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HENRY WILSON'S DEFENCE.

A Letter from the Vice President on His Late Trip--The Presidency and the Republican Party.

NATICK, MASS., June 23, 1876.
To the Editors of the Boston Daily Advertiser:
Recognizing to the fullest extent the right of the press to review and criticize the words and acts of public men, I claim the right and believe it to be sometimes the duty of those so criticized to vindicate those words and acts. Acting upon these convictions, I propose to notice some adverse criticisms that have recently appeared in a few republican presses.

Eight years ago which assumed to be the organ of Andrew Johnson and the exponent of his "policy." That journal still lives and seems to be hugely gratified with the imputed reputation of being the organ of the present administration. Recently returned from a short journey in a few of the States, South and West, I find myself and trip to have been the innocent cause of extreme solicitude to the conductors of this assumed organ, and to those who inspire it, if there be any, of which I entertain no more than a doubt. But all such solicitude, I assure them, is uncalled for. That little journey of mine was but the carrying out of advice to take a few weeks of rest before I commenced upon the task I had marked out for the summer and autumn. Kindly welcomed by the people of both races, by democrats, republicans and conservatives, I visited colleges, schools and mansions of varied industries. Being welcomed by people and presses of every shade of opinion. I said nothing in the twenty-nine brief addresses I made of public affairs or of party politics. I spoke of law, order, peace; of industry, material development, education, temperance; of justice to black men and of a generous policy to white men. I visited the graves of Jackson, Bell and Benton. I visited, too, a dying ex-Vice President and chatted a moment with Mrs. Jefferson Davis in the streets of Memphis. Never did I make a more innocent or agreeable journey than was crowded into these few weeks. But I find on my return that all this is very "significant." These welcomes from all without distinction of race or color; these brief speeches, this visit to the couch of a dying man, that little talk with the wife of the President of the late Confederacy, were full of meaning. The "wandering Vice President" was too "unanimous," he was "the victim of Presidential aspirations," and he must be rebuked as other gentlemen suspected of like desires had been.

To all this I reply that I indulge with thousands of my country the idea that the Presidency is a lofty and responsible position; that to be elected to that high office, and clothed with its vast powers for good by 40,000,000, is an honor by the side of which uncounted wealth must weigh as nothing. But notwithstanding this high estimate, I assure the organ and all others alike exercised that there is not one being in all this broad land to whom I have ever written, spoken or even hinted that I desired, hoped, expected or intended to be a candidate. I assure them, too, that I have been so neglectful, not to say discourteous, as not to reply to letters written me upon a subject these imaginative ones deem me so interested in. It may soothe their anxiety further if I assure them that I have neither money nor patronage nor an organ; that I never made a promise, in a political life of thirty-five years, to give office or patronage to persons or presses for votes or influence, and that I never intend to do so. No money! no patronage! no organ! Surely this pitiable condition should console and reassure, if it does not placate, these distressed gentlemen who see such mighty influences in money, patronage and organs, and protect me from their jealousies and their suspicions.

But there is another offence, hardly less heinous. On the morning of my return to New York I was visited by a reporter of the *Tribune*, who propounded several questions concerning my visit and the condition of public and party affairs. Those questions I answered frankly, as I would have done for any other paper, and these answers were published without any revision of mine. They were intended to reach and influence, if possible, those republicans who supported Mr. Greeley and the tens of thousands of republicans who aided last year by their votes, or by not voting at all, in losing two-thirds of the States we had carried in 1872, and in converting a republican majority of 750,000 to a minority of 500,000. They who do not see that these republicans, who are still proud of the record the party has made, hold in their hands the fate of the next Presidential election. Little comprehend the condition of public affairs and what is necessary to success.

