

Swindling the Negroes.

A GAME OF WHICH THE INGENIOUS ROGUE NEVER TIRES.

Washington, May 14.—Thousands of ignorant colored people in this country are being induced to believe that they are to be pensioned by the United States Government upon being able to show that they were formerly slaves. The promoters of this scheme, which has all the earmarks of a systematic attempt to extort money from credulous colored people, by holding out to them false hopes of a Government pension, have been at work for a number of years, and it is estimated that over \$150,000 has been collected by the self-constituted missionaries having the project in hand.

The subject came to the surface a few days ago through some correspondence between a colored preacher, in one of the Southern States, and a United States Senator. The preacher wrote to his Senator to inquire into the matter in view of the proposed legislation. The Senator, who is one of the most influential members of that body, by reason of his long service (three terms,) and his appropriate committee assignments, instituted an investigation, and this is the substance of what he reported to the colored divine who sought information on the subject:

It appears that there has been an enterprise under the title of the ex-Slave Mutual Relief Company and Pension Association, of the United States of America. This association has its agents in every State in the Union, for the purpose of locating, if possible, all former slaves. The latter are told that legislation is now pending before Congress to pension all former slaves as follows:

THE BAIT.

All persons 70 years of age are to receive \$500 and also \$156 more during their natural lives. Persons 60 years to receive \$300 and \$126 more. Persons 50 years to receive \$100 and \$86 more. Persons less than 50 years to receive \$46, more, etc. It is necessary for all of the supposed beneficiaries of the proposed legislation to pay into the association 25 cents as a registration fee. It is claimed that over 600,000 ex-slaves have been so registered. According to the circular sent out by the association, a copy of which is now in the hands of the senator referred to, the headquarters or main office is at No. 708 Gay street, Nashville, Tenn. I. H. Dickerson is general manager. The circular is headed "Onward to Victory." It also contains a picture of General Manager Dickerson. It is addressed to "All local ex-slave associations in the United States. We come greeting as general manager and promoter of the movement, which has had so much opposition and more combats in its own circles than any other organization of the present day." Then follows special mention of the membership fee, 25 cents. Also the information that the national delegate in Washington is located at 475 Missouri avenue, and has secured the services of Attorney W. C. Lawson. The circular further appeals to every ex slave to send his name, with the registration fee of 25 cents. It also appeals to every local association to send \$2.50 for a charter at once, and every ex slave to send in addition that amount to be used in the movement. These assets are to be sent to the office of the national delegate, given above. The circular also announces that the National Convention at Nashville in 1898 made the weekly publication, the National Capital, 25 cents for three months, the official organ of the association. Another and more recent circular of similar import bears a picture of Senator Wm E. Mason, of Illinois, I. H. Dickerson, general manager, 714 Line street, Nashville, Tenn. This circular declares "it is the only incorporated and chartered movement in the United States, and all others are frauds. It calls attention to the bill to pension ex-slaves introduced in the House of Representatives, June 24, 1890, by then Representative Connell, of Nebraska." In the 54th Congress Senator Thurston introduced the Connell bill in the Senate and the circular calls special attention to the fact that the bill "passed to two readings and was referred to the pension committee."

CONGRESSMEN AID SHARPERS.

Now, to those who are not familiar with the parliamentary proceedings of the Senate, "passed to a second reading" sounds like making considerable progress. As a matter of fact that bill or a similar measure has been introduced at every session of Congress during the past ten years. These bills have always been introduced "by request," and so marked, which means, according to the practice at the Capitol, that the man who introduces a bill "by request" is not personally responsible for it. So the bill to pension ex-slaves has always been introduced "by request," and so read by its title, consid-

consideration by that committee. There never was and there probably never will be the slightest prospect of the passage of such a bill, and the promoters of the "25 cents registration scheme" are well aware of that fact. There are several rival concerns engaged in this business and there have been several disputes as to who should control the registration fees. It appears that I. H. Dickerson was deposed as general manager for a short time, but he was reinstated. The circular warns ex-slaves that there is a difference between the "Vaughn's Club and the Ex-Slaves' Mutual Relief Bounty and Pension Association." "Our association," says the circular, "is chartered and belongs to the people. The fee of 25 cents is merely for the purpose of defraying the expenses of carrying on the work and the expenses of the delegate to Washington."

A BARE FACED SWINDLE.

