

THE CONTEST OF 1872.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

The Ku-Klux Stories and their Effect—Morton Strikes the Key-Note of the Radical Campaign—Cluseret the Dictator of Paris—Ruffianism on the Street Cars, &c.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

New York, April 29.

The New York Radical press continues to publish accounts of dreadful Ku-Klux outrages in South Carolina. "whole families being in terror," "murders by the wholesale," &c. False, or at least grossly exaggerated, as these stories are, you can hardly conceive how much they are hurting the cause of Conservatism here. There are thousands of fair-minded men who have been acting with the Republican organization, but who have been gradually cooling in their faith in it, who find themselves getting indignant and working back into the old rut. It is hard to persuade these people that where there is so much smoke there must be some fire. One single instance of lawlessness proven, as in the case of the Union County hangings, gives color to the Northern mind to the thousand pretended cases reported by the Radical press.

I make these observations only because our people ought to be impressed with the necessity of being extremely cautious to give no handle to Radical accusations, if they wish to get their enemies out of power in the general government. My own opinion is that the next Presidential fight is going to be a hard one, and that the result is extremely doubtful. If there are eleven men of one belief and ten of another, it is obvious that the minority must convert one of the eleven if it is to become a majority. This, I take it, is the relative position of parties at the North now. The Democrats are in the minority, and if they desire to win the next Presidential election they must convert that extra Republican. There are thousands and tens of thousands of Republicans, in all of the States, who are intensely disgusted with their own party; but they have been so long in the habit of distrusting the Democracy that they have not yet been able to make up their minds to come over. While we make none of our principles, we must inspire these people with confidence in us.

It is unquestionable that Senator Morton, the leading man in the Radical ranks, has struck the key-note of the campaign for the Radical side, in his Washington and Indianapolis speeches. The Radicals know the disadvantages of a defensive warfare, and are going to assume the aggressive boldy. They will force upon the country the old question of Southern "loyalty" to the United States. Morton, who is as shrewd as his black-hearted, took the position in his recent speeches that a conspiracy exists among the Southern people to re-establish the Confederacy, and restore the institution of so-called "slavery," and that, if the Democracy of the North succeed in carrying the Presidential election, they will quietly acquiesce in the demands of the Southern States, and let them depart in peace. Controlling the government, and, therefore, the army and navy, will be no attempt at coercion, and the "rebellion" will become at last an accomplished fact. In other words, says Mr. Morton, appealing to old prejudices, this contest, like those which have preceded it, is for "the preservation of the Union."

Now when we consider that Congress has lodged absolute power in Grant's hands as regards the South, so that the elections there may be held under duress if necessary, and that the scheme is to revive the tears of the Northern people about the perpetuity of the Union, we may perhaps comprehend the character of the Radical plan of battle, and how desperate will be the chances of beating it. If we do not wait four years more of Radicalism, (and that probably will finish up the Republic, North as well as South,) we must bring to our aid, in preparing for the coming contest, moderation, wisdom and foresight in the highest degree.

The Tribune announces that it has sent several correspondents into the South to talk freely with the people of all classes, and to investigate the charges of outrage upon, or prescription of, Northern men. The result of their inquiries is to be published in its columns. This is undoubtedly a plan to gather material for campaign use. The World has also an accomplished correspondent travelling the South to get at the truth.

One of our New York celebrities is making a conspicuous figure in France. Seven years ago, a tall, gaunt man, with glittering eyes and a ferocious moustache, sat in a garret, on Broadway, scribbling, in bad French, slashing editorials against Lincoln and Grant. The former he derided as a blunderer, the latter he sneered at as a fool. This bad French was, with execratable labor, transformed into readable English by others, and inserted in the columns of the New Nation, a paper then advocating the election of Fremont for the Presidency. This editor in the garret was Custer, now Dictator of Paris. He is an educated French army officer, and served in the American civil war under Fremont. Lincoln made him a brigadier-general. But he is an utterly irresponsible adventurer, and lives on his wits. After the failure of his newspaper, he ran down so here that he became almost a common loafer, and lived on his acquaintances. He was in France last year before the war began, and was so noisy that the Imperial authorities put him in prison, whereupon he claimed his release on the ground that he was an American citizen. After he was permitted to go, he returned to New York, and abused the Emperor and Empress daily through the columns of the Sun. The Communists must be badly off for brains to trust to such leadership. McMahon will probably put a full stop to his career, unless Grant should be magnanimous enough to forgive him and plead for his pardon.