A journal that does not see the wisdom of trying to influence dissatisfied republicans, says that the *Tribune* has said sundry unkind things of me, and it taunts me with being "the most forgiving of men," and declares that my action may be "excellent Christianity," but it is not "self-respect" or "manliness." I came to the conclusion years ago that life is too short to be spent in revenging mere personal wrongs, and I have been for a long while forgiving men and presses that have said unkind, unjust or untruthful things of me. I expect to forgive those who are so foolish as to say untruthful things of me now. They need forgiveness, and if I can act in the spirit of "excellent Christianity," I can afford to let my "self-respect" and my "manliness" take care of themselves.

I am accused, too, of not treating the President with becoming respect. Where? When? How? I am surely unconscious of any such purpose. I have seldom obtruded my opinions upon the President; and whenever I have made suggestions it has been because I religiously believed that what I differentially suggested would be for the credit of his administration, the success of the party and the good of the nation. My opposition to the third term folly has been construed, too, into opposition to the President. But nothing is more untrue. When I saw that issue raised and pressed with such disastrous effect upon the party by the able representations of its enemies I took early occasion to say to timid friends that there was no real danger, that it was contrary to the settled conviction and traditions of the people, and that they would elect no man President for a third term. I was actuated by no hostility to the President, nor by favor to any one made the President. And they are succeeding as propitious, by whose favor, quite as fatal to the republican party as would have been a proposition to amend the constitution so as to elect a President for life.

Having opposed the policy of reconstruction when adopted, it is not surprising that the organ sees little or no progress in the Southern States, and that it criticizes for expressing the opinion that there is a better feeling than heretofore. Having been an anti-slavery man for thirty-nine years, and having read and thought much of Southern affairs, I examined with some

care the present condition of the South. There have been unquestionably mistakes, mismanagement and in some cases corruption on the part of those called to the high duty of working out the practical problem of a reconstruction of these disordered and devastated Commonwealths. But with all these mistakes and corrupt practices I saw progress—slow, but I think sure. Had a prophet at the close of the war predicted that in the short space of ten years there should happen what has happened, few would have believed him. Then the colored race, just emancipated, had neither property, homes, education nor political or civil rights. Now, though little accustomed to habits of economy and thrift, it possesses millions of property, has hundreds of thousands of children in schools, has been clothed with civil and political rights, occupies high positions at home, and has representatives in Congress. Then the white race, with institutions, industries and labor disorganized, unaccustomed to toil, disappointed and defeated, were careless alike of the rights of black men and of the opinions of their countrymen. Now States, industries and institutions have been reorganized, labor is becoming more honorable and more universal, the government is more respected, the old flag is more loved and the favorable opinion of the Northern people more highly appreciated. Much remains to be done; but a beginning has been made and hopeful progress has been already secured. There are yet unscrupulous men who are seeking to divide society and parties upon the perilous line of race. Enemies of their country, of mankind and of God, these reckless men should receive the sternest condemnation of the patriot, the philanthropist and the Christian. In spite, however, of all untoward influences there is unquestionably a kinder and better feeling pervading the South. I wish the head of that man who does not see and comprehend it, and the heart of him who does not acknowledge, hail and welcome it with gratitude to God and with hope for humanity and the nation.

It may be that I have spoken too often and too much, but my convictions have forced me to raise quite often the voice of entreaty, advice, warning, remonstrance and protest. I fear from the present outlook and the temper of a few present it will be my duty, as it will be the duty of all devoted, experienced and thoughtful republicans, to continue to do so, however distasteful it may be to those who seem to heed not the lessons of defeat. I am not one of those who believe that the way to make a party strong is to make it indefensible, or to close its ranks to the believers in its principles. The sin for which I am so sharply rebuked by self-constituted censors appears not to be unfaithfulness to the republican platform and organization, but my continuous efforts to win back to the republican ranks honest men who still adhere to the republican faith. Having advocated the ideas embodied in the republican creed and illustrated in republican deeds, in nearly 1,500 speeches, in twenty-seven States, I ought to know something of the feelings, desires and purposes of the American people. Finding nothing in the constitution nor in the traditions of the people that forbid a Vice President to entreat or advise political associates to heed the lessons of experience in legislation and administration, I have written, remonstrated and protested against mistakes I believed would bring defeat, if not dishonor.

