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The Sumter Watchman.

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DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, MORALITY AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN CONGRESS—SIGNS OF A BREAK-UP—WHAT THEN?

Political.

MASSACHUSETTS SNUBBED.

BUTLER CASTIGATED IN THE HOUSE AND SUMNER IN THE SENATE.

It is evident enough that members have become tired of the impudent rule of Massachusetts. Hoar has been rejected, Boutwell has been snubbed, and Sumner's ignorant pretensions and Butler's blackguardism have been signally rebuked in the Senate and House by all parties. Gentlemen on the Democratic side were advised some time ago to spit in his face, instead of begging him for the privilege of a five minutes' speech. It was known that our modern Captain Bobadil would stand it—as he did, literally, at Charleston in 1860. True, physically speaking, the thing itself was not done yesterday in the House—probably because it might have been considered "unparliamentary." But I am free to say that, so far as the "rules" would allow, the spit was attempted, with all the force at the command of Mr. Cox, to be driven into the invulnerable cuticle of Butler's face of brass.

Hear the sneaky little Representative from New York. I quote from an authorized copy of his speech:—"Mr. Cox said (among other things) that Mr. Butler had no sensibility; that his position before the country, and did not know how people regarded him. His own colleagues intimated that he was a thief and a robber, and he did not take it up; but it had been left to him (Mr. Cox) to defend him; and because he had done so in spirit of good nature, he (Mr. Butler) had made his covert negro minstrelsy attack upon him. Why did he not attack his colleagues and make them call for a committee of investigation on his past derelictions and past alleged robbery? Why did he stand here, the condemned man of this Congress? Why did he reserve all his fire for his friends, as he did in the army, and then, when attacked, retreat like a bomb proof soldier and hide himself?"

Rather plain language this—calling the "honorable" leader of the Radical party in the House a "rogue" and a "thief" and a "robber" and also stigmatising him, a "whilom" "General" of the Grand Army of the "Jamez" as "not only a coward, but a miserable poltroon." This, however, is "candle ends and cheese parings" to what Sumner is daily getting from members of his own party in the Senate. Mr. Trumbull stood up in his place, yesterday, and for the third time denounced the Massachusetts defamer as a deliberate slanderer and liar, and what is more to the purpose, proved it by incontestable documentary evidence. Look at Sumner's pusillanimity rejoiner!

The debate in the Senate yesterday was important and curious in other respects. I do not allude to the developments as to the power and its abuse of the "caucus," about which Mr. Thurman made a short speech. Everybody knows that the caucus has been governed for the past half dozen years by a cabal outside of legitimate legislation. A caucus governed the party, and the "party" governed the Congress, and "Congress" governed the country. This has all been clear enough; but it was asserted yesterday, by no less a personage than Mr. Sherman, Chairman of the Finance Committee, by "the small Democratic minority," by "concentrating their strength," "would have rendered futile any attempt at reconstruction" upon the principle of *negro suffrage*; or, indeed, upon any other. This is most extraordinary revelation. Who are they that refused to "concentrate"? I quote his remarks upon this delicate point as I find them in his speech at large, for the purpose of calling the attention of those composing the "small Democratic minority" at that day in the Senate to this damaging development. There must certainly be some mistake. Yet no Senator seemed to contradict Mr. Sherman, although several of the implicated members still remain in the Senate.

Mr. Sherman spoke of the various bills on reconstruction that had been introduced, and the contrariety of opinion among the Republican Senators, and that it became evident that the small Democratic minority, by concentrating their strength with one or the other clique into which the Republican party was then divided, would have rendered futile any attempt at reconstruction. Then he (Mr. S.) moved the appointment of a committee of seven to take all these bills into consideration, so as to mature some measure which would command the approbation of all. In that committee the late Senator from Maine (Mr. Fessenden) had made a forcible argument against incorporating this suffrage clause, but solely because it was unnecessary. There was no difference of opinion as to the propriety of it. Mr. Reverly Johnson, the Democratic Senator from Maryland, had then, in the caucus, the proposition to incorporate colored suffrage.—*Wash. Cor. Baltimore Gazette.*

THREE CHECKING SIGNS.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Gazette sees three signs promising a better future: First: Senator Stewart's bill for the removal of disabilities would have been carried but for the inopportune objection of a Democratic member. Second: Mr. Marshall's resolution against protective tariffs was tabled by only twelve majority, the West and South voting with unusual unanimity on this occasion. Third: A growing disposition to recognize the claims of all parties who claim seats in Congress under the broad seal of the States, whether Democratic or not.