The senator, who has investigated the subject, says the scheme on its face seems to be a delusion and a snare to entrap poor colored people and get their money. These circulars are distributed among the colored people all over the country, and in many instances colored preachers are induced to preach to their congregations the bright hopes of a government pension. The last bill on the subject was introduced in the Senate by Senator Mason, who also took the precaution to insert in brackets, "by request," so that even the rough and ready statesman shied at assuming the responsibility for the measure. Many of the intelligent colored people have declined to go into the scheme and denounce it as another Freedman's Bank swindle. It is quite likely that the subject will be investigated by Congress next winter, now that so many of the honest and intelligent colored men have advised their misguided brethren of the improbability of the ex-slave pension bill becoming a law.—R. M. L. in News and Courier.

Southern Baptist Convention.

Louisville, Ky., May 12.—The forty-fourth Southern Baptist convention was called to order in Warren Memorial church this morning at 10 o'clock by President Jonathan Haralson, of Alabama. Nearly a thousand delegates representing all the southern states were present, and it is estimated that there are 10,000 visitors in the city attracted by the convention.

Ex-Governor W. J. Norton, of Georgia, was elected president.

J. P. Eagle, of Arkansas; R. C. Buckner, of Texas; F. H. Gerrfoot, of Kentucky, and C. L. Coker, of Virginia, were elected vice presidents.

Dr. Lansing Burrows, of Georgia, and O. T. Gregory, of Maryland, were re-elected secretaries.

G. W. Norton was re-elected treasurer and Dr. W. P. Harvey was re-elected auditor.

Louisville, Ky., May 13.—Dr. John T. Green, of Missouri, was at noon today elected president of the Southern Baptist Seminary, to succeed Dr. W. H. Whitsett, whose resignation was accepted after a long and bitter struggle, Thursday evening. The election of Dr. Green is considered a victory for the Whitsett faction.

Dr. J. H. T. Kerfoot was considered the candidate of the anti-Whitsett faction, but he withdrew his name, as did also Dr. J. R. Sampey.

Gen. Gomez Will Not Distribute the Money.

Habana, May 15.—Gen. Maximo Gomez today informed Governor General Brooke that he could no longer act as representative of the Cuban assembly in the distribution of the \$3,000,000 appropriated for the payment of the Cuban troops.

Gen. Gomez added that he had arrived at this decision with great reluctance and with the most friendly feelings toward Gen. Brooke personally and officially, but he felt he could no longer represent the Cuban army, because a cabal composed of many of the subordinate commanders existed to oppose, and, if possible, defeat the plans for partitioning the money. He explained that former members of the Cuban military assembly, led by Mayia Rodriguez, Manuel Saaguilly, Juan Gualberto Gomez and other malcontents, who had organized a majority of the officers against him apparently, and though he (Gomez) might persist and possibly carry the payment to a successful conclusion, he was disgusted and wished to wash his hands of the whole business. Therefore he thought best to leave Gen. Brooke free, as the latter could act with equal effectiveness.

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Some One Blundered as to Gen. Wheeler.

Not Assigned to Place on Parade.

Charleston, May 13.—The charge of want of hospitality to Gov. Candler and his staff at the Confederate reunion falls flat here, as neither the governor nor his staff were here in the capacity of Confederate veterans and Gen. C. Irvine Walker, the South Carolina commander of Confederate veterans, though he had received no notification of their coming promptly assigned the distinguished Georgia civilians a prominent place in the procession on Wednesday. But, a more serious matter is the failure, accidental or designed, to assign Gen. Joseph Wheeler any place in the great procession of Confederate veterans. Gen. Wheeler came here at the invitation of the veterans and was the guest of United States Judge Brawley, a one armed ex-Confederate. He was to deliver an address to the convention on Thursday and every tongue in Charleston sang his praises, but while the procession was moving on Wednesday he was waiting at the Brawley residence for a carriage that never came.

His absence from the procession was noted by the expectant thousands who the next day were to give him so magnificent an ovation at the auditorium. The list, given by Gen. Walker of those who were to ride in the procession in carriages did not include the name of Gen. Wheeler. The public cannot see why Wheeler's name was overlooked. Gen. Walker claims that the unfortunate blunder was due to his committee, but the committeemen indignantly deny that they were in anyway connected with the affair. Judge Brawley, Gen. Wheeler's host, will, in the Sunday News tomorrow, review the whole proceeding and say that Gen. Walker will have to accept the blame unless he can show that his orders were not carried out.

Gen. Walker will reply in the same paper claiming a confusion of orders by two committees. Gen. Walker says that as commander of the parade it was to his interest to make it as great a success as possible, that Gen. Wheeler's distinguished service in two wars entitled him to every consideration. Gen. Walker regrets profoundly that even the semblance of discourtesy should have been shown Gen. Wheeler.