Eighteen months ago I thought I saw danger looming up in the near future. I warned my republican friends of the impending peril, and advised that we should, by wise and prudent legislation and administration, and by timely and efficient organization, strive to save the present House. But I was considered, by some who did not "sear well," an alarmist, and was told, with that supercilious arrogance which has driven from us so many republicans accustomed to organize victories, that "the Vice President had better not play the role of a political prophet." In spite, however, of confident assurances of these presuming, but not very sagacious politicians, unexampled disaster came.

I had no doubt then that these were republican defeats rather than democratic victories. Nor have I any doubt now that a majority of the nation still adhere to the distinctive principles of the republican party, and can recover what was then so heedlessly thrown away. So believing, I think duty to the country demands that republicans should do all they can to so reinstate their party that it shall again invite and command the support of all who profess to believe in its principles, and who rejoice over every reform or acknowledged abuses. I have endeavored to look the situation squarely in the face, and I have no intention of doing all in my power, in spite of carping and captious criticisms, to reinstate republicans and to secure again the ascendancy of the party that has saved the Union and emancipated a race.

Believing the continued success of the republican party to be conducive to the sure and more speedy development of the nation in its varied interests, upon the achieved basis of human rights, I think its presses and its leaders should now, in the spirit of self-sacrifice, subordinate their personal aspirations, rivalries and ambitions, and welcome all to their ranks with generous magnanimity, and so leave to the selection, at the fitting time, of its candidate for the Presidency. They should now forgive and forget, and by a reformatory and generous policy, and by the earnest and honest appeals for unity, win back, in the elections of this autumn, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, California and Massachusetts. Successes so won will assure a national victory in 1876. Such a victory gives the republican party, with its brilliant record for liberty and union, a grand opportunity to illustrate the opening of the second century of the Republic with glorious deeds.

HENRY WILSON.

THE DOWNFALL OF THE CARPET-BAGGERS AND THE RESULT.—Just as soon, says the *Philadelphia Chronicle*, as the power of that scoundrelly crew, familiarly known as carpet-baggers, was broken in the South, so soon did the people of that section begin to "thank God and take courage." The incubus that for years pressed so heavily upon them, once removed, they immediately set to work, and with that wonderful energy that has ever characterized the American people—and ten times more wonderful when displayed in the South. They are to-day laboring with hopeful hearts for the restoration of the property that once prevailed amongst them. And they are succeeding as they deservedly should. Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and North and South Carolina, all feel the encouraging impulse. The outrages that kept the mills of Landulet Williams in full play for years have ceased; peace and good order prevail; sound legislation has taken the place of the cruel burlesques upon the word; white and black live together in peace; broken confidence has been restored; waste fields begin to show rich harvests, and the hum of cheerful industry has driven out slothfulness and strife. Surely, says the *Chronicle*, the people of the South have honest cause for thanking God and taking courage, and in their expressions of gratitude they should not fail to give a portion of the credit to the Democracy.

BENEDICT ARNOLD'S TREASON.

A New and Important Contribution to our Revolutionary History.

