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DEMOCRATIC VILAS MORE BITTER TOWARDS THE SOUTH THAN REPUBLICANS.

The Register Gives Him a Good Rap.

We have received two orations delivered in New York city on Decoration Day, May 31st. One of the orations was delivered by the Hon. W. F. Vilas at the Academy of Music, and the other by the Hon. John A. Logan at Riverside Park. We have read both of them and do not propose to publish either, as they are by no means addressed to the Southerner. We note, however, as somewhat singular the fact that Senator Logan, whilst eulogistic to indiscretion to the great Union Captains, as we think, says not a word which will grate on Southern ears. Mr. Vilas, on the contrary, seems to go out of his way to say much that was necessarily offensive to the South and which it was not necessary to say on such an occasion. Take for instance the following utterance:

"In veneration of the fathers they mustered in the name of Union, content to save what the Revolution had planted; and lo! the angel of Liberty, in shining presence, led their battle on beyond the fathers' aims, to finish the work they left undone and win a brighter crown. They blatted from the Constitution the covert meaning of that abhorrent word the voice of freedom refused to utter there; they scourged from her temple the mongering of mothers and babes."

Where is the necessity of saying this or the truthfulness thereof, when Lincoln's proclamation to the Southern States so unequivocally promised that slavery would in no way be interfered with if the South would lay down its arms and recognize the authority of the government of the United States? Again, is not Mr. Vilas aware of the original terms agreed upon by General Sherman and Johnston, in which it was agreed that the States of the South should come back with all their political rights and rights of property undisturbed in view of these facts we see no good reason for thrusting this "mongering of mothers and babes" into the teeth of the people of the South, when Lincoln himself would have made terms and permitted this mongering to go on, and Sherman actually did make terms leaving the "mongering" where it had always stood under the Federal Constitution in language plain enough to bind the Federal Courts themselves.

There are other instances of unfairness and useless offensiveness in Mr. Vilas's address which are as untruthful as they are in bad taste. He tells us that the South being fully prepared for the fray whilst the North had to organize and arm for the field, who does not know that the North was as prepared for the contest as the South with every other advantage as well as numbers on their side. They had the recognized government, the army and navy, all the appliances for arming a great volunteer force, besides the thousands of men sent almost naked-handed into the field, and pikes were in some places made to take the place of arms which they could be got. Men went to the front with walking sticks, and the arms of their comrades were taken from them. All through Mr. Vilas's address the same spirit prevails with the same honorless contrast. In view of the plain temper of Mr. Vilas's address we would commend to him his own words, which seem to us so unfitly with much that was unnecessarily incorporated into an address which, whilst honoring the noble Union dead, might very well and most appropriately have avoided anything savoring of taunt

or insult to others. Let Mr. Vilas speak:

"Reproaches for deeds beyond redemption, for conditions gone forever; sighs for hopes once entertained, but long turned to ashes; may be worse than folly, they may become a crime. Whoever gives his voice or his example to light or fan a flame of sectional discord among the fraternal people, aims at the nation's peace and life. He has spoken treason though not dared to act it, who from the one side flings vain taunts and scoffs, the lingering demons of the past, or on the other sentimentally prates of the resurrection of that mouldering mummy, the 'Lost Cause.'"

Who wants to "resurrect" the "Lost Cause?" Why, the very phrase itself shows that it is dead and buried, though it be buried in high honor. Why, allude to it more than in any other light than that which has gone forever, never to be resurrected. None but a pitiful demagogue would make capital out of a sneer against a cause which all admit and receive as "lost," though its memory lives in the hearts of as true men as ever strode to the forefront of battle, and as noble women as ever sent their husbands and sons and lovers to lay down their lives for a cause still dear to them, though now no more. This sentiment in no way disturbs a single man's devotion to the Union to-day any more than love for the honored dead may disturb respect for the living.—Columbia Register.

MISERY IN WEST IRELAND.

What a Visitor Saw at Carraroe.

I reached Carraroe on Saturday evening, and on the next day I happened to meet the Rev. Walter Conway, who was on his way to attend some sick calls on one of the islands which make up his straggling and extensive parish. Being anxious to see as much of the condition of the people as possible, I gladly accepted his invitation to accompany him.

I was by no means prepared for the scenes I witnessed that Sunday afternoon. Such poverty-stricken people, such wretched hovels, such misery and patient suffering I never saw before, and I hope I shall never see again. There was scarcely a house but had some inmates lying down with fever brought on, I was assured by the local doctor, by hunger or the want of sufficient food. It was pitiable in the extreme to see the emaciated features of most of them, and the looks of famishing despair on their countenances as they lay huddled together on the bare earthen floor or staggered about the house like drunken people from sheer exhaustion.

