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MISCELLANY.

HAYTI AND ARKANSAS.

It is hard to say which land is blessed with the best government, Hayti or Arkansas. First, we have this sketch of Hayti from the Port au Prince correspondence (December 25), *Independent Press*, Port Jefferson, New York:

The whole country is in a state of the most deplorable degree. In this city, (the capital of this unfortunate Republic,) it is the *craille* (the roughs) that rule. Salnave, seeing that his cause is nearly lost, has given up nearly every city and town to plunder and pillage.

On the 30th of November, the town of Mirogoane was bombarded, and after taking possession of the place, the troops of Salnave proceeded to pillage the stores and houses. They broke open every door, smashed everything they could not carry away—after robbing them of all the goods, money, jewelry, &c. The traffic of logwood belonging to foreign houses were shipped on the Government's vessels of war.

On the 1st day of December, after having ransacked the town of Mirogoane, and left every house completely gutted, they set fire to the town—half of which has been destroyed.

The letter goes on, through nearly a column, detailing arsons, murders and depredations.

From Arkansas, one of the sovereign States of the model Republic, we have accounts which outstrip even Hayti, or, at any rate, render it doubtful which is which:

MILITIA OUTRAGES IN ARKANSAS.

The Memphis *Avant-courier*, of January 17, says: All accounts from Crittenden County are of similar import, and confirm the worst that has been told concerning the conduct of the militia towards the citizens. The negro militia are roving over the country in strong armed squads, taking everything that they fancy and destroying much that they cannot carry. A reign of terror exists which is difficult to be understood abroad. The worst days of the war have returned upon the people. All business is suspended, and the people are afraid to complain or attempt to escape.

Day before yesterday, a gang of the militia went to the house of Mr. Jack Ware, near Mation, an original and consistent Union man, and sacked his premises of every thing valuable. He was well to do in the world, but the work of nearly a lifetime was swept away before his eyes in an hour. Many other citizens in the neighborhood were treated in the same manner.

On the same day, a party of the negro militia attempted to outrage the persons of four highly respectable white ladies—Mrs. Jeff. Reeve, Miss Sweetson, daughter of the newly elected radical County Clerk; and two others, names unknown. By some means they were foiled in their damnable attempts, and several of them were arrested. The officers threatened to make examples of them, but so far all examples have been on the other side.

Last Thursday night, we learn, the five citizens who have been held as "hostages" were hung up by General Upham until life was nearly extinct, to try to force them to disclose facts supposed to be in their possession. Nothing, however, was elicited; as the victims of this torture probably knew nothing to tell. When cut down it was found that they were nearly dead, and one of the number was restored to life with great difficulty. This statement comes from a reliable freedman, and is supported by respectable testimony.

Friday night three of these citizens were spirited away and have not since been heard from. Their fate is unknown, but no one knowing the reckless character of the militia would be surprised to hear that the gentlemen so long incarcerated and tortured without cause, except mere barbarism, had been murdered in the woods. Two others are yet in jail at Marion, and have but glimmering hopes of liberation or even life.

We are satisfied that the tenth part of the outrages committed daily by the militia in Arkansas has never been pub-

lished, and probably never will be. The means of violence and oppression are abundant, but the complaints of the wronged people travel on tardy wings.

It was reported yesterday that the negro militia had nearly all left the neighborhood of Marion for Mississippi County, above, where they will of course re-enact the fearful scenes of plunder and ruin, and personal injury perpetrated in other portions of the unfortunate State.

The following despatch, which we find in the New York *Tribune*, tells what became of the three missing men referred to above:

A citizen from French Bayou, Arkansas, some ten miles above Marion, reports that a body of militia shot three men near his house, on Sunday. The officer in command told him that they had been tried by a court martial, on a charge of being Ku Klux; and ordered to be shot to death with musketry.

The Memphis *Avant-courier*, of the 19th, contains additional details, too revolting to be published.

SPECIE PAYMENTS.

A novice in politics might really think from hearing the immense amount of "sound and fury" issuing from Radical sources, that specie payments, a consummation devoutly to be wished for—could take place in six, or twelve; or twenty months, just as easily as not—would injure no one, and would benefit all. But those who know what complete charlatans the Radicals are—what they know of the true principles of government—and stand that all this sound and fury signifies nothing. The thing cannot be accomplished suddenly, for the body politic, which has been severely injured by financial violence, can no more rise up and walk than a natural person could do who was sick or wounded, without the working of a miracle.

It seems to us that all the efforts of all the financial tinkers, including Senator Morton, are

1. To make capital for the Radical party by vaguely proposing to do impossible things—and

2. To make the bonds worth one hundred cents in gold, which they are not now, never were, never will be, and never ought to be.