How Gen. Wheeler Got Left.

Mr. Andrew J. Riley, chairman of the Reunion committee on horses and carriages, made a statement yesterday regarding the controversy over Gen. Wheeler's having been left out of the big Confederate parade Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Riley said his committee was furnished a typewritten list of the guests who were to occupy carriages in the parade. This was handed him by Gen. Walker Wednesday morning. The names were given on this list, opposite each was the address to which carriages should be sent. According to this Gen. Wheeler was to ride in a carriage with Gen. M. C. Butler, which, by the instructions from Gen. Walker, was to be sent to the Charleston Hotel. Capt. Sinkler, of Gen. Walker's staff, Mr. Riley says, was given similar instructions. From this list furnished by Gen. Walker Mr. Riley says it was accepted as a matter of course that Gen. Wheeler was to stop at the hotel, and the carriage for him was sent there at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday. Members of the committee inquired at the hotel for Gen. Wheeler just before the parade was to start to escort him to his carriage, but he could not be found. The clerk said he was not stopping at the hotel, and the committee had no notification of where he could be found. The carriage remained at the hotel until after 4 o'clock.

Mr. Riley went on to say that if his committee had known in time that Gen. Wheeler was at Judge Brawley's residence the carriage would most certainly have been hurried there for him. "By Judge Brawley's statement," said Mr. Riley, "I see that he informed Gen. Walker during the morning that Gen. Wheeler was not at the Charleston Hotel, but was at his home, in Legare street. Gen. Walker did not communicate this fact to us, nor were we told of it. My committee was acting simply on the written instructions from Gen. Walker. He did not inform us of any change in the programme, and we carried out the original instructions given us by him."

Mr. Riley said he did not desire to enter into any newspaper controversy with Gen. Walker, but that he deemed this statement proper in justice to his committee and in view of the published statement from Gen. Walker in the Sunday News.

Tumble in Stocks.

New York, May 13.—Stocks take a big tumble. The death of Roswell T. Flower has a decided effect on the stock market. The bear faction made a raid on all Flower issues which dropped off from 5 to 10 per cent. New York Air brake fell off 60 points to 135. The attendance on the floor of the exchange was unusually large. Many sight seers...

Claims For Millions Against United States

British, French and German Residents of Cuba Expect Uncle Sam to Pay Their Losses.

Washington, May 14.—The State department has been informally advised that claims aggregated a considerable amount have been made by British, German and French residents in Cuba during the recent insurrection, and that these ultimately will be pressed against the United States government. The claims themselves have not yet been received, but are being collected by the several foreign officers as the claimants send them in. In some cases schedules have been made and the aggregate stated to the authorities here. The French claims aggregate between 12,000,000 and 15,000,000 francs. The German claims are understood to be slightly under those of the French, while the British claims are said to be considerably more than either the French or German.

These foreign claims are quite distinct from those of citizens of the United States, originally against Spain, for damages sustained in Cuba during the insurrection. The peace treaty specifically provided for these American claimants, releasing Spain, and stating that the United States would make such settlement as was proper. Under the clause claims aggregating several millions have been filed. No provision, however, was made in the treaty for foreign claimants, and their appears to be much doubt as to who is liable since the sovereignty over Cuba has passed out of the hands of Spain.

DEATH AT THE THROTTLE.

Stilwell, Ga., May 13.—Passenger train No. 3 on the Florida Central and Peninsular railroad came in here today with engineer Bell dead at the throttle. Fireman Ed. Washington a few miles from this point noticed Engineer Bell leaning out of the cab window. As the train well laden with passengers neared Stilwell, the engineer did not change his position. Then the fireman suspected something wrong and took hold of the engineer. He fell back and the fireman saw he was dead with a gaping wound on his head. The theory is that he was struck by the pipe of a water tank at the station ten miles distant.

ANOTHER ACQUISITION.

Wilmington, N. C., May 13.—At an adjourned meeting of the stock holders of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad company, held here today, a deal was perfected between that company and the Southern Railway company by which the Southern gets that part of the Atlantic and Yadkin road, (late the C. F. & Y. V.), between Sanford and Mount Airy, N. C., the Wilmington and Weldon retaining that portion of the road between Sanford and Wilmington, including the Bennettsville branch. A stipulation in the deal is that the territory of the Southern railway west and southwest of Greensboro, in this State, is to be open to Wilmington at the same freight rates that prevail from and to Norfolk and Richmond.

