

TO OUR READERS.

After an absence of a year, Mr. R. Means Davis now assumes chief editorial management of THE NEWS AND HERALD, assisted by Mr. Jno. S. Reynolds, as associate editor. No pains will be spared either in the editorial department or in the business management, to raise the paper to a high standard of excellence. The patronage of the people of Fairfield, which has been so generously given in the past, is respectfully solicited for the future.

Grant told Judge Settle that the Electoral Commission would seat Tilden.

A considerable immigration has set in to Florida since the inauguration of the Democratic government. Fairfield will experience a similar revival when Chamberlain clears out.

The Atlanta special to the Augusta Constitutionalist says the new tax bill which passed the House is voluminous and embraces everything. Is it improper enough to embrace the women?

The proceedings before the Supreme Court for the past few weeks have not yet resulted in anything decisive. The Court is moving cautiously. The aspirants for the State offices are contesting the ground, step by step, but the Democrats have a very strong case and some of them, if not all, will eventually be successful. The gubernatorial issue is still before the Court, but nothing has been decided. Hampton, however, is gaining ground every day. He has become the de facto governor, and is recognized everywhere. The people of South Carolina announced in November that they would have Hampton or Ruger; and this is still the alternative. There seems now no possible chance for Chamberlain.

It is said on good authority that Governor Tilden is still quite sanguine of his success in the Presidential struggle. He is reported to have used the following language to a personal friend, only a day or two before the Florida decision: "Say to our friends that they have no reason to be depressed if the Commission decide against the Democracy in the Florida case. I expect the decision will be adverse, but do not encourage despondency. The loss of Florida will not surprise me, but there are other points upon which I am confident the Democracy will succeed." He is represented as talking very unconcernedly about the matter, and as saying, "I am a fatalist in so far as I believe, as the representative of the Democrats, that the final decision will be in our favor."

The Electoral Fraud.

The conduct of the Electoral Commission has been a source of great disappointment to those who relied upon it to set at rest all doubt as to the legality of the election of one or the other of the Presidential candidates. Every one knew that without going behind the actions of the returning boards Hayes would be counted in unless Oregon's vote defeated him. But what the honest people of the Union desired, was to know which candidate had received a majority of all the legal votes cast in each State. This knowledge could be obtained only by examining into all the facts connected with the election in the three disputed States. For this task the Electoral Commission was specially appointed. When it refused to make this scrutiny, it fell far below what was expected of it, and instead of unraveling the

tangle, merely added a new complication.

The principle involved in the Florida decision will give Louisiana to Hayes if the Returning Board is a legal body, and this, notwithstanding the settled conviction that Tilden carried the State, and that the Board violated every principle of law and decency in aggregating the returns. Witness after witness has revealed upon the stand some new crime perpetrated by Wells and his coadjutors. Bribery, corruption, forgery, alterations and erasures of returns, trumped up affidavits, burning of returns—all these are in the catalogue. Wells acknowledged that the Board rejected ten thousand votes cast for Tilden, and his confidential clerk says that sixty-six precincts were thrown out, when intimidation was charged in only ten; and yet, the Commission, clothed by the people of the United States with the authority to search for and discover the truth, and thus to set at rest the disturbed minds of the masses, deliberately refuses to make any investigation whatever; and thus through the supreme power vested in it because of the peculiar work required of it, makes a finality of the action of the returning boards by not doing that which it was organized to do. Hayes will be counted in, unless Tilden, who has been defrauded of what is his due, is counted in upon a quibble. In either case the result is unsatisfactory. The cry of fraud will be louder than ever. The Commission, too, will sink into contempt almost as deeply as the boards whose acts it refused to review are already plunged. The inauguration of Hayes upon a technical quibble will destroy the small modicum of respect for the ballot box that still exists.

The Louisiana Case.

The proceedings in the joint session of Congress for the past few days have consisted in counting and recording the votes of Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas and Kentucky for their respective candidates. When Louisiana was reached, the President of the Senate handed to the tellers three certificates, two of which covered the votes of the Hayes electors, and the third, signed by McEnery as Governor, those of the Tilden electors. There was also a certificate which the Vice President said he had received by mail, purporting to cast the eight votes of Louisiana for Cooper and Cary. The electors mentioned in the document were all named John Smith, distinguished from one another by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and by "letter A," "letter B," and "letter Rip." The Vice President asked and obtained unanimous consent to suppress this certificate, which was clearly bogus and a burlesque. The matter occasioned much merriment. Senator McDonald, of Indiana, submitted objections to the Hayes and Wheeler certificates. Objections were likewise submitted to the counting of the votes of the Tilden electors. The case thus went to the Electoral Commission. The counsel for the Democrats are Messrs. Field, Campbell, Trumbull, Carpenter, Merrick, Hoadley and Green; and for the Republicans, Messrs. Evarts, Shellabarger, Matthews and Haughton.

The further proceedings of the Commission are as follows:

Judge Clifford announced two hours for each side, and that the Commission was ready to hear the objections to the Hayes certificates. Senator McDonald opened, claiming that the Hayes electors were not legally elected, quoting the statutes of Louisiana, showing two sets of electoral laws, and—whether one law repealed the other, or whether they should run together—the proceedings of the Louisiana returning board were alike irregular and unlawful.

McDonald and Jenks are making a strong case, and apparently a strong impression on the court. There is no change in the situation, as indicated by the expressions of confidence on each side. Each asks the other, "Do you give it up?" and each answers, "No."

In the Commission, Mr. Jenks concluded by asking the Commission to let the truth shine upon the whole transaction. If you do, said he, there can be but one single result. The wisest of men, the strongest of men, cannot make the false true. No false god should be set up. If you attempt to blind the eyes of this mighty nation, your edict will be void, for history will know the truth and record it. No; we want to clear out all of this pollution, and to purge the nation of the disgrace of the fraudulent acts of this vile returning board.

Mr. Hulbut, one of the objectors to certificate no. 2—the Tilden paper—after briefly reviewing the history of Louisiana for several years since, claimed that the Kellogg government has been officially recognized by the President of the United States and by both houses of Congress. John McEnery had not attempted to exercise the functions of governor since 1874, and yet he now comes forward and attempts to give certificates to men who claim to have been elected—the Tilden electors. Mr. Hulbut read one of the certificates to show its peculiar phraseology, and that McEnery did not sign himself as governor, and did not use the great seal of the State. He had no seal, nor did he have any office. The fact being settled that Kellogg is the only lawful executive of Louisiana, he would ask the Commission whether they had the right or the time to investigate the election in the State. He read from the laws of Louisiana.

Howe followed Hulbut on the same subject.

OBITUARY.

DIED, on the 12th inst., at the residence of her mother, in this county, Miss MARY AGNES GLADNEY, in the nineteenth year of her age.

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