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New Light on an Old Job.

BURGLARY, PERJURY AND MOST VILLANOUS CONSPIRACY.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—The story of the safe burglary conspiracy, which, taken altogether, is probably one of the most remarkable in the annals of crime, is soon to be laid before the public in all its details. The confessions of Whitely and Nettleship, two of the principal agents employed by the original conspirators, fastens the toils around Babcock and Harrington, and despite the almost superhuman exertions which will be made by the District Ring to save them, their doom is certainly sealed. But will these two miscreants have to expiate the sins of the other and perhaps guiltier men who stood behind them? This is the inquiry that addresses itself to every man as he reads the story as it has now been unfolded by two of the principal actors. It is so plain that neither of them could possibly have any motive to originate such a conspiracy.—Neither is it likely that Babcock and Harrington were alone the originators of the plot that Whitely and Nettleship undertook to execute.—Doubtless both Harrington and Babcock had sufficient malice to lead them to conspire the ruin of one or two correspondents who had shed a flood of light on their dark and devious ways. But is it possible that they alone deliberately planned the destruction of half a score of eminent gentlemen, whose only offence to them was the petitioning of Congress for an investigation into the affairs of the District government.

THE STORY OF THE PLOT, as read in the light of the developments of the last few days, is as follows: When a committee of Congress began some years ago to investigate the frauds and thefts of the Washington Improvement Ring, the influential persons concerned, whom a discovery would have ruined, stopped at nothing to prevent it. The committee had, fortunately, help from some of the honest and substantial citizens of Washington, chief among whom was Mr. Columbus Alexander, a gentleman who has shown remarkable pertinacity and ability in his long pursuit of the Ring. It was at Mr. Alexander's suggestion that the committee required the leading men of the Ring to produce the books in which the course and cost of the city improvements were set down, and who pointed out, when a set of books were produced, that they were false and that the genuine books were still concealed. Thereupon it occurred to some of the Ring to endeavor

TO GET RID OF MR. ALEXANDER, by implicating him in what would have the appearance of a criminal act. A spy was sent to Mr. Alexander, who told him that the real books were in a safe in the office of the District Attorney, and that if he would pay a certain sum of money the office could be entered, the safe broken open and the books handed over to him. Mr. Alexander replied that he would have nothing to do with such a transaction, and this little plot failed. The plan of entrapping him, however, had been formed, and was not so easily abandoned. Two burglars had been hired, and other preparations made, and so the spy was again sent to Mr. Alexander with a simpler proposition—that on a certain night the books would be brought to him; and it was determined by the conspirators to post well instructed policemen in such a way as to seize Mr. Alexander while he was in the act of accepting the books. All the arrangements were, therefore, made for a given night. The police who usually guarded the district attorney's office were dismissed or sent to a distance; two professional burglars, hired for the purpose by agents of

the Ring, and brought down from New York, were introduced into the building, and policemen in the confidence of the Ring were stationed outside, for the double purpose of preventing interruption and of following the burglars to Mr. Alexander's house when they should have obtained the books. The safe was blown open, a sham set of books taken out, and with these the burglars proceeded toward Mr. Alexander's house, followed at a short distance by the policemen, ready to pounce upon Mr. Alexander at the critical moment, and to conveniently suffer the burglars to escape after having identified them.

A DROLL INCIDENT.

happened on the way. The time was 1 o'clock at night. The burglars, carrying the sham books had forgotten the number of Mr. Alexander's house; and after wandering past it, and when about to ring the bell of the wrong house, the police, supposed to be in vigorous pursuit of them, had actually to call them and direct them to the right house! Arrived there they rang the bell, but in vain. Mr. Alexander, thinking little or nothing of the proposed delivery of the books, and at any rate determined to take no notice of irregular proceedings with which he would have nothing to do, had gone to bed at his usual hour. The bell had awakened no one in the house.—The burglars and the sham police were both perplexed; the area bell was rung with no better success; and, finally, after consultation between the burglars and the police, the whole party decamped. The next day Washington was excited by the report that a most daring burglary had been committed and the safe blown up in District Attorney Harrington's office, and all means were used to show that the persecutors of the Ring had been guilty of this crime. But after a while