THE BEAUTIES OF THE CREATION.

Miscellaneous.

The more attentively we consider the face of nature, the more deeply we pry into its mysteries, and make ourselves acquainted with its secrets, the more do we acknowledge the wisdom of the Creator, the more do we feel that "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handy work." Every advance in science, every new discovery in the structure and organization of the bodies that surround us, does but increase our admiration, and confirm our assurance that "the hand that made them is divine."

The geologist investigates the crust of the earth. He observes the nature of its strata, the position, superiority of such as are porous and permeable deep or down, those that are tenacious and resisting. He recognizes in this arrangement the source of "the rivers that run among the hills." He observes that had this order been reversed, the rain which falls from heaven would have deluged the surface of the earth without penetrating its bosom, and would in wild devastating torrents have swept from its face those fruits and plants that it now so beneficently nourishes and evolves.

The chemist analyzes what were formerly looked on as elementary substances. In the air he finds two gases, one of which is by itself fatal to animal life, while an undue proportion of the other would change the air we breathe into a corrosive poison; yet they are mixed in such proportions as to form the compound most suited to support that curious vital phenomenon, respiration. And when this compound is examined in the depths of the lowest mines or at the greatest heights to which men have ascended, the proportions of this combination are found to be unvaried. He examines the earth, he considers their use for the growth and support of plants, and he asks for himself what should they consist of for this purpose. Plants he finds to contain oxygen, hydrogen, carbon and salts. The two former can be derived from the air that surrounds the water which moistens them: for the latter they are dependent on the soil in which they are rooted. However various the composition of this soil, it consists essentially of two parts. One is a certain quantity of earthy matters, such as clay lime, and magnesia; the other is formed from the remains of animal and vegetable substances, which, when mixed with the former, constitute common mould.

The rain then percolating through this mould dissolves the soluble salts, which, in the same time they assist in the rapid motion of the blood so necessary to animals of such quickness of motion and rapidity of impulse. Their wings are widely extended, in comparison with the size of their bodies, by which means they are enabled to condense a considerable body of air, which, by its elasticity, assists them in their flight. To enable them to maintain their position in the air, it is necessary that the centre of gravity should lie beneath the line of their wings, else they would tumble over in their flight. To attain this object, one of the large muscles for elevating the wing is actually placed with the depressors of the wing on the front of the breast, and made to turn, as it were, over a pulley, to gain the back of the pinnion, and enable it to exert its proper action. The means by which a bird, while sleeping, maintains its hold on the branch, is equally admirable. The tendon running from the muscle, which is situated high up on the thigh, runs behind the joint, or elbow, of the leg. As the bird sits down this joint is bent, and the tendon passing over it, is, of course, strained; from which result, mechanically, the closure of the talons round the object on which they are placed, and thus, without any muscular exertion, the hold is kept while the bird sleeps.

And now, as we approach man and the higher order of animals, facts crowd on us in such countless abundance, in such rich profusion, that we know not how to reject, or which to select. They are too important to be curtailed, too numerous to be inserted at the end of an article. But, before we part, let us glance with our mind's eye over the few, but interesting, facts we have collected. Let us observe their exquisite ingenuity, their beautiful adaptation and suitability to circumstances. And shall we then attribute them to a blind chance, an indiscriminating destiny? No; we shall not so far insult our reason. Voiceless though they be, they declare, in a language not to be misunderstood, the existence of an ever wise and overabundant Creator, "God over all blessed forever."

A GOOD ONE.

In an article upon the probable scarcity of ice during the next summer the Hartford Post tells the following story:—"A good many years ago, when ice in summer was a rarity in cities and an unheard-of thing in the country, a good deacon of a rural church was charged with having got decidedly fuddled one 4th of July in New York. He was arraigned for his misconduct. With tears in his eyes he confessed his fault, but pleaded in palliation that it was a prodigious hot day, and the lemons and ice in the punch did look so cool and inviting that he couldn't resist the temptation, and he supposed he did actually drink to intoxication. A low-browed brother on a back seat listened attentively but incredulously to the defence, and at its conclusion arose. 'I have no objection,' said he, 'to a man's getting drunk if he owns up to it and is sorry for it. That's a thing a man's liable to, and I pray sometimes he can't help it; but when the deacon comes in here and undertakes to excuse himself in any such way as that—talking about seeing ice in July—I go for jerkin' him out for lyin'!"

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