As a result of this deal most of the general officers of the Atlantic and Yadkin resigned, and Col. A. B. Andrews was elected president; Mr. W. W. Finley, vice president; Mr. F. S. Gannon, general manager, and Mr. W. H. Miller, secretary.

GREAT BICYCLE COMBINE.

New York, May 15.—R. L. Coleman president of the Western Wheel works of Chicago, today renewed his option for the sale of the bicycle plant to A. G. Spalding. The combination being engineered by the Spaldings will, by the acceptance of all options held by Mr. Spalding, control a large percentage of the output in the United States. It will possess facilities for making a complete bicycle every five seconds, working ten hours per day.

The company is financed by the United States Mortgage and Trust company of this city and Lee, Higginson & Co., of Boston. The capital of the company is to be \$35,000,000 preferred stock and \$45,000,000 common stock.

Santiago de Cuba, May 15.—Considerable dissatisfaction is expressed here over the demand of the United States government that the Cuban soldiers relinquish their arms before receiving their share in the distribution of the \$3,000,000 Independence and other papers published excited articles protesting against the acceptance of any such proposal.

An ebony imposter with an eye to business has been raking in the shak's in Philadelphia by representing himself as the son of Sam Hose. What...

Situation Considered Serious

How Turn of Affairs in Cuba is Regarded in Washington.

Washington, May 15.—High officials in the war department were reluctant to discuss the Cuban situation this afternoon. The dispatch of the Associated Press was read with interest, but did not cause much surprise among army officers who are well informed about the Cubans, especially those who are known as "soldiers of fortune," and who have been bitterly disappointed because the island was not turned over to them immediately after the Spanish surrender. There is an impression also that the intention of Gen. Brooke to see that the \$3,000,000 are distributed among the Cuban troops has caused disappointment among the many "generals" and other high officers who were evidently expecting to secure a large share of the money.

The belief was expressed that the situation in Cuba is serious and that careful and diplomatic management will be needed. It was stated that no orders would be issued to Gen. Brooke, as he had ample authority to deal with any situation which might arise. There seems to be a belief that Gen. Gomez has contributed to the delay in the payment of the money.

London, May 15.—The Filipino junta here has received a message from Aguinaldo via Hong Kong saying the Filipino government has decided to continue the war at all costs until independence is secured.

Snake Charmers.

It is generally supposed that the serpents exhibited by snake charmers have been deprived of their fangs, and this is doubtless often the case, while one instance at least is recorded in which the mouth of the snake had been sewed together to prevent it from biting.

The writer noticed at the Ceylon exhibition, given some years ago in London, that one of the snake charmers, finding the cobra he was exhibiting becoming too lively and aggressive, seized the reptile by the neck and thrust it hastily into the small round basket in which it was carried, at the same time pushing it with a voluminous white cloth, at which it bit savagely. Having almost closed the lid of the basket, the man drew away the cloth violently, thus doubtless dragging out the fangs which were fastened in it. He then secured the basket and carried it away. This, of course, required a large amount of cool courage as well as great quickness of hand and eye, all of which qualities must be doubly necessary in capturing and taming these deadly reptiles.

But we are astonished at the skill and dexterity displayed by Indian snake charmers, still more must we marvel at the hardihood of the American Indians, who, in their snake dances, not only handle the deadly rattlesnake with impunity, but absolutely carry it about in their mouths.—Westminster Review.

Theater Tickets.

The fact that a ticket bought for a theater and not used on the date stamped on it is always good for an admission is not generally known and probably theater managers would take very little trouble to spread knowledge of the fact, but it is nevertheless true.

"A man who buys a reserved seat for a theater," said a theater treasurer who handles more tickets every season than any other in New York, "may not use it on the evening for which he bought it. Good for this date only may be stamped on the pasteboard. That would seem to mean that the ticket could be used at no other time. Probably most of the public accept that as proving the impossibility of making use of the ticket, and therefore few make any attempt to get the worth of their money when they are prevented by any cause from using the ticket on the date marked on it. But it could be presented at any time and would be good for an admission."

"Any theater manager would have to recognize the holder's right to enter the theater, although that would, of course, carry with it no right to the seat. It is that right which is limited by the printed date. For all other purposes the ticket is quite as good as if used on the date it bears."—New York Sun.

Grandmother's Cold Cream Jar.

