

THE PICKENS SENTINEL.

DEVOTED TO POLITICS, MORALITY, EDUCATION AND TO THE GENERAL INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY.

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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12, 1876.

THE SITUATION.

The returns from Maine, following these from Vermont, should convince the Democracy that their policy is to concentrate their efforts on the States which give a reasonable promise of victory for effort, and to let the hopelessly Republican States entirely alone. That was understood to be the idea at the commencement of the campaign. After a while, however, some of the Democratic leaders were seduced into the belief that many of the Republican strongholds could be carried; and attempts were made to secure the votes of Maine, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and even of Vermont and Massachusetts, for Tilden and Reform. It is well that we have been beaten in Vermont and Maine and that their majorities are so large as to convince us, beyond a doubt, of the necessity of returning to our original programme—our first loves. Care, caution and courage will give us a United South—138 votes. The Pacific States, 12 votes, are certainly ours, if we bestow upon them half as much attention as has been uselessly expended on Maine, Vermont and some of the Western States that we have no show of carrying. And Tilden's prestige in the East as a reformer, will give us Connecticut, New Jersey and his own great State of New York, 50 votes in all, if we only treat these States with decent respect. The States above enumerated have 500 votes in the Electoral College—15 more than necessary to elect a President.

WHO WILL IT BE?

Both parties are now waiting with a good deal of anxiety for the nomination of a Democratic candidate for Governor of New York which comes off this week. Upon this nomination of which you will be advised by telegraph, before this letter reaches you, depends, probably upon the election of the next President. It is pretty generally conceded by close calculators on both sides that the Presidential candidate who gets the 35 electoral votes of the Empire State will be the occupant of the White House.—There is very little doubt that Mr. Tilden is strong enough to carry the State unaided by a popular nominee for Governor, as he beat General Dix in '74 by a majority of 50,318 votes; but, as so much is involved in the issue in New York this year, it was highly desirable that Mr. Seymour should head the State ticket, as he carried New York against Grant in '64, when the latter was, perhaps the most popular man in the United States, especially with the Union soldiers. As, however, Mr. Seymour has seen fit to decline, let us hope that his place on the ticket will be filled by a man who is not mixed up in the local feuds of the party, and who will command its entire vote.

THE MONEY QUESTION NOT AN ISSUE.

Because Mr. Tilden is, perhaps, the most uncompromising advocate in the Union of hard money, some of his friends in the North, judging from the course they are pursuing, in their speeches and their writings, think to elect him on that issue. This is a grievous, and may be a fatal, error. The St. Louis Convention did not attach primal importance to the money question is evident; or it would not have placed upon the ticket Mr. Hendricks, whose proclivities has long been known, far and wide, to be for more greenbacks.

For the Democracy, then, to endeavor to make the money question an issue in this campaign is worse than useless. It is simply stupid, and a waste of time and money; the more so when it is considered that Hayes was elected Governor of Ohio as a hard money man, when the money question was the chief one of

the campaign; and that Wheeler has always been an outspoken hard money man. The South went as a unit for Mr. Tilden as a Reformer, and it was understood that Reform was to be the Democratic war cry during the campaign. And it should be.

MR. TILDEN NOMINATED AS A UNION MAN.

There is another point that the South were very insistent upon previous to the nomination; and it is well that Mr. Tilden's Northern friends and supporters should be reminded of it. The leading Southern Democrats insisted that the candidate presented by the North, for their suffrages, should have been, all through the war, an active, outspoken Union man. They knew very well from past political defeats, and from personal intercourse with the people of the North of all shades of politics, that it is too soon for any party to hope to elect a President whose record as a Union man during the war is not unassailable. The time for that has not yet come. That was, perhaps, the very first consideration with the Southern leaders in casting about for a candidate. And it was chiefly because they believed Mr. Tilden's war record to be good, that they made up their minds to support him at St. Louis. Instead, then, of expatiating upon our candidate's opinions on finance, would it not be wiser for his money-maniac friends, to dwell upon his reformatory and economic measures in New York and their results; and to refute the charges now brought against him by the Republicans of having refused to sign a call for a Union meeting at the commencement of the war; of having refused to contribute a cent to carry on the war, while his poor fellow-citizens were emptying their coffers to aid the Government; of having "discouraged enlistments and tried otherwise to embarrass the government;" and, finally, as Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions of the National Convention which nominated McClellan, of having "offered and advocated a resolution declaring the war a failure, and demanding that it should cease."