Senator Sherman's plan was to reduce the interest to four and a half per cent. in gold, and in acquittance for the loss of one and a half per cent. gold interest, he hoped to obtain for the bondholders a solemn, deliberate promise, sanctioned by public sentiment, that the new bonds should be paid in gold—and thus remove the question whether the principal of the present bonds shall be paid in currency, from dispute at once and forever. In other words, the bonds are worth seventy-five cents in gold now—can be converted at it in regular, moderate quantities—and Senator Sherman was willing to solidify them at that figure, and make the owners of them secure against any further agitation of the question. The bonded debt (if all the interest were reduced one and a half per cent.) would by this plan be practically reduced one-fourth. This was Mr. Sherman's first step in the direction of specie payment. But we do not think it very popular with the bondholders—though we fear they might go farther and far worse. But the florid and sanguine statesmen who talk about resuming specie payments in January, 1870, or 1871, or any where along there, propose to raise the present price of the bonds from seventy-five cents to one hundred cents on the dollar! This would be fun for the bondholders, but death to every other interest that is taxed to pay interest to the bondholder, who pays no taxes.

Now, if the legal tenders and national bank notes by some magical or miraculous process, or by the prayers of the righteous, or by the frequent wishing of devout bondholders, could be made payable in gold on demand, we contend that although they might be re-issued indefinitely, enough specie would have to be provided to redeem the 850,000,000 of our bonds which are held in

Europe. Even admitting that our own patriotic bondholders would think their bonds as good as gold, and would not seek to realize gold for them, could we hope that our German and English and French friends would have the same cheerful, trusting, amazing confidence? We fear they would not. And we venture the opinion that, if our currency were redeemable in gold, our foreign friends who bought their bonds as low as thirty-nine and not over seventy-five, would slyly send them back again and realize their profit at once in hard cash. Of course they would—and would they not have reason to do so.

Have not such of them as were holders of Pennsylvania securities, been compelled to take their interests, honestly payable in gold, in paper of which was required variously 149 to 280 to pay 100 cents in gold? And then, did they not have to take the principal in legal tenders, when their debts became due? And did not New York repudiate the payment of her interest in gold and pay in paper also? And have foreign lenders forgotten how they trembled lest they should lose all their investments by repudiation in this honest old county of Allegheny which "rolls up" 11,000 Radical majority? And were not foreign bondholders told by the Radicals again and again, in the late canvass, that the Democrats were the party of repudiation, and have not these shrewd Shylocks seen by the vote that the Democrats are very nearly as many as the party that elected Grant—the party that pays everything of course! Therefore, in view of all these teachings, and all these warnings, would not the foreign bondholders make haste to realize the gold for these 850 millions of our securities, if our currency were made equal to gold? And in that case, does any one suppose that they would not take that 850 millions of specie out of the country as quickly and quietly as they possibly could?

This is but one of the obstacles to the resumption of specie payments. If the bonds shall not be redeemed—and not only not diminished, but increased one-fourth in gold value. And does any man think we could pay the present amount of taxes, or anything like it, in gold? Could we stand one hundred and fifty millions more of taxation?—And how would this sharp and sudden resumption affect those who have money to pay on contracts running, say for five years to come; and made when the currency was irredeemable paper? Would they not be compelled to pay in gold or convertible paper? Or would Mr. Morton make their creditors take depreciated paper as those who held gold contracts had to do six or seven years ago? Perhaps he would if he could, but could he?

There is but one way to return to specie payments, and that is the honest, legitimate, though perhaps a little tedious way. That is to redeem the bonds in greenbacks—all of them—and then use the taxes; which must be made to yield as much as at present for ten years to come—to redeem the greenbacks—buying them in at their value in gold—this is the only way the thing can be done so that it will be well done, so that there will be no relapse into paper money, when once we get rid of it. Any other plan than this would be spasmodic and partial, and would leave things worse than they are now, when we shall fall back; as we surely would fall back, into the old course. We would say to Radical currency tinkers that they cannot return to our good old financial condition without somebody being hurt. The bondholders may be hurt a little, the people are sure to be hurt very materially. They have much to suffer yet before a permanent recovery can take place. Why if a man dislocates a limb, to put it back into its place costs infinitely more pain and suffering than the throwing of it out of its place caused him. And yet there is no other way to relieve the patient than to use, at whatever pain it may inflict at least as much force to re-set the limb as it took to disjoin it. We all admit that the "times are out of

joint," but some visionaries fondly hope that all will be well, and that we can get through our sea of troubles as easily and as happily as a writer of fiction concludes an exciting story, where the villains are all punished and the virtuous are happily married. It is about time they would awake from dreams like these.