A writer in the Germantown Telegraph declares that our grandmothers excelled us in dainty trifles. One of the prettiest ornaments on the dresser was an egg. At first sight it looked exactly like an egg from the pantry, for the shell was unpainted; only as one looked at it, she saw that one end was broken. This eggshell was used as a cold cream jar. When making cold cream, our grandmothers would pour it into an empty shell which had been carefully prepared. After the egg was taken out the shell was washed and sweetened with perfumery, with a few drops left in the bottom. The cold cream was poured in and left to harden. The result was an eggshell full of lovely white cosmetic.

The best opinion respecting the physical condition of Pope Leo XIII is that, while he is bearing up with extraordinary mental strength, his bodily infirmity may at any moment cut short his career. It is commented by those nearest to him that his mind, which has suffered no decay of power, is holding up a very weak body and that any extra worry or excitement will be fatal.

Democratic Rulers.

Some of the English Tory newspapers and one or two of the French and German imperialistic sheets are trying to show that the selection of M. Loubet to be president of France is the latest example of the dire inability of republics to bring great men to the front. The Saturday Review points out that the presidents of the United States have all been commonplace men. This is probably true from the Matthew Arnold or Carlyle point of view. None of them has been great in the academic sense, nor have they been exalted in the same sense that Caesar or Napoleon or Frederick was, but from the democratic point of view that has been an inestimable advantage, not only to the country that selected them, but to the men themselves. It is hard to imagine what would have been the fate of our country if Lincoln had proved as great as Alaric, or even as William the Conqueror, or if Washington had possessed the particular order of genius that has preserved the name of the first Napoleon in the bloody records of the world. The undoubted merit of the men that the republic has chosen to conduct its affairs has been that commonplace ability that exactly represented the mass of the people themselves and their well being. That was the crowning glory of Lincoln and placed him in the front of the group of heroes that the nation will never forget. M. Loubet comes out of the people. He seems to possess just the homely and sterling integrity that thinks more of the public good than of his own personal ambition, and the brilliant men who are scheming for the overthrow of the government and the subjection of the people to an outworn aristocratic legend have for the most part quietly folded their tents since he took the field. Comparison of the presidents of the American republic with many of the men that England placed upon the throne and kept there to its own detriment and disgrace would at all times be a healthy educational task, and it would not be out of place to ask if the latest of all her sovereigns has not secured the greatest honor and the most lasting fidelity by refusing to be anything more than a most estimable figurehead.

Congressional funerals are attracting unpleasant attention, first on account of their expense and second on account of the manner of conducting them. It cost \$4,500 to the people to bury Representative Dingley of Maine and \$1,173 to bury Representative Milliken. The American people would be slow to object to this outlay if it were shown that it was a suitable method of doing honor to a public servant. But it is becoming apparent that a large contingent of shopkeepers and contractors lies in wait for these honors to pocket the surplus of a grateful republic, and the mourning congressmen are coming to regard the sad obsequies as an extra opportunity for cakes and ale, or, to put it plainly, champagne and cigars. This is not a pleasant subject to discuss, and all the more reason why congress itself should regulate it within the bounds of national decorum and respectful grief.

Promotion.

"Miss Mary, are you sorry that your sister Evelyn is married?" "No, it advances me one number."—Chicago Record.

A story has been printed in a Cincinnati paper to the effect that part of an infernal machine which was used in the destruction of the Maine has been found in a prison on the shore of Havana harbor. Connected with it were wires and tubing, and there were evidences that a keyboard and switch had been detached. The story is very circumstantial, but has created no sensation, for the simple reason that this country long ago made up its mind how the Maine was destroyed and is no longer interested in the details.

From a purely military point of view the dispersion of the fighting Filipinos is now only a question of time. They have shown extraordinary ability in falling back, but unfortunately for them the country is of such conformation that they cannot fall back much more without being in deep water. Aguinaldo has not issued a proclamation in a week, and that looks like exhaustion. It has for the most part been a much harder task to stop his mouth than to stop the fire of his men.

Sporting Spirit.

Grogan—Billy has got the true sporting spirit in him.
Kilkey—What's the matter with Billy, now?
Grogan—He ran against an open door and blacked his eye, and he tells everybody he got the black eye in a fight.—Boston Transcript.

Ventured No Opinion.

"What's the matter with you?" asked the friend.
"I haven't the least idea," answered the very cynical invalid. "The surgeons are going to operate for appendicitis."—Washington Star.

No More Credit.

Mrs. Spendall—You look worried. Is it because you are so deeply in debt?
Mr. Spendall (gloomily)—No. It's because I can't get any deeper.—New York Weekly.

That's All.

Bill—Did you ever shoot at clay pigeons?
Gill—Oh, yes, I've shot at them.—Yonkers Statesman.