THE TRUE STORY LEAKED OUT,

and several of the actors in it were prosecuted; but always unsuccessfully. And no wonder, for the chiefs in this conspiracy had very powerful friends, and moreover the conspiracy had been very shrewdly managed so as to conceal the chiefs from the knowledge of the subordinates in such a way that but two confidential agents knew who were the real authors of the plot. At last, however, by the persistent efforts of Mr. Alexander and others, Harrington, the district attorney, a particular friend of Shepherd and Babcock, and an intimate at the White House, was indicted and brought to trial. The case against him had been confided to Mr. A. G. Riddle as assistant attorney-general; and Mr. Riddle, who had received his appointment because he was known to be the personal friend of some of the Ring, but who happened to be an honest and incorruptible lawyer, was about to convict Harrington, when the public was astounded first to see Harrington, then under trial for a felony and a prisoner on bail, conspicuously

INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE, where he appeared as a welcome and favored guest, and second, Mr. Riddle suddenly, and for no reason, removed from his post of prosecuting attorney. Thereupon the trial broke down. But the general conviction of Harrington's guilt was so strong that the Ring, who had used this weak young man, now found it necessary to drop him, and he drifted back to his home in Delaware and into obscurity. The prosecution, long baffled, was not dropped; but convenient prosecuting attorneys doctored grand juries, and during last summer a sham and falsely personated bail giver delayed and frustrated the different attempts to bring this scandalous crime to light. At last, it seems, an investigating committee of the

present House has got at the key to the mystery, and it is to be hoped that the patient efforts of Mr. Procter Kenott and his fellow committee-men will succeed in dragging the authors to the light and to punishment.

The Chinese Puzzle.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States says the San Francisco Chronicle, declaring California legislation to prevent the immigration of Mongolians to this State unconstitutional, has had the salutary effect of awakening a lively public attention to this great and growing evil. In this respect it is welcome.—The time has arrived when something must be done for the protection of society, or there is danger that the State will in time be overrun with these barbarous hordes, and be no longer desirable as a place of residence for white people.

In his communication to the board of supervisors directing attention to the subject the mayor has graphically described some of the grievances already suffered from the presence here of the Chinese; but there is a repulsive inside history connected with this people which can only be learned by frequent visits to their haunts and the study of the habits which make their residence among us undesirable. It is evident that those who have never visited California are in gross ignorance of the afflictions their influx entails upon the State. They are remote from the scene, and refuse us their sympathies and assistance to get rid of the evil, because they cannot realize its threatening character, nor understand the extent to which its encroachments have reached.—Every steamship that arrives from the Orient adds from five to fifteen hundred of these people to our population. They are poured into this city, where many of them remain, while the others scatter abroad; and as subsistence is, of course, a necessity of their lives, these underbid and supplant poor white men in different vocations, go into our charitable institutions. At this rate of increase, with an empire containing four hundred millions of souls to draw from, it can easily be seen that at no distant day the Chinese may absorb and outnumber the six hundred thousand of our white population.

These people cannot become citizens, or do they as a general thing desire citizenship. They are brought here as serfs under contract to the different wealthy Chinese companies, and after they have acquired a few hundred dollars, which is a fortune to them, depart to China to enjoy it.—Their return, thus enriched, stimulates immigration, which may be expected to grow larger from year to year so long as the State is denied the right to place restrictions upon their coming. They are not only serfs, but idolaters. They have no homesteads but their shops, where they huddle together like sheep, and like sheep are moved by a common impulse, by the mob spirit, when they have a real or imaginary wrong to avenge. There are but a few women among them who are not of the vilest sort, and this is one of the most obnoxious features of their communities. We are jostled by them on the sidewalks, forced to stand up in the street cars while they occupy the seats, to sit beside them in places of amusement, and in many other respects to undergo an enforced association with them, because they claim certain social rights which there is no power in the law to forbid or restrain.

These are a few of the grievances to which we are compelled to submit not included in the list of still greater ones recited in the Mayor's communication. We presume no remedy can be obtained through the steamship lines, who, as long as they are paid for carrying this sort of human freight, will not refuse it. Then Congress must be appealed to, as is proposed, for redress. The delegation to be sent to that body from this State will have enough arguments to make out a strong case in their favor. They will,

doubtless, have the assistance also of our Senators and Representatives, and perhaps of those also of Oregon and Nevada.