The community has been greatly excited over the assassination of Mr. Avery D. Putnam, by a ruffian, on the street cars, a few nights since. Mr. Putnam had a young lady under his protection, and had occasion to remind a man who was leaning at her insolently. The fellow made many remarks insulting to the lady in reply, and when Mr. Putnam was leaving the car with his charge, ran behind him and crushed his skull in with a blow from an iron hook, which he had borrowed from the conductor for the purpose. The unfortunate gentleman was taken to St. Luke's Hospital to die, and subsequently the assassin was arrested. The conductor, who was evidently his friend and sympathizer, is also in custody. It is a fact that a large proportion of the street-car conductors are no better than the thieves who they admit to the platform to rob, or the ruffians whom they permit to harry and insult passengers. There is hardly a New York lady who travels

by the street cars or omnibuses who has not had unpleasant experiences, and the circumstance that a gentleman is with her is not always a protection. Impudent looks and even remarks from well-dressed and ill-dressed ruffians are so common that they are almost always passed without notice or further thought. In this present instance, the murder of a citizen for daring to protect a lady has aroused our citizens to a sense of the wrongs they are suffering from the dangerous classes, and justifies the flaming appeal at the head of a morning paper, "Men of New York, protect your Wives and Daughters!"

AS OTHERS SEE US.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA KU-KLUX VIEWED THROUGH TRIBUNE SPECTACLES.

A Tribune Correspondent at Chester—The Conflict of the Colored Militia—Why they were Disbanded—Southern Farming—How Crops are Planted—Political Purposes—The Blacks to be Turned out of Office—More Ku-Klux Murders.

[Correspondence of the New York Tribune.]

CHESTER, S. C., April 23.

It is impossible to doubt the existence and constant activity of Ku-Klux in this State. It was in Chester that the battle between the whites and the black militia took place in February last. It should have been called rather a massacre of the blacks, for the timid, ignorant and cowardly whites, after they were away from their guns and ran, the whites pursuing them and killing all they could catch. Many accounts of this affair have already been published, but it is perhaps well to give the facts, both white and black. They say that the negro militia were armed by the Governor, just before the last election, for the purpose of intimidating the whites, and to keep away their guns and ran, the whites pursuing them and killing all they could catch. Many accounts of this affair have already been published, but it is perhaps well to give the facts, both white and black. They say that the negro militia were armed by the Governor, just before the last election, for the purpose of intimidating the whites, and to keep away their guns and ran, the whites pursuing them and killing all they could catch.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

SAVANNAH, April 30.

A Pleasant Trip—Suburban Rides—Bonaventure, Thunderbolt and White Bluff—A Curious Cotton Press—Nissan—A Good Business Year.

For those who are weary of the monotony of the city rounds of Charleston, and seek for rest and recreation among other scenes, no jaunt could possibly be more delightful at this season of the year than a visit to Savannah. Taking either the Dictator or City Point on their appointed days of sailing, you pay two dollars as fare, with the privilege of returning free during the week, and, in less than eight hours, you will be gliding up the Savannah River among objects of interest on either hand; past Fort Pulaski and Jackson; past great batteries, now crowned with verdure, where once thundered Confederate guns; past obstructions whose ugly heads still protruding from the water, seem to say, "O, people, we have been your faithful sentinels!" past mills and factories busy with life; past great shipping yards, and being landed at the terminus; past the huts of negroes and the warehouses of merchants, until, amid a tangle of masts and rigging, you obey the welcome "all ashore," and set foot on the soil of the Forest City.