A BLOODY DUEL.

The famous dueling ground on the Metairie Ridge, known as "The Oaks," was the scene yesterday morning of a sanguinary duel between two young men of this city, which has rarely had its parallel in the annals of the code either in this country or in Europe. The antagonists were, the one a native creole of New Orleans, the other a Frenchman by birth; the provocation a blow in the face, at the hand of the creole; the weapons were broadswords; the hour day break. Arrived on the field accompanied by their seconds, the combatants stripped to the waist, and sword in hand, in the freezing air of the morning, sprung at each other like tigers. There was no hesitation, or playing to try each other's skill. A few lunges and cuts were successfully parried when suddenly an upward from the Frenchman's sword wounded his antagonist in the right arm. The riposte from the creole laid open the Frenchman's left cheek, laying open the inside and exposing his teeth. Nothing daunted, the wounded man stepped back, had a handkerchief bound around his face and again put himself in attitude of offence.

His first lunge penetrated the breast of his opponent, between the rib and the skin, but it was made with such relentless force that it passed also through the off-arm. An attempt was made at this moment by the seconds to stop the matter at that point, but the man with the handkerchief around his jaws rushed at the second who was anxious to settle the matter, sword in hand, asseverating that naught should quiet his animosity except a cut across his throat. The battle was renewed and lasted until the creole had received eight wounds and the other six—all severe and painful, but none, it is hoped dangerous. Both men displayed extraordinary courage, animosity and endurance; and during the course of the bloody encounter, neither was willing to give up the contest until both had to let their hands fall helpless to their sides from loss of blood and the pain of wounds. The parties were carried home; after having their wounds dressed; and though the creole had two more wounds, his situation was more comfortable and less critical than that of his antagonist.—*N. O. Crescent*, 13th.

THE COLORED RACE.—The following suggestive article is copied from the New Orleans *Times*. It is worthy of consideration:

"Hewers of wood and drawers of water, it would appear, they must ever be." Whether the negro as a race is to have his condition improved by public education and the exercise of the franchise, is yet a problem for the reformers of the United States to work out for themselves. The disciples of Wilberforce, in England, one year ago, abandoned the attempt as hopeless, after over thirty years' trial in Jamaica and other West India Islands. Whether a different and more fortunate result is to be attained in this country, remains to be seen, and we of the South are disposed to lend our earnest and sincere aid in affording opportunity for a trial. Before the war, as a general thing, all negroes appeared happy, comfortably clad and industrious. We rarely found them begging or engaged in menial pursuits. But few of poverty's resources to keep life in the body were visible in New Orleans, thus giving to strangers an idea of wealth, exceptional in our favor over every other community. All this is changed now. The dilapidated negro boot-black meets us everywhere. Gaunt, hungry saw-bucks wander through every street. Famished beggars, with scarcely sufficient clothing to wad a gun, haunt the alleys, and em-

bodiments of grimy filth, in the shape of black chiffoniers, rake the offal and sweepings of the stores and dwellings. That there is a companion and brighter picture, we admit; but of the two opposing tendencies, which will win, is the problem now before us. England has already tacitly acknowledged her failure to elevate the negro race to the Caucasian standard. Liberia has admitted the same. The history of Hayti is one of pitiful retrogression, and even the Africa of to-day, when compared with the time when Carthage, Alexandria and Numantia flourished, forces upon us the same dispiriting conclusion. If 3,000 years of equal opportunity with the Caucasian race has failed to develop the negro into a higher type of humanity, we must not expect much from one paltry generation. Far be it from us to deny them another opportunity; the whole tendency of public opinion in the South is to the contrary; but it is only fair and right that they should carve their way upward by their own merits, and win position by their own deserts. Legal enactments cannot change natural laws, while peace, quiet and harmony may level a rough hill, now feared in the path of their progress.

The Chicago *Tribune*, which suffered so heavily a few days ago for an unfattering police item, before a prejudiced jury, now has the word "alleged" electrolysed, and uses it before every other word in its reports. Here is one of its new model reports:

"It is alleged that one Frederick Meyer, alleged to be doing business in this city arraigned before one Hoyne, who is alleged to be a commissioner of the United States, on yesterday. It is alleged that the alleged party, charged with an alleged fraud upon an alleged Government, assisted in some way in smuggling some alleged drugs, which are alleged to be of considerable value. It is alleged that the case was postponed until Monday, alleged to be the 11th day of January. It is further alleged that the alleged defendant was held to bail. It is alleged that the alleged Mr. Meyer, whom it is alleged kept an alleged drug store, being before an alleged commissioner, whose name is alleged to be Hoyne, was required to give a bond which it is alleged, requires the alleged Mr. Meyer to furnish for the payment of any sum of money which some enlightenment but not yet alleged jury may allege against him as damages sustained by the alleged Government."