If the law could be made to reach the Chinese companies by forbidding them to make advances to those serfs, coolies, or whatever else they may be called, and which, in fact, are the deepest roots of the evil, it would be reached; for there is not one in a thousand of the class most objectionable who would otherwise be able to reach our shores.

The Next Senate.

The elections in New Hampshire and Connecticut having made it certain that the new Senator from the former will continue to be a Republican; and from the latter a Democrat, it becomes interesting to inquire how in all probability the Senate will be divided politically on the coming in of the next Administration. The Senate consists of seventy four members. There is a vacancy in Louisiana; but for our present purpose we will assign the seat to the Democrats. There are four so called Independents in the Senate, namely, Christiancy, Hamilton, Booth and Cameron of Wisconsin. We will classify them all as Republicans, though it is rather doubtful whether Booth ought to be thus placed. Dividing the present Senate in this manner, it stands forty four Republicans and thirty Democrats.

The terms of twenty six Senators expire with Grants administration—of these, seventeen are Republicans and nine are Democrats. Of the seventeen States now represented by these Republicans, that party is reasonably sure to have the new Senators in Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Wisconsin. The last elections in these States show that the Republicans are pretty certain to retain their eleven Senators. The other six States are Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and New Jersey; and there is scarcely a doubt that the Democrats will wrest their six Senators from the Republicans.

The nine States in which the terms of Democratic Senators expire next March, are Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. There is no doubt that the Democrats will secure the new Senators from these States.

Assuming, then, that we are correct in our calculations, how will the next Senate stand? If no new State is admitted to the Union, the Senate will consist of seventy four members, of which thirty eight will constitute a majority. Giving the Republicans the four so called Independents, and conceding to the Democrats the vacant seat in Louisiana, the Republicans have in the present Senate, as already stated, forty four members, and the Democrats thirty. Now, if the Republicans lose the Senators in the six States we have named, and the Democrats gain them, then, in the next Senate, the Republicans would have thirty eight, and the Democrats thirty six.

This estimate makes the new Senate so evenly balanced that a loss of one by the Republicans would produce a tie; and there are many shrewd politicians who will insist that the Democrats will stand the best chance to get the Senator in Wisconsin. This would give the Democracy thirty seven. There are others who believe that a regular Republican cannot be elected in South Carolina; and still others who think that Booth should not be counted among the Republicans.

At all events, it is clear that the probabilities in regard to the political complexion of the new Senate are very nicely balanced; and whether

the Democrats or the Republicans shall have the majority, may depend upon the influence which will be exerted in two or three doubtful States by the personal character and antecedents of the two candidates for President.—New York Sun.

Hail Columbia!

The New York Tribune, Republican, says:

Senator Morton has won a victory. The Republican Convention at Columbia, South Carolina, has practically declared for him. The Convention had a very pleasant and lively meeting. All the great lights of the party were present, and worked for Morton like heroes. Whipper was there, the man whom the Governor refused to commission as judge because he had such a bad character. Moses was there who was rejected for the same reason. Whittemore was there, who was turned out of the XL1st Congress for selling cadetships, and denied admission when he came back again because he was infamous. Senator Patterson was there until, as a reporter brutally expresses it, he "got scared" and ran away. Mr. Swails, a statesman of color, presided over the gathering, and Mr. Elliott, another distinguished black man, whom Judge Mackey tersely described to his face as the captain of a gang of thieves, regulated debate with his revolver. A more enumeration of the company, however, would give but a faint idea of the nature of the festivities. "Liar" and "villain," qualified by theological adjectives were the mildest of the epithets tossed to and fro upon the raging sea of discussion. Furniture flew through the air; the ruins of overturned desks endangered the nimble shins of the delegates; and in the crisis of the proceedings a chair, flourished over the head of Governor Chamberlain, came near bringing the anti-Ring faction of the party to sudden dissolution. Meanwhile the proceedings in the gallery seem to have varied in interest with the official transactions on the floor. Some Northern visitors of the gentler sex, unused to the political customs of Columbia, fainted dead away, and the negro wives of the honorable fighters down below ran shrieking through the passages and clattering down the stairs. Quiet having been at last restored by the exhaustion of the combatants, and the gentleman with the pistol suppressed by the combined physical force of the newspaper reporters, the Convention proceeded to rule out all the Chamberlain or Reform delegates, and put the machine in working order to send Morton delegates to Cincinnati.