The following account of the plot of Arnold to surrender his command and several important forts to the British, and of the hanging of Andre, written by Sir Henry Clinton, the British commander, with whom Arnold was negotiating, has recently been published for the first time:
"About eighteen months before the present period, Mr. Arnold, (a major-general in the American service), had found means to intimate to me, that having found cause to be dissatisfied with many late proceedings of the American Congress, particularly their alliance with France, he was desirous of quitting them, and joining the cause of Great Britain, could be certain of personal security, and indemnification for whatever loss of property he might thereby sustain. An overture of that sort coming from an officer of Mr. Arnold's ability and fame, could not but attract my attention, and as I thought it possible that like another general of the name, he might have repented of the part he had taken, and wished to make atonement for the injuries he had done his country by rendering her signal and adequate benefit, I was, of course, liberal, in making him such offers and promises as I judged most likely to encourage him in his present temper. A correspondence was in this way opened under feigned names; in the course of which, he from time to time, transmitted to me most material intelligence; and with a view (as I supposed) of rendering us still more essential service, he obtained in July, 1780, the command of all the enemy's forts in the highlands, then garrisoned by about four thousand men. The local importance of the post has already been very fully described. It is, therefore, scarcely necessary to observe how that the obtaining possession of them at the present critical period would have been a most desirable circumstance; and that the advantages to be drawn from Mr. Arnold's having the command of them, struck me with full force, the instant I heard of his appointment. But the arrival of the French armament, and the consequent expedition to Rhode Island, and the weakness of my own force, together with the then daily increase of Mr. Washington's, obliged me to wait for some more favorable opportunity before I attempted to put that gentleman's sincerity to the proof."
"In the meantime, wishing to reduce to an absolute certainty whether the person I had so long corresponded with was actually Maj. Gen. Arnold, commanding at West Point, I acceded to a proposal he made me to permit some officer in my confidence to have a personal conference with him, where everything might be more explicitly settled than it was possible to do by letter, and as he required that my adjutant general, Major Andre (who had chiefly conducted the correspondence with him under the signature of John Anderson), should meet him for this purpose on neutral ground, I was induced to consent to his doing so from my great confidence in that officer's prudence and address. Some attempts towards a meeting had been accordingly made before Sir George Rodney's arrival. But though the plans had been well laid, they were constantly frustrated by some untoward accident or other, one of which had very nearly cost Mr. Arnold his life. These disappointments made him, of course, cautious; and as I now became anxious to forward the execution of my project while I could have that naval chief's assistance, and under so good a mask as the expedition for the Chesapeake, which enabled me to make every requisite preparation without being suspected, I consented to another proposal from General Arnold for Major Andre to go to him by water from Dobb's ferry, in a boat which he would himself send for him under a flag of truce. For I could have no reason to suspect that any bad consequence could possibly result to Maj. Andre from such a mode, as I had given it in charge to him, not to change his dress or name on any account, or possess himself of writings by which the nature of his embassy might be traced, and I understood that after his business was finished he was to be sent back in the same way. But unhappily none of these precautions were observed. On the contrary, General Arnold, for reasons which he judged important or perhaps (which is the most probable) losing at the moment his presence of mind, thought proper to drop the design of sending Major Andre back by water, and prevailed upon him (or rather compelled him, as would appear by that unfortunate officer's letter to me), to part with his uniform, and under a borrowed disguise to take a circuitous route to New York through the posts of the enemy under the sanction of his passport. The consequence was (as might be expected) that he was stopped at Tarrytown and searched, and certain papers being found about him concealed, he was (notwithstanding his passport) carried prisoner before Mr. Washington, to whom he candidly acknowledged his name and quality. Measures were of course immediately taken upon this, to seize General Arnold; but that officer, being fortunately enough to receive timely notice of Major Andre's fate, effected his escape to a King's ship lying off Muller's point, and came the next day to New York.

"I was exceedingly shocked by this very unexpected accident which not only ruined a most important project, which had all the appearance of being in a happy train of success, but involved in danger and distress a confidential friend for whom I had (very deservedly) the warmest esteem. Not immediately knowing, however, the full extent of the misfortune, I did not then imagine the enemy could have any motive for pushing matters to extremity, as the bare detention of so valuable an officer's person might have given him a great power and advantage over me; and I was accordingly in hopes that an official demand from me for his immediate release, as having been under the sanction of a flag of truce when he landed within his posts, might shorten his captivity or at least stop his proceeding with rigor against him. But the cruel and unfortunate catastrophe convinced me that I was much mistaken in my opinion of both his policy and humanity. For delivering himself up (as it should seem) to the ransom of the king, which he effectually restored the king's authority, and tumbled him from his present exalted situation, he burnt with a desire of wreaking his vengeance on the principal actors in it; and consequently regarded the acknowledged worth and abilities of the amiable young man who had thus fallen into his hands, and in opposition to every principle of policy and call of humanity, he without remorse, put him to a most execrable death, and this, at a moment when one of his generals was by his own appointment in actual conference with commissions, whom I had sent to treat with him for Major Andre's release."