In view of the fact that the above and similar infamous lies are being widely circulated all over the North, in newspapers and pamphlets, would it not be well for the friends of Mr. Tilden, than whom no man not actually in the field has a more brilliant war record, and who contributed unflinchingly to the support of the Union cause, to prepare a campaign document setting forth his services to the country during the rebellion; and thus forever silence his vile slanders. That is what is needed now—not treatises on finance. (A friend at my elbow informs me that such a document is in course of preparation. Good.)

A FREE WORSHIP LEAGUE.

An organization with the above name has been commenced in Washington, intended to be national, for the purpose of co-operating with a similar organization in England formed for the purpose of securing to Protestant residents of Spain the privilege of establishing Protestant churches and schools in that country. It appears that the Spanish Minister of the Interior has recently ordered the removal of the placards, notices, etc., from the exterior of all Protestant schools and places of worship in the Kingdom, and that the resident Protestant clergymen have complained to the British Legation and intend to follow up the matter.

It has been already stated how Lula, "the champion female trapezist of the world," lately fell and dislocated her hip in Dublin. The attending physician discovered that Lula is a man!

General Sherman, Taft and the Marshals.

General Sherman does not seem to be fully in accord with Secretary Taft, Governor Chamberlain and other would-be intimidators of Democratic voters, in regard to the use of Federal soldiers by the Marshals and their deputies. In publishing Taft's infamous circular, Sherman instructs military officers that they must judge for themselves, whether the service required of them is lawful, necessary and compatible with their ordinary military duties. If possible, every application for aid by the Marshals or deputies, must be referred to the President for his orders, and in all cases the highest officers who can be reached, will alone assume the responsibility of action. This is hardly what Taft and his instigators contemplated, and is doubtless far below the anticipations of Radical politicians in the South. We shall see.

In the meantime the New York Sun expounds the law for the benefit of all concerned, in the following lucid and emphatic fashion:

The only point in relation to the Attorney General's circular that is of the slightest consequence is whether the President can lawfully authorize or instruct the Marshals of the United States, or their deputies, to preserve what he calls "the peace of the United States" at the polls when Federal officers are to be chosen, by employing the troops of the United States as part of the posse comitatus. What the Attorney General means by the "peace of the United States," as distinguished from the peace of a State, it would be difficult to tell. The Supreme Court of the United States has said it cannot be claimed that the United States have the power or are required to do more police duty in the States. But assuming that at Federal elections "the United States," to use the Attorney General's language, have the right to "secure voters against whatever in general hindors or prevents them from a free exercise of the elective franchise"—which by the way is not true unless the voters are molested or interfered with on account of their color—the question is whether the Marshals, in preventing such molestation, can use at the polls the army of the United States.

Section 2,024 of the Revised Statutes, title, "The Elective Franchise," undoubtedly empowers the Marshal, when he is by violence, threats, or menaces, prevented from executing his duties or from arresting any person who has committed any offence for which the Marshal is authorized to make arrest, "to summon and call to his aid the bystanders or posse comitatus of his district." The quotation which the Attorney General makes from the opinion of his predecessor, Mr. Cushing, to the effect that military bodies may be included in the posse comitatus when the execution of process is resisted, has nothing whatever to do with the lawfulness of stationing troops at the polls to keep the peace, or to prevent the commission of offences, or to make arrests without process. Mr. Cushing's opinion was given in 1854, with reference to the execution of process under the Fugitive Slave law; and it was a true opinion with reference to the execution of that and all other processes. But in 1865 and the act of Congress was passed, now reenacted in the Revised Statutes, section 5,528, making it a highly penal offence for any officer of the army, or other person in the civil or military service of the United States, to order, bring, keep or have under his authority or control, any troops or armed men at any place where a general or special election is held in any State, unless such force be necessary to repel armed enemies of

the United States or to keep the peace at the polls. The same provision also stands in section 2,002 of the Revised Statutes, at the head of the title, "The Elective Franchise."