The history of these proceedings is worth remembering, because by and by when the friends of Mr. Morton begin to press his claims a little more boldly, we shall hear a great deal about the oppression of the colored people in the South and the villainous schemes of the Ku-Klux to skin Elliott and Swails alive. It is only as the protector of the class which has just made this picturesque demonstration at Columbia that Mr. Morton has any meaning as a candidate for the nomination. If we may be allowed the expression, it is the red and ragged shirt of Swails that is carried before him as a labarum. His only policy is to perpetuate the supremacy of the faction which Judge Mackey happily characterized as a gang of thieves; the faction which is represented by Moses, Whittemore, and their black dupes in South Carolina, by Sponcer, Hays, Hester and Hinds in Alabama, by Ames in Mississippi, by Casey and Kellogg at New Orleans. Morton means nothing but the "ruling out" of the decent Republicans who are trying in several of the Southern States to administer political affairs on the basis of the Ten Commandments. The country has had enough of unconstitutional enforcement laws, enough of the irresponsible rule of deputy marshals, enough of the employment of the troops to carry elections, and reigns of terror established by an ingenious constable shooting a hole in his own

hat. Robbing the postoffice to get funds for political purposes, treating legislators with cards and drugged whiskey to prevent their voting, establishing a Legislature and a whole force of executive officers by a void mandamus signed at midnight in a judge's bedroom, breaking up a local political organization by the issue of blank orders of arrest, and detailing soldiers to aid in the elevation to power of ignorant, brutal and shamelessly venal negroes, despicable white adventurers, the peddlers of cadetships, and the judges whose names no honest American can speak without blushing—these are the chief features of the Morton programme which has already made the South a scandal to civilization and threatens to convert it into a desert. These riotous persons at Columbia are the full flavored product of the Force bill school of Republicanism, and the deliberate judgment of the nation is that they are not the part of the South which needs protection.

Disappearance of Georgia Lakes.

A third lake in Lowndes county has been emptied of its waters by subterranean passages during the last six months. What is the matter? The Times has several times alluded to the fact that Lowndes county had within its borders numbers of lakes from ten to five hundred (and several beyond a thousand) acres in size, and can it be that these lakes are all connected with a grand underground water course? It seems so. In September last one dried up or ran off, and left bushes upon bushes of fish in holes of water about upon the bottom of the lake. In January another, about five miles from this, did the same thing; and now Grassy pond, a lake covering about five hundred acres, just between the two just mentioned, has left its millions of fishes out of water. About three weeks ago it was reported that the waters of this lake were sinking below low water mark, and every day or two we would hear that it was still going down.

Last Friday a report spread all over the county like wildfire that Grassy pond was low enough to rake the fish out with nets, and by sun down more than one hundred people had collected at the place, some had dip nets, some cast nets, and there was one seine in the party. The first haul with the seine caught enough trout, jack, bream and speckled perch to make a "mess" for every one present. During the night all the water disappeared and there were millions of fish left dead upon dry land. Saturday, next day, the planters hitched up their wagons and hauled load after load and scattered them in their fields for manure, and thousands were left at the mercy of buzzards, hogs and other creatures of prey. Such quantities of fish and such destruction has never been known in the history of Lowndes county. No one ever dreamed that there was half that quantity of fish in Grassy pond, though it was celebrated for its fine fishing grounds in the spring of the year. The other two lakes above mentioned did not run thus completely dry, and the fish that were not caught were saved by the water returning in a few days from its hidden retreat in the bosom of the earth. We learn that Grassy pond is filling up again, but it is too late to save the finny tribe. These statements are not at all exaggerated, and can be testified to by several hundred people living in this county, though it is marvellous to all—Valdosta (Ga.) Times.

Bad luck is simply a man with his hands in his pockets and his pipe in his mouth, looking on to see how it will come out. Good luck is a man of pluck, with his sleeves rolled up and working to make it come out all right.

Blaine, as Mr. Tucker well puts it, is running "the States' Rights bugaboo," against Morton's "Bloody Shirt."