"The manner in which Major Andre was drawn to the enemy's shore (manifestly at the instance and under the sanction of the general officer who had the command of the district), and his being avowedly compelled by 'that officer to change his dress and name, and return under his passports by land, were circumstances which, as they much less the imputed criminality of his offense, ought at least to have softened the severity of the council of war's opinion respecting it, notwithstanding his imprudence of having possessed himself of the papers which they found on him; which, though they led to a discovery of the nature of the business that drew him to a conference with Gen. Arnold, were not wanted (as they must have known) for my information. For they were not ignorant that I had, myself, been over every part of the ground on which the forts stood, and had, of course, made myself perfectly acquainted with everything necessary for facilitating an attack on them. Mr. Washington ought also to have remembered that I had never, in one instance, punished the disaffected colonists (within my power) with death, but on the contrary, had in several, shown the most humane attention to his intercession therefore in so cruel a manner in opposition to my earnest solicitations could not but excite in me the greatest surprise; especially as no advantage whatever could be possibly expected to his cause by putting the object of them to death. Nor could he be insensible (had he the smallest spark of honor in his own breast) that the example (though ever so terrible and ignominious) would never deter a British officer from treating in the same steps, whenever the service of his country would require his exposing himself to the like danger in such a war. But the subject ceased too deeply to proceed—or nor can my heart cease to bleed whenever I reflect on the very unworthy fate of this most amiable and valuable young man, who was adorned with the rarest endowments of education and nature, and (had he lived) could not but have attained to the highest honors of his profession."

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The Scientific American and Keeley Motor.

Upon the authority of the *Scientific American*, the recent discovery of a new motor may be regarded as an exploded humbug. We extract the following article from its columns:
"We have given the latest accounts of this latest attempt to impose upon the credulity of the public, as written by the parties themselves, and backed by their willing assistants. The deception of the whole scheme is so transparent that it hardly seems credible that persons of sane minds can be found who are willing to invest. Nevertheless, we hear from a reliable source that quite a number of well known business men have invested money in the scheme, and in one instance we were told so by the party himself. He had paid \$5,000 down, and fully believed the thing to be a great discovery, and fully expected to realize a large fortune from his investment. On all other subjects this gentleman was rational and intelligent, but in respect to the Keeley motor he was badly hallucinated. He was present at the trial above referred to, saw 2,000 pounds on the gauge, and came away perfectly satisfied.
The question is asked: How could so great a pressure as 2,000 or 10,000 pounds per square inch be produced, allowing that it really was exhibited as stated? We think that any ingenious mechanic, by means of a hydraulic jack and a small pipe, could readily produce and exhibit such a pressure, and could, by turning a faucet drive a whirling for the space of sixty seconds, or from 9:08 p. m. to 9:09 p. m. the learned counsel gloriously reported."