While the good priest was administering the last sacrament to a few of the worst cases, I inspected several of the houses alone. I was quite unexpected, and indeed I require no other evidence than the character of the cabins and the woe-begone appearance of the inmates to convince me that the grim specter of famine had already appeared. I shall never forget the sight I beheld in one house. Father Conway had preceded me by several yards. On his pushing the door of this house open I observed him reel backward and look as if he were going to faint. The fever-laden atmosphere of the one-roomed house as it rushed outward was overpowering, and it was some time before he could enter. I summoned up courage to follow him, and he beckoned me to come on.

I had some difficulty in entering the fearful scene before me. On one side of the hearth lay two young boys in a state of unconsciousness, and almost side by side with them lay their two sisters in the same pitiable condition. Following the direction indicated by the priest, I observed the mother of these four children, a few feet off, a corpse! All were lying on the bare floor, with a few scanty rags their only covering. I hastened from the house overwhelmed with the sight, and what my feelings were can be better imagined than described. The priest remained a considerable time in the cabin, I returned to find him engaged in cutting off the girls' hair with an old rusty scissors which he discovered after a close search. The next day the priest visited this stricken family again, and carried himself—to avoid publicity—two of his own blankets with which to cover the poor girls and their brothers.—Catholic Times.

The word "pulpit," like "ferry-boat" and "outlandish women," occurs once in the Bible. It was Ezra who was in the pulpit.

THE CHANGE OF GAUGE.

WHAT THE RAILROADS HAVE DONE IN TEN DAYS.

How the Work is to Be Done—More Than Thirteen Thousand Miles of Road to Be Changed in Two Days.

Although much has been written and published in the newspapers for some months on the subject of changing the gauge on the Southern railroads, there is a vast number of the readers of the Register who yet have a very indefinite conception of what it all means. With a view to give these an intelligent idea of the nature and extent of the work which this change involves, and the method by which it is effected, we have compiled from the Augusta Evening News and the Charlotte Observer, two of our most valued exchanges, the following clear statements, which will give the fullest information on the subject:

"The railroads in the South are now in the midst of a great revolution, and from to-day to the second day of June each line will be a bee hive, or rather a long iron line of labor. One of the greatest railroad movements ever known will in fact be achieved when the present work of changing the gauge of some thirteen thousand miles of railroad in the South is completed.

"The standard gauge is now adopted all over the North, and uniformity has long been desired. The Southern gauge has for many years past been a source of endless expense and inconvenience to all the railroads South of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers, and while the advantages of a uniform gauge have long been seen its adoption has now come to be an imperative necessity. The time has at last arrived for the Southern roads to correct the unfortunate mistake made when the five foot gauge was adopted, and when the change has been accomplished all of the important railroads in the United States will correspond sufficiently in gauge to have the running gear throughout the country alike and transferable in every State.

"A meeting of the representatives of the several Southern roads interested in the change of gauge was held in Atlanta on February 2, and all the details of the change were arranged. It was decided that Monday, May 31, and Tuesday, June 1, be set apart for the work, and that a uniform gauge of 4 feet 9 inches be adopted in lieu of the standard gauge, which is 4 feet 8 1/2 inches. The 4 foot 9 inch gauge is considered more convenient, and as a certain amount of lateral play is allowed on all tracks, it is sufficiently near the Northern gauge to permit of a uniform wheel gauge all over the country.

"It is said that many of the railroad companies seeing that the change must have come eventually, commenced to prepare for it as early as three years ago, and such is the power of organized labor and the demand of business that nearly 13,000 miles of railroad will be changed to the uniform gauge inside of about twelve hours, and without interruption in the running of many of the important trains even on the day that the change takes place.

"The change of gauge will take place on almost every railroad South of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers, extending over about 13,124 miles of railway, made up as follows: South Carolina 1,329 miles, North Carolina 860, Georgia 2,413, Florida 1,250, Alabama 1,803, Mississippi 776, Louisiana 313, Kentucky 1,118, Tennessee 1,886, and Virginia 981 miles.

"The following lines will change on May 31st: Louisville and Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis, Memphis and Charleston, Alabama Great Southern, Cincinnati, Selma and Mobile, Montgomery and Bufala, Northeastern of Georgia, Peninsula and Atlanta, Florida Railway and Navigation Company. All other main lines change on June 1st.