We have already pointed out, in our issue of Monday, September 4, why the exception of keeping the peace at the polls, so far as the use of military power is concerned, can exist only when the State is unable to keep its own peace, has called on the President of the United States for aid. The law which sternly prohibits even the presence of military forces at the place of an election necessarily excludes them from the posse comitatus which the Marshal is authorized, without any action by the State, to summon and call to his aid for the purposes set forth in the law of 1865 was to prevent officers of the army from stationing troops at any place where an election is held, excepting when they are acting, not under a Marshal of the United States, but under the executive authority of the State after a call on the President which has resulted in a detail of United States forces to act under the orders of the State authorities.

This circular, therefore, of the Attorney General will utterly mislead the Marshals and their deputies as well as officers of the army, if it induces them to believe that a Marshal under pretext of keeping "the peace of the United States" at the polls to aid him in the discharge of his duties in regard to the protection of the elective franchise. He may undoubtedly use the whole of what constitutes the posse comitatus in the discharge of his duty at the polls, excepting that he must take exceeding good care that he does not employ the troops of the United States as part of that posse comitatus. If he does, no circular of any Attorney General that ever lived will afford him the least protection.

We have no doubt whatever that the distinction on which we now insist will hereafter be held by the judiciary to be correct. Upon any other construction of the provisions of the Revised Statutes, it would follow that any United States Marshal, in any State, upon his own judgment and discretion, without any action of the State authorities, without there having been any call by the State Executive for the aid of the United States in protecting the State against Democratic violence, and when no process of the United States is to be executed, may place troops of the United States at the polls to act under his orders, and do whatever he may judge necessary. Our liberties are not in such a desperate condition, as all Marshals, Attorney Generals, and all other officers will find when this election is over.

Dragooning the South.

The Washington correspondent of the New York World, in his dispatch of the 4th, says:

The long expected letter of the Attorney General, intended to influence the Southern elections, which has been awaiting the President's approval, came back from Long Branch to day with his endorsement. Judge Taft, who has been running to the War Department a great deal of late, instantly repaired to Mr. Cameron's office, where a consultation was at once had by the Republican leaders and officials assembled for the purpose. These were Secretaries, Cameron, Robeson and Chandler, General Sherman, the carpet-bag Senator John J. Patterson and Governor Chamberlain, of South Carolina. Mr. Taft is simply an instrument in this business to carry out the plans of party policy which have been devised by Messrs. Patterson, Cameron and Chandler to establish bayonet rule at the South.

The circular, which is very fitly

called an order, was at once given to the press. The marshals and their deputies at the South will be very quick to use the enormous powers conferred upon them by the circular. It is understood that the mode adopted by the War Department of carrying out the new policy will be to send the opinion to the army officers in the South for their information and guidance. They will then be at the beck and call of the infamous class of persons now filling the offices of United States Marshals at the South, and the deputies they may select, and may be used to any extent that party exigencies may require. The machinery being now ready, the carpet-baggers will incite the more vicious class of negroes to outrages to white men and ladies at the South, so as to bring about race conflicts, which they will use as the pretext for an extensive system of arrests by the soldiery. In this way they hope to carry four or five Southern States. Secretary Cameron will now leave for Pennsylvania and his Western trip.