Keeley talks about his studies regarding the force of columns of water, and describing the use of water pressure in his "generator," "multiplier," "receiver," etc. Well, now, Keeley might, if he wanted to, get up an honest show of air pressure by arranging a series of short water tubes so as to concentrate the combined weight of their water against air confined in a suitable chamber. Allowing, for example, that he had ten communicating water tubes, each holding a cubic foot or 62 pounds of water, he might, by turning a faucet, fill the tubes from the hydrant, and concentrate 620 lbs. weight on the confined air, which, if conducted to a gauge, would indicate 620 pounds pressure; this air might drive a small wheel from 9:08 p. m. to 9:09 p. m.; it would more over be a cold vapor, without smell or taste; it would blow out a candle, but not burn; there would be no noise except that of running water; there would be no residuum save air and water; no heat, electricity, or chemical action would be involved.
A curious arrangement of water and air tubes, in which, by turning faucets, the water weights are concentrated, producing pressure, was illustrated and described in the *Scientific American* of April 4, 1868. It was patented by James R. Cole, of Tennessee, December 10, 1867, as a water elevator. It might be bad for Keeley if he should prove to be an infringer of this patent.
There is also a patented arrangement of mercurial tubes for concentrating the weight of mercury and air columns in an analogous manner. We allude to Quinn's patent steam gauge, 1866. It is possible that Prof. Rand, Gen. Haswell, Chief Engineer Rutherford, United States Navy, Chief Engineer Wood, United States Navy, and other advocates of the Keeley motor, are not acquainted with these devices.
One of the strangest developments connected with the Keeley motor is the implicit faith which many gentlemen in this community, of tried experience and business capability, have given to the enterprise. They have yielded not only faith but their money. We can account for this only by supposing that they mistake mere pressure for motive power. But mere pressure is not motive power; it is simply a resultant of motive power. A very slight motive power, if sufficiently long continued, and properly applied, may produce the greatest pressure. A weight of only a single pound, hung upon the extremity of a suitable lever, is sufficient to produce a pressure at the opposite end of the lever of 10,000 pounds more to the square inch. To persons not familiar with the laws of mechanics (and this, we think, is probably the situation of most of the Keeley investors) the exhibition of a gauge showing 10,000 pounds pressure might readily be regarded as proof positive of an enormous power behind the gauge; whereas the actual power concealed from view might be only a weight of one pound.
In cases of this kind, when a body is lifted or a pressure produced, the inquirer should take pains to ascertain what the extent of the original moving power or weight is. If this precaution be taken, the falsity of motors like Keeley's may be at once detected. In the example of Keeley, the certificate of Collier shows that a hydrant force of 204 pounds to the inch is always required to run the machine. This force, if applied to a common wheel or engine, would produce a considerable amount of constant mechanical power. But the moving force is nearly all wasted in Keeley's device, for he is only able to drive a toy engine for a minute or two at a time. This does not look much like driving a train of cars from Philadelphia to New York, or crossing the ocean without the consumption of coal.

—Josh Billings says he don't care how much people talk, if they will only say it in a few words.

The Jury System--A Reform Needed.

Editor Savannah Morning News:

In looking over papers of the State and of other States, we are struck with the amount of crime that seems to curse the land. Not only that, but the trials in many instances seem to be farces. The time, labor and money spent goes for naught, for in comes the jury with a mistrial, and if the verdict be "guilty," especially in murder cases, a more for a new trial is made, or a bill of exceptions is taken.
Unless there be a radical change in the administration of justice, a more sure and rapid punishment upon the heels of crime, society must become demoralized, and Lynch law more fashionable and justifiable. Lynch—the law-abiding portion of it—must feel there is a safe and sure protection for life and property, and that crime cannot go unwhipped of justice through the mere technicalities or the loopholes of the law, or through the tricks and eagerness of the advocate to shield his client.
We have been led to the above reflections by the reading of trials in Georgia in different sections. Within the last six months or a little prior, there has been several outrageous murders of good citizens. Some of the parties have been tried and found guilty of murder and manslaughter, but no sooner were the verdicts rendered than motions were made for new trials. How many trials must a man have before justice—simple, impartial justice—can be administered? Should the murderer have all legal rights? Has the community in general no rights? Shall crimes count upon the ability of lawyers, the uncertainty of juries, and the sympathy or indifference of the community? Delayed, or trials carried from term to term, is but a bid for sympathy or the cooling down into indifference.
Jury trials should not be staved off unless for causes that are imperative. It is easy enough to have important witnesses absent, and when so let them be fined and the trial proceed. The parties interested in their appearance or absence would soon learn that justice cannot be winked at, thwarted or trifled with. Again, the idea that twelve men should agree to a verdict is an outrage against common sense and common justice. It might have answered a hundred years or more, but in this our day it is a farce. It is an open door for corruption and bribery, which, unfortunately, is too common. Not long since, in a neighboring State, a trial that should have sent a man to the penitentiary, if one of the jurors had not been tampered with, was made a mistrial—eleven for guilty and one against. In another instance, in Georgia, not long since, ten were for murder and two for manslaughter, and so on to the end of the chapter.
We should like to see the jurisprudence of the State so changed, that two-thirds of a jury could bring in a verdict. Any one who has ever studied the philosophy of the mind knows that there are mental idiosyncracies and peculiarities in men so marked, that they cannot and will not think as others. They assume their own premises on every subject, and can but see and reason in one line of thought. They are honest and honorable men, but peculiar without. We have, in days past, sat upon juries with just such men. If they happened to be opposed to capital punishment, or any ways squeamish on the subject, they instinctively lean towards the prisoner. Some men's minds are so much like mud that you cannot get a clear ray of light to shine into them, no matter how hard one may try. Others, again, have minds like an owl's eye—the more light you pour upon them the closer they shut. Others, again, have minds like a mole's eye—very small, but they can take in but a very little light. And others, again, have minds that are wilfully corrupt, blind, prejudiced, partisan and perverted, destitute alike of honor, truth or justice.
Mistrials are godsend, hundreds of times, to advocate and client, and the next trial sets, perhaps, the villain loose upon the community. Change the law. Let two-thirds of the jury bring in a verdict, and the heavy and unnecessary expense now incurred in mistrials would be forever done away with. Justice would smile and crime stand paralyzed. Before the war South Carolina had the finest jurisprudence of any State in the Union; and the result was, that murder and theft were rare, while in Georgia we invited it in. The rogue and murderer felt that South Carolina was dangerous and unsafe ground for him while in Georgia our laws gave him the benefit of all doubts, with rather an ordinary jury, and mostly of his own selection.
Our jury boxes have been improved in material, we are happy to record. Now give us speedy trials, a two-third verdict, and justice will cease to weep over the crimes of the country that go unpunished."
R. M. O.
P. S.—Suppose the Beecher trial should be a mistrial; is all of that miserable stuff to be gone over with again? Gracious! what a thought to think!

What a Big Cotton Crop would Do.
Cotton fluctuates and languishes in the foreign and domestic markets, with a largely diminished supply, and the certainty that the last crop is three to four hundred thousand bales short. The market has no back bone and is not likely to have any. The trouble now is apprehension of an increased crop next fall. A half million bales excess over the incoming crop would undoubtedly diminish the money value of the whole crop to producers, even below that of the present crop.
The practical value of propitious weather to the cotton producer, therefore, will not inure to him, but to buyers and manufacturers. And he is, moreover, in the situation of a defendant prejudged to be guilty until he has time and opportunity to prove his innocence.
The world of cotton purchasers assume an outside limit of production until it is apparent that this limit has not been attained. Thus the shadow of the long forthcoming crop of 1876-77—though the substance does not exist, and it is as yet only a creation of fond imagination—is thrown darkly on the little remnant of the incoming crop, and shuts out all sunlight from the market.
Such is the situation, and the whole argument would be for a short cotton crop, provided the loss of product could be equally distributed among producers. The effect of increase in product is simply to impose on the grower the task of more picking, baling and hauling, without remuneration, and indeed, as we believe, at even less than a diminished product would bring to the planter.
The interest of the planter in a heavy crop is, therefore, a purely individual and not a collective interest. It is an interest merely to secure his personal share in the sum total of crop money, which he believes will be endangered by a small yield on his particular farm. If he could be assured that three bales of his short crop would bring him just as much money as five bales of a heavy crop, he would say give me the three bales all the time. I do not wish to raise and send two bales to market at my own cost.
But as the cotton crop covers a vast region and embraces a variety of climatic conditions, no vicinage of the planting interest, and no region of country feels that it has any material power in controlling the grand volume of product. If such a power could possibly be brought into existence and wisely exercised, the whole planting interest could be secured a profitable product, by at once regulating the production to meet the demand of consumers, and establishing a fairly remunerative price, and a condition of affairs in which propitious seasons should not work positive injury to the planter.
The inability of the planting interest to establish and maintain any control of cotton production among themselves (which would be the simplest and most direct remedy for the evils under which they labor), makes it clear enough to our mind that all projected combinations to control the markets and shipments of cotton in the same interest, will be equally impracticable and futile, and the chances are that they will prove disastrous. Men should not venture beyond their legitimate business—business which they have been trained to and understand in all its parts and bearings. If they do, they will blunder and learn experience at cost of loss and failure.
We see no possible chance of controlling the cotton trade by any combinations among producers, especially in the light of the fact that combinations to regulate cotton production have been found impracticable. The only remedy we can see in the premises is a personal one, and very partial at that. It is for every cotton producer to gain a pecuniary condition in which he will not be forced to hurry his crop forward at the opening of the market, but can choose his own time for selling.
This will be some vantage ground gained, though perhaps not a very important one in respect to mere prices. It would have made no very material difference the current cotton year; but next fall, if the market opens under the depressing effects of extravagant estimates of the maturing crop, and the cramp of general dull times, we can see it would make a great difference, should the crop afterwards prove light, and business revive.—*Macon Telegraph and Messenger.*