TIME DOES IT.—Time has a wonderful power in taking the conceit out of persons. When a young man first emerges from the schools and enters upon the career of life, it is painfully amusing to witness his self-sufficiency; he would have all the world to understand that he has "learned out"; that he is master of all knowledge, and can unravel mysteries. But as he grows older he grows wiser; he learns that he knows a great deal less than he supposed he did; and by the time he reaches the three-score years, he is prepared to adopt, as his own, the sentiment of John Wesley: "When I was young I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was not half as sure of most things as I was before. At present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to man."

A BALLOON VOYAGE TO EUROPE.—The notion of an aerial voyage to Europe has been revived by M. Chevalier, a celebrated French aeronaut, who has just arrived in New York. He proposes starting from New York next April or May. M. Chevalier, we are told, once made the journey from Paris to the Russian frontier, a distance of over 700 miles, in less than five hours. Upon another occasion he crossed St. George's channel from Dublin, and has accomplished without injury several ascensions in France and England. The airship in which the experiment is to be attempted is called *L'Esperance*. Its height is 95 feet, its diameter 150 feet, and it requires 120,000 cubic feet of gas to inflate it. Attached to the ship

is an enclosed car capable of carrying about fifty persons, with provisions for ten days' voyage. M. Chevalier contemplates extending invitations to several members of the press to accompany him.

TERRIBLE DEATH.—A colored man met with an awful death in the neighborhood of New Paris, Ky., a few nights since. A neighbor, a white man, had killed his hogs and left them out at night. The negro undertook to steal one, and was in such a hurry to secure the pork that he forgot to remove the gambrel-stick. To reach his home it was necessary to cross a fence. In doing so he placed the hog on the top rail, and it is supposed that it slipped at any rate, the negro's head was caught in the opening of the hind legs, and his neck was broken by the stick. He was found next morning dead, the hog on one side of the fence and he on the other, with his head fast, as described.

USE OF LEMONS.—When persons are feverish and thirsty beyond what is natural, indicated in some cases by a metallic taste in the mouth, especially after drinking water, or by a whitish appearance of the tongue, one of the best "coolers," internal or external, is to take a lemon, cut off the top, sprinkle over it some loaf sugar, working it down into the lemon with the spoon, and then suck it slowly, squeezing the lemon and adding more sugar as the acidity increases from a lower point. Invalids with feverishness may take two or three lemons a day in this manner with the most remarked benefit, manifested by a sense of coolness, comfort and invigoration. A lemon or two thus taken at tea-time, as an entire substitute for the ordinary supper of summer, would give many a man a comfortable night's sleep and an awakening of rest and invigoration with an appetite for breakfast; to which they are strangers who will have their cup of tea or supper, or relish and cake, and berries or peaches and cream.

Journal of Health.

DECREASE OF CHILDREN.—Not long ago Dr. Stover, and others, in Massachusetts, in some comments upon the singular fact that the increase of children in that State is limited almost wholly to the foreign population, assigned the cause of it to the diminution of the crime of feticide. It now appears that Maine is following Massachusetts in the decrease of the rising generation. Mr. Warren Johnson, the State Superintendent of Common Schools in Maine, reports to the Legislature that there is a decrease of 16,683 scholars, between the ages of four and twenty-one years, from the census of 1868. The decrease in the past year has been 3,182; the decrease in 1864 was 4,141, and the total decrease from the maximum of 1860 is nearly 20,000. Mr. Johnson very naturally considers this decrease alarming, but as he cannot satisfactorily account for it, he proposes a series of inquiries, such as: "Have we ceased to be a producing people?" "Are the vital forces expended in brain labor and lost to physical reproduction?" and, "Are the modern fashionable criminalities of infanticide and feticide creeping into our State community?" Coming from such a source, these are questions of fearful import, relating as they do to the populations of rural districts, where there being greater abundance of the means of subsistence and less temptation to offend than in large cities, there is generally supposed to be more morality.

What there is left of the white public should be everlastingly thankful that the miscegenation crop is not long lived: If it were, there would be an aspect of jaundice throughout the entire land in another five or six years. They have been becoming "one flesh" so rapidly in Cleveland, says Pomeroy's *Democrat*, that the papers are alarmed on the question of the probable complexion of the entire State of Ohio.

A new perfume vyelet "Loyal balm of a thousand niggers," is advertised in an exchange. The inventor claims that it was manufactured expressly for parties desiring the removal of their political disabilities.

Albert Sidney Johnston and Lovell H. Rousseau rest side in the New Orleans cemetery.