"The changing of the gauge of the track from five feet to four feet nine inches will be done by moving one rail in three inches without disturbing the other rail at all. The preparations for changing the road bed commenced about one month ahead. The preparation consists in adding or cutting the tie to a smooth and even surface with the base of the rail and clearing away any obstructions even with the top of the tie for a space of not less than five inches from the rail that is to be moved in, so that when the change is made the bearing of the track will not be destroyed. All spikes not absolutely necessary will be drawn out beforehand. The rail is fastened to each cross-tie by two spikes, one on the inside and the other on the outside. All inside spikes will be drawn ex-

cept the spikes in every third cross-tie on tangents, and every other tie on curves.

"By means of a template to measure the distance that the rail is to be moved a great deal of valuable time can be saved by riving the inside spikes beforehand. Inside spikes will be set with templates in every third tie, and will project sufficiently above the surface of the tie to receive the base of the rail. When the change actually takes place, therefore, all that will be necessary to be done will be to draw the few inside spikes that have been left to keep the rail in position, shove the base of the rail under the spikes that have already been driven on the inside of the new gauge, and then secure it by driving in the outside spikes, leaving the old outside spikes to be drawn at leisure. This arrangement will also save the necessity for measuring the gauge and changing the bearing on the day of the change.

"The distribution of forces for work on the Richmond and Danville lines on the day of the change will be, for each squad of fifteen men, three men drawing inside spikes, two men throwing rail, one man with hand car, one man driving down stubs, seven men driving spikes, one water boy. The list of tools for each force will be seven spiking hammers and seven extra handles, four claw wrench, one stub punch, one monkey wrench, one standard track gauge, one water bucket, one tin cup, two lining bars, one axe, one track wrench, one adze, one water barrel, one lever car 4' 9" gauge, will be provided. The foreman who belongs on the sub-division will use the lever car, and let the foreman from the other section use his wide gauge pole car. It will not be necessary to drive any inside spikes on the day of change of gauge except to drive home those that have been set back and drive inside spikes at joints. Outside spikes are to be driven at joints, centres, and quarters, on tangents and at joints, and in every other tie between joints on curves. When the work of change of gauge is commenced, the first object to be attained is to get the main track in condition to pass trains with safety. To do this, forces will work regardless of section limits until they meet forces working in opposite direction. As soon as forces meet, they will then return over the track they have changed and full spike curves, and then full spike tangents. After this work is completed, all sidings that have not already been changed will be brought to 4' 9" gauge. Compensation allowed each foreman for work on day of change will be three dollars, and each laborer one dollar and fifty cents and rations.

"All railway forces have been increased to at least double their ordinary number, and on the day of the change of gauge there will be at least three men assigned to each mile of track. The men will be scattered along the whole line, and the work will be in progress on every mile of the road at the same time. The squads go out from each section house, and two squads beginning in the middle of a mile they work in opposite directions until they meet the next squad. In this way the distance will easily be covered in a day, and the whole track changed in gauge with only one day's trains off the track. The work will be done between 3:30 A. M. and 4 P. M., during which time the running of all trains will have to be suspended. After 4 o'clock, however, the running of the trains will be resumed.

"The change of gauge, of course, necessitates a complete change in the running gear of the rolling stock, and this is an immense job. This work has been in progress for months, however, and all the trucks, wheels and axles not on trains absolutely necessary for the every day business of the roads have been in the shops getting ready for their new work. The trains now in use have been fixed so that the wheels can be pushed three inches nearer together with ease and expedition.

"A great many of the roads have delayed getting new locomotives until the change is made, and they have been ordered to suit the new gauge. This is especially the case with the South Carolina Railway Company, which will replace a great many of the locomotives with the new ones. Even with the locomotives now in service there will not be any great difficulty in making the change. All of those that have been purchased during the past three years have been made with the tires of the driving wheels separate from the main portion of the wheels, and all that will be necessary will be to press them in a little on each side.

"The change of gauge will, of course, necessitate the expenditure of a vast amount of money, but this will be compensated for many times over by the immense advantages which will accrue from the adoption of a uniform gauge throughout the entire country.—Columbia Register.

Primary Elections.

This question is attracting much attention at present, especially in the upper counties. An effort will be made for primary elections, not only in the choice of county officers, but for the nomination of Congressional and State officials as well, and in some of the Districts the Democratic County Chairmen have been requested to consider what arrangements will be necessary in making this change.