Intelligence Among Farmers.

We have just laid down an exchange in which we noticed a statement, that as a class, there was no occupation whose members did so little to keep themselves informed on those matters most intimately related to them, as the farming population. We believe that the assertion is too sweeping in character, but unfortunately for agriculturalists and the country at large, there is too much truth in it. As a class, farmers certainly do not devote the time they should to papers, books, etc. Many of them do, and from their ranks have been furnished some of the most prominent and useful business men of the country. But such instances are exceptional. Farmers think that they have no time to read. They are tired at night, and it is necessary for them to go to bed with the chickens (in point of time) in order to rise with them in the morning. When Sabbath comes, they may go to Church in the forenoon, but the afternoon is spent in sleep, visiting, looking at the crops, or—in any way save reading. The children are sent to school during a few of the winter months when they can't work in the field, but in the long months of toil and mental activity which follow, that which is learned at one school is generally forgotten before the opportunity comes round to attend another. Is it any wonder, this being the truth, that farmers' sons rarely evince any taste for study and intellectual cultivation?
These remarks do not apply to all farmers, but a reflection as to those among his own knowledge, will convince any of our readers that generally speaking, they are true. Further, it is a mortifying fact, that taking into consideration the small number of these papers and the large proportion of the farming population, we believe that there is no class of papers in the country which are so poorly supported as those engaged in agricultural interests. Further still, we believe that publishers of newspapers everywhere will testify to the fact, that when farmers determine to economize on account of "hard times," they not unfrequently begin with the stoppage of their paper.
We are glad to believe that this condition of things is rapidly changing for the better. The old order in the West is fast passing away. We rejoice in the belief that the time is not far distant when farmers, as a class, will compare favorably, in intelligence, with any other class.—*St. Louis Journal of Agriculture.*

—The Columbus *Enquirer* is informed that the young ladies of Andrew Female College, at Cutbert, have resolved to dress in calico at their approaching examinations and exhibition. As a manifestation of their willingness to economize and avoid all unnecessary expenses in times as "hard" as the present, their resolution is praiseworthy.

—A citizen of New Haven thinks that he has discovered the true cause of planetary motion. His theory is that light, with its great velocity, strikes the earth with such force as not only to counterbalance the sun's attraction, but at the same time to move the earth in its orbit sixty-eight thousand miles per hour.

—Josh Billings says he don't care how much people talk, if they will only say it in a few words.

—Well, I always make it a rule to tell my wife everything that happens." "Oh, my dear fellow, that's nothing," replied his friend; "I tell my wife lots of things that never happen at all!"

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