Breakfast—then a drive in the fresh morning air. There are parks by the score—the most beautiful breathing spots that adorn a Southern city—streets up and down, which you may look as through a looking-glass, a river, a canal, and the cool breeze you feel on the face of the people, and private residences that indicate the taste, culture and wealth of the individual citizen. You will see, too, monuments which perpetuate the memory of the great men whose names are repeated in public places which are older than the State itself, and other signs and symbols that carry the thoughts away back to the beginning of a century. The gem of Savannah, however, is Fort Mifflin, a place of arms, which the city fathers seem glad to thrive, and the great trees nod stately benedictions. There are fringes of shrubbery, finely gravelled walks, comfortable seats for the accommodation of officers, and a carpeted dance floor, and from the morning until night groups of nurses and children playing on the lawn lead a picturesque charm to the place which makes an idle loiterer as happy as if he were in the Garden of Eden. And if you have the room to spare, the secure seat behind Colonel Tom Nickerson's pair of boys, who do their mile in three minutes, and take the dust from no other team in the city, you will probably say you have had the premium ride of your life. For eighty miles, that is, from the foot of the bluff fan you into content with yourself and the world. Still another of the exquisite drives in this Savannah abundance, is on the White Bluff Shell Road. And if you have the room to spare, the secure seat behind Colonel Tom Nickerson's pair of boys, who do their mile in three minutes, and take the dust from no other team in the city, you will probably say you have had the premium ride of your life. For eighty miles, that is, from the foot of the bluff fan you into content with yourself and the world. Still another of the exquisite drives in this Savannah abundance, is on the White Bluff Shell Road.

A place not to be forgotten in visiting Savannah is the cotton press of Colonel White. The process by which sixteen hundred bales a day are compressed in a machine, by which it is done—a lady's sewing machine is by no means highly polished—the indescribable neatness and silence that marks the operation, the ingenuity with which a stream of water, under the pressure of hundreds of tons to a bag of cotton, squeezing the air from it until it crackles like a breaking bunch of sticks, all this is too interesting to omit. The scene is a fine one, and one of the evils in Savannah, however, to which one does not take kindly who is not "to the maor born." The first is streets, that are worse than a sand-bar to your feet, and the second is the matter which is entailed on your throat. You always feel, while drinking, that you are swallowing several small Georgia islands in a state of solution. But they have a remedy for it here. Between six and ten in the morning you may hear the bells ringing. The bells are rung by a company of six men, who are called the "Lippmanns" or "Solomon." I asked the Irish porter down stairs "what it meant?" "Sure," says he, "they're asking for bitters to kill the damned animals the water in the city."

Among the ex-Confederate Generals from other States, doing business in Savannah, are Joseph E. Johnston—who, by the way, looks precisely evoked the usual expression which makes her appearance everywhere. The receipts for two nights are said to have upwards of five thousand dollars.

The business of the city during the past season has been remarkably good, and the buildings going up, especially on the outskirts, with other signs of investment, indicate prosperity and growth. Sojourners in Florida are rapidly making their way toward, and the hotels are being thronged with the "Secrets" as still. Colonel Nickerson, our old host of the Mills House, presides there with all his accustomed grace, keeps the Scriven in such a style as to leave nothing to be desired, and is reputed to be one of the "Secrets" as still. Colonel Nickerson, our old host of the Mills House, presides there with all his accustomed grace, keeps the Scriven in such a style as to leave nothing to be desired, and is reputed to be one of the "Secrets" as still.

THE NATIONAL BLACKGUARD.

A Severe but Just Word About B. F. Butler.

[From the Nation.]

When we consider that there is probably not a man in the United States that would say he respected Butler, or had the slightest confidence in him, that his attempts at legislation have all displayed wickedness and folly in about equal proportions, and that he probably never did a good thing since he was elected to Congress, it is not surprising that the public life at Washington as any ten of the worst men who have ever made their appearance in Congress, the tender indulgence with which the press treats him is highly discreditable, and more conspicuous as well as it is, for the fact, in all conscience, to have such a man returned by a Massachusetts constituency, but when the leading papers of the party of moral ideas always treat him as a simple oddity, and his name is brought up, it is not surprising that the public life at Washington as any ten of the worst men who have ever made their appearance in Congress, the tender indulgence with which the press treats him is highly 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