We are not sure that the people would, if the plan were adopted, endorse it a second time. The machinery of elections involves considerable expense and time, and where, as would almost always be the case, two or three would have to be held to decide the nomination, the burden of expense would be heavy; and while the results would, apparently, indicate the will of the people that would not necessarily be the case. Spross in the contest for Congressional honors in a district with five counties, there should be a candidate from each one. Nine-tenths of the voters would most apt cast their ballots for the candidates of their respective counties; and the result would of course, be no nomination. A second primary is ordered, all the candidates being ruled out except the two receiving the highest number of votes, and they would with tolerable certainty be from the two most populous counties. The voters in the three counties which have no candidates would to a certain extent stay home, and the matter of nominating a candidate for the District would be left to two counties, with the chances all in favor of the larger one. So we see that there are serious objections to primaries even outside the questions of expense and time, which will militate against their unanimous adoption; and we are confident that a District Convention composed of representative delegates would please a larger number of the voters than a primary would whenever a large number of candidates were before the people; and not because the delegates knew better than the people how to vote but for the simple reason that the people cannot get together and vote as can the delegates.

In county matters it is different. The people know, by reputation at least, all the candidates; they are personally interested in having county officials whom they like, and in whom they have confidence, and will work and vote for them as earnestly in the second as the first primary. We think with proper regulations, the primary system is the fairest by which candidates can be nominated for county officers, but for judicial, Congressional or State nominations it would be a delusion and a snare, mainly from the fact that the machinery for the same would be too cumbersome and expensive, and incidentally—from the latter cause—because the people would not give the attention necessary to so important a matter.

Still if the people want primaries they ought to have them. If they are willing to give the needed time and money absolutely required for carrying them out properly, no man should say them nay—but we are not at all sure they want them, except for county nominations.

We will outline a plan in our next issue which will combine both the primary and convention plan, and which will eliminate the more objectionable features of both.—Sunder Watchman and Southerner.

Religious Fanaticism.

A terrible murder and suicide occurred in Lincoln County, West Virginia, on last Monday night. Mrs. Margaret Lousan, a widow, became insane from religious fanaticism and imagined that she had been called on by the Lord to sacrifice the lives of herself and her three children to the Divine wrath. Early in the afternoon she threw herself upon her knees and spent several hours in wild ravings. She then arose, and arming herself with a large, sharp carving knife, made her way to a room occupied by her three daughters, aged twelve, ten and eight years, cut the throat of each child and plunged the blade into her own heart. The bodies were discovered yesterday by neighbors, who state that the room was so bespattered with blood as to bear a strong resemblance to a slaughter house.

We Will Fight it out on this Line if it Takes all Summer.

A farmer friend asked us, a few days ago, why The People was not a disciple of Capt. B. R. Tillman. That's an easy question and we have no hesitancy in answering it frankly.

According to our understanding an editor sustains a semi-official relation to his readers. It is his duty, in return and payment for the support given him, not only to collate facts on which arguments that lead to correct conclusions may be based but to criticise men and measures, interpret their meaning and whenever and wherever he suspects the concealment of a cat in the meat tub to cry aloud and spare not. The People is not edited by "a young man of the name of Guppy" and while it may be wrong, it is backing its judgment and prefers the risk of being proven mistaken to the certainty of being a time-server, afraid to have and express an opinion of its own.

It is a friend to the farmers and all other bread-winners. They have had hard times since the war and it's no wonder that frequent recurring disasters have made them despondent, heart sick and ready to take any road that promises deliverance. According to the loud assertions of the supes of the melodrama the right road has been found but we don't read the sign boards that way.

To emphasize our analysis of the convention of the 29-30th April, let us draw a home parallel by supposing that a county convention had been called to meet at Barnwell, to consider and recommend reforms and retrenchments in the county government. And when the convention assembled, delegates were recognized miscellaneously, Alledale sending one, Three Mile twenty-three, Blackville five, and so on for all the townships. And the convention organized and made speeches and considered measures entirely outside the purview of the call, measures that had not been considered at all by home constituents and that increased instead of diminished the burdens of taxation. And no matter how good the intentions of the convention and the measures it advised, the people at home would not regard its actions, that was beyond the scope of its authority, as binding anybody except its own affirmative membership. And that's the way the Columbia convention worked. The representation from the different counties was irregular and unequal, Charleston sending five, Laurens twenty-three, Berkeley one and so. We have been told that one gentleman was unanimously elected by the votes of a half a dozen of his own employees and we presume, from the proceedings, that there were many Jack-in-the-box delegates, who had no ideas of their neighbors to represent and who simply popped up as members of Capt. Tillman's company. Our published record shows that The People favored the election of delegates by a representative meeting but opposed the assumption of that right by coporal's guard meetings. And the inharmonious, unseasoned platform adopted by the convention was the idiosyncratic accomplishment of one man and not the deliberate work of a real representative convention. It was about as bad as the farm management of the educated and unsuccessful theorist, but we shall try to begin to inspect it next week.

