of all crops, both of cotton and of provisions last year, makes the prospect for the coming summer alarming. The best farmers did not make provisions enough to last them until the first of February. In their extremity they have called upon the Master of the State Grange for counsel, declaring that, however distasteful it may be, they will be compelled, in all probability, to ask for aid from their brethren.

This is a distressing statement. It is almost inconceivable that in what was once one of the wealthiest counties in the State, famine is staring farmers in the face. And the worst feature in the case is that the people in other portions of the State are barely able to keep the wolf from their own doors. To this pass has Radical rule brought us. No industry can prosper under the baleful influence of corrupt government.—News and Courier.

The World's latest addition to the literature of fables is rather timely. It is entitled 'The Innocent Dog,' and runs as follows: 'A shepherd once indicted his dog for conspiring with a pack of vile curs that had worried his sheep, whereupon the faithful animal addressed him. 'Sir, though appearances may be against me, yet I am armed so strong in honesty that if I am accorded an opportunity to be heard, I will explain to your satisfaction all my communications with those hounds.' Having said this, the honest dog ran away and hid himself in a cave. The shepherd tried to dislodge him thence, but vainly, and at last in despair, desisted and brought in a verdict of acquittal. The innocent brute thereupon emerged, and such of his former companions as had escaped hanging tendered him a serenade, whereat mutton broth flowed like water.' Moral—Let no guilty pup escape.

Old Woman.

It was thus, a few days since, we heard a stripping of sixteen designate the mother who bore him. By coarse husbands we have heard wives called so occasionally, though in the latter case the phrase is often used endearingly. At all times, as commonly spoken, it jars upon the ear and shocks the sense.

Old woman should be an object of reverence above and beyond most all phrase of humanity. Her very age should be her surest passport to courteous condition.

She has fought faithfully the good fight and come off conqueror. Upon her venerable face she bears the marks of the conflict in all its furrowed lines.

The most grievous of the ills have been hers; trials untold and known only to God and herself, she has borne incessantly; and now in her old age—her duty done! patiently waiting her appointed time—she stands more honorably and deservedly than he who has slain his thousands or stood triumphant upon the proudest field of victory.

Young men, speak kindly to your mother, and even courteously—tenderly of her. But a little time and you will see her no more forever.—Her eyes are dim, her form is bent and her shadow falls graveward.

Others may love you when she passes away, kind hearted sisters, perhaps, or she whom of all the world you choose for a partner—she may love you warmly, passionately, children may love fondly, but never, while time is yours, shall the love of woman be to you as that of your old trembling mother has been.