CHAMBERLAIN DEMORALIZED.—The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, after mentioning the presence of Chamberlain and Patterson at the Cabinet council the other day, says:

It is rumored that at the suggestion of these two latter one of the first things that the Marshal of South Carolina will be prompted to do is to break up by force the practice of the South Carolina Conservatives of appearing at public meetings and discussing political questions with the Republicans. The practice of orators of the different political parties engaging in mutual discussions before the people has long prevailed all over the Union. There certainly is nothing in the Enforcement act that can even by Radical ingenuity be tortured into a prohibition of this practice in South Carolina and a sanction of it in other States. But the South Carolina Radicals are unwilling that the negroes whom they have long controlled to their own hurt shall be enlightened, and therefore the majesty of the power of the United States Government is to be invoked to fetter free speech. General Ruler left here to night to take command of the Department of the South. Gov. Chamberlain also left for South Carolina, and it is understood that troops will be furnished immediately to assist the Marshal of South Carolina in preventing the Conservative speakers from putting their side of the question before the negroes of South Carolina.

The European powers have taken the matter of peace negotiations into their own hands without reference to Turkey or Servia.

A rifle club, "Hampton Legion Company, D." was organized at Williamston on last Friday evening, with the following officers: W. P. Cannon, Captain; R. V. Acker, 1st Lieutenant; Lewis Johnson, 2nd Lieutenant; J. W. Dacus, 3d Lieutenant. The club numbers fifty four members already.

Mr. S. G. Herndon, a highly respected citizen of Oconee County, died last week. He was tax collector of Pickens District for a term.

The first bale of new cotton was received at Greenville on Wednesday from Cokesbury, raised by W. A. Moore, and was sold to the Camperdown Mills at 11 cents.

Belknap's Mills in Laconia, N. H., which have been idle three years, will resume operations soon under the name of Laconia Mills.

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from any troubles.

A Projected Raid on South Carolina.

Those who are not acquainted with the true character of Chamberlain, the carpet bag Governor of South Carolina, will probably be surprised to learn that he is the most active of the Republican politicians who are urging the Government to send Federal troops into the South in order to intimidate voters. He was recently reported as denying that he had asked for troops in South Carolina, and as expressing the belief that their presence would not be necessary, though he was doubtless secretly asking for soldiers, while he was publicly pretending to oppose military intervention. At any rate, he makes no concealment of his wishes now, and on Monday he very tersely explained to a newspaper correspondent his reason for a change of front.

"The situation in South Carolina," he said, "has changed as in an hour. When I was here a month ago the Democrats in South Carolina were inclined to support me, and had even said that they would nominate no one in opposition to me. The State is Republican by a majority of at least twenty thousand, and they had determined, for the sake of peace and quietness to endorse me; but General M. C. Butler and Gary, and men of that type, captured the convention and decided upon putting up Wade Hampton. Since that time the entire situation has changed." These are Chamberlain's own words; having failed in his plans to run both political parties for his own personal benefit, he throws off the mask and rushes to Washington to beg for an armed invasion of the State over which he dominates.

In the conversation referred to above, Chamberlain complained that the Democrats come to all the Republican political meetings and insist upon discussing with the Republican speakers the questions at issue. "I would not object to this," he said "if it were all; but it is not. They come to our meetings armed and mounted." He neglected to say, however, that the negroes also go armed to such gatherings, and that a few days ago, at a meeting on one of the Sea Islands, where it had been arranged that both parties should be represented on the speakers' stand, and where the blacks outnumbered the whites probably a hundred to one, those of the negroes who had no firearms came armed with scythes, razors, pitchforks and axes.

The truth is that under the villainous rule of Chamberlain and his immediate predecessors in office, there has been no security for life or property in South Carolina; and it has become a matter of necessity for the whites to go armed for self preservation in those counties where the Republicans are in a majority. In another column, we publish a few facts, hastily gathered from various authentic sources that fully show the shocking condition of society in the State which Chamberlain wishes to have put under military supervision, in order that he and his kind may continue to fatten upon the misfortunes of its people.

Now that this unscrupulous demagogue has shown himself once more in his true colors, we trust that the Democrats of South Carolina will take special pains to disappoint him in his expectations of race disturbances. Their deliverance depends upon the most complete forbearance and self control on their part.—New York Sun, 6th.

Cline's workshops, in Greenville, were destroyed by an incendiary fire, on Thursday last. Loss \$8,000. No insurance.

"My bark is on the sea," as the cur said when the captain threw him overboard.