We will not say that the disorganization of the Democratic party has been deliberately planned, but there is danger of the loss of its elbow touch that redeemed the State and saved its civilization, ten years ago. There are always men desirous of new things, reckless spirits, as ready for revolution as the gamester is to risk his all on the throw of a dice, and when trouble comes they appear, just as the petrel precedes the storm. We think we have seen some of them recently.

The Democratic party has been very good to us and we can afford to trust it yet. It has taken good care of us and whatever reforms are needed or wanted can be best secured within its lines. If the people want a new deal or the farmers want more complete control of affairs they can get them in the party. Let us first find out what we ought to do and then do it. If the new political doctors can convince the people that much physic is better than good nursing. The People will take as much medicine as anybody, and make no ugly faces about it and help to administer heroic doses to all who decline to partake, but until the will of the majority is ascertained,

we refuse to have the pellets, sugar coated though they be, forced down our throat. We have perfect faith in the sublime manhood of the Anglo-Saxon race. Through all the eventful centuries it has been a dynasty of conquerors and victory has followed its flag along every parallel of latitude, all around the world. The world can't get along without its supremacy and the good Lord has it in his special keeping. And it will yet solve the problems confronting us and give the New South a future far brighter than its prosperous past. Mistakes can delay but they cannot defeat its eventual triumph.—Barnwell People.

Save Your Cotton Seed.

"Economy" in Winnsboro Herald and News says:

"The stands of corn on the low grounds are very fair, yet I heard of a few having to plow bottoms up and plant over. The stands of cotton are not as good as the farmers would like to see; the ground appears cold and the plant is coming up very slowly. The weather for several days has been warm and clear. It is to be hoped that it may remain so, for if any disaster were to fall on the cotton crop now, there would not be seed sufficient in this vicinity to plant a two-horse farm. The whites as well as 'Cuffy' sold their seed last fall. The roads in the fall and up to spring were constantly traveled by wagons, from an ox-cart to a four-horse team, loaded with cotton seed, and if the question was asked, 'where are you going?' the response nine out of ten would be, 'grwine to Swygert's or Dawkins' depot.' It is an astonishing thing that the farmers countenance the sale of such a fertilizer, which by rights should return to the land, thereby improving it, instead of draining the very life out of it, thereby impoverishing it, and naturally enough bringing the hard times that are now—the blame of which the farmers are trying to lay at the door of lawyers and laws, while the same fraternity are refuting and charging the farmers with the blame, they being in the ascendancy, or holding the majority of power in the government. Just imagine twenty cars of cotton seed, containing 800 or 900 bushels, shipped from Dawkins' depot from one crop. In round numbers 16,000 bushels, which at twenty bushels to an acre would manure 800 acres of wheat. Now it is reasonable to suppose that we would get ten bushels of wheat per acre in return at harvest time; this yield on 800 acres would be 8,000 bushels of wheat at the low price of one dollar per bushel; would be \$8,000 the farmers deprive themselves of, and the improvement of land thrown in. Now let us see what the 16,000 bushels of cotton seed will bring a merchantable article will bring them and find the net losses, 16,000 bushels cotton seed at fifteen cents per bushel, (for that was the price) would be \$2,400 received for their cotton seed, and the improvement of the land. Now make the difference and you find the farmer sustaining a loss of \$5,600 from one crop of seed, on only 800 acres at that. Is not this ruinous! Who gainsay it is not? Why the banks with all their financing powers could not stand that depreciation long, much less an impoverished people, whose crops are sold long before harvesting. Let them get out of the old rut and raise hogs, hominy and small grain at home, instead of receiving them fourth-handed from Baltimore and St. Louis. Then I venture you will not see or hear of one class arraighing the other for the hidden causes of 'hard times.'"

Messrs. Editors, this cotton seed statement is only one of the leakages in the farmers' ship; it is or looks so small that they apparently overlook it. Would it not be wise to make a careful examination, and while thinking large holes "seemingly" stop the minor ones? For like an old sore, if let alone, will eventually destroy the body to which it is attached.

A gentleman recently calling at a boarding house, left his umbrella in the hat-rack with a card, on which was the following: "Belongs to a man who strikes a forty-pound blow. Will be back in five minutes." When he returned, the umbrella was gone, but in its place was a scrap of paper bearing the words: "Taken by a man who walks five miles an hour. won't be back at all."

Seventy girls went out on Saturday last at Aurora, Ill., for an advance of twelve cents per dozen on the corsets they were making. They got it, and so did 500 others in the same factory.