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THE PROPOSED DIVIDE OF OFFICES.

It has been suggested in high political circles that some sort of a compromise will be agreed upon between the Democrats and Republicans; that the election of President will be thrown into the House and Tilden elected President and Wheeler Vice-President. To any such a proposition we are firmly opposed. If Mr. Tilden was elected and is to be seated, that election carries with it the election of Thomas A. Hendricks as Vice-President. There is a higher principle involved than the distribution of government patronage to one party or the other. The Democrats have not been kept together these long years by the hope of eventually holding fat offices and enjoying the honors of place, but by a respect for constitutional government and a desire to see the liberties of the country preserved. Elections are held to ascertain the will of the people. A majority voted for Tilden and Hendricks or for Hayes and Wheeler. We surrender and degrade the elective principle and the most vital theories of our form of government, if we consent to an arrangement for a division of the spoils. If Governor Hayes has been elected so has Wheeler and both should be inaugurated. What justice, virtue or necessity is there in excluding Governor Hayes, if he was fairly elected, and admitting Mr. Wheeler? The very suggestion of such a compromise implies that we are a nation of office seekers, and the highest aim of parties is to hold office, and reward partisans. Unfortunately, we have seen this idea grow up within a party in the last sixteen years until it has become a great evil of the times. Mr. Tilden having been elected fairly and legally, he should be inaugurated President and Hendricks as Vice-President. If this cannot be done, let the Democratic party peacefully and resolutely appeal to the better judgment and innate sense of justice of the whole people, and wait for the next opportunity at the ballot-box, and then the Republican party will be overwhelmed in a final and lasting defeat. If we become a party to Wheeler's inauguration as Vice President and President of the Senate, we condone a crime and an outrage and could no more have the face to make a struggle for pure principles' sake. A majority of the popular vote was cast for Tilden, and if the election could be held to-morrow his majority would be increased another quarter of a million votes. Thousands of honest, intelligent Republicans, who have always been such, are disgusted at the use of troops to carry elections and perpetrate carpet-bag governments, and still stare at the effrontery and villainy of returning boards, who have disregarded the votes cast and counted in Hayes and Wheeler. The Republican party has lost in moral support, and the leaders have weakened in their purpose before the firm bearing of the Democratic party or they wouldn't talk of a compromise. They cannot admit Mr. Tilden's election without conceding the same to Hendricks. We do not believe that Mr. Tilden would accept the place on such conditions. Stock jobbing politicians, who are always looking out for the strong side and not knowing what the result of this case may be, are willing to trade with either side that will keep them in office. The great masses of the Democratic party will tolerate no such trifling. Papers that have coquetted with both sides may favor the scheme as an easy solution of the difficulty which has arisen under our peculiar electoral system, the leading men of our party will not. We have not thought at any time that there was any probability of such an agreement, much less that it would be satisfactory to the people at large; but cannot withhold this expression in regard to a possible issue.

A MEMBER elect of the Legislature who can walk from home to the capitol every morning without inconvenience, declines to accept a free pass from one of the railroads, good during the session of the Legislature, and gives it as his opinion that no official should accept "free rides" while in office. This sounds very well, but it costs nothing to decline a privilege which could not be used. If some East or West Tennessee member had declined he would get credit for making a slight sacrifice for the sake of a fixed principle; but even then would not acquire a right to lecture the rest on their moral and political duty.

THE Radical papers now call the Supreme Court of Florida a rebel court since it issued the peremptory mandamus requiring the Board of Canvassers to canvass the votes from the faces of the returns. The members are all Republicans, and we never heard before that they were deficient in loyalty and patriotism. They seem to have acted from a sense of justice and the requirements of the law in the case. This is not approved by Zack Chandler & Co.

The last sad tributes of respect were paid to the memory of First Lieutenant Juno A. McKinney last Sabbath afternoon. The services were conducted at St. Lazarus by Rev. Dr. Parsons. The little church was filled with sympathetic mourners, many of whom knew the deceased well, while others only knew him by reputation, as he left here when young. The assembly was larger than usually seen on such an occasion in our city. The streets were lined with people, although the weather was bitter cold. All manifested a respectful interest in the proceedings, inspired by sympathy and deep regret. The funeral oration was touchingly beautiful, and moved many to tears uncessant to weeping. The demonstration was spontaneous and heartfelt, and was creditable alike to the living as deserved by the gallant dead. All that was possible in expressions of sorrow and respect to his memory has been done most fittingly by our people. He was laid in his last resting place as he fell, amid a pitiless wintry scene and volleys of musketry.

A MEMBER of Congress from a neighboring State, writing to a friend in this city from Washington, under date of December 21st, uses this language:

"Times are fearfully solemn here. While I don't look for another war in the event that Tilden is robbed of the office to which he has been so fairly elected, yet the talk and scenes of this day greatly resemble those of 1860."

BOB INGERSOLL is in favor of inaugurating Hayes on the 4th of March. Being a pagan and a Radical he has no more regard for Sunday than any other day. He asserts that if Hayes does not go in, nobody will. Grant will stay.

SENATOR KEY, in his recent speech in the Senate, referred to the Eliza Pinkerton story and offset it with the case of Frances Thompson very effectually. The Congressional Record of last Tuesday contains the speech.

MR. LAMAR is not satisfied with the position assigned to him by many journals of the country. He denies that he has even entertained any proposition coming from the Hayes party.

COLONEL JOHN H. SAVAGE, of Warren county, is urged by some of his friends as a suitable man for Speaker of the next House of Representatives of the Legislature.

A NUMBER of prominent Democrats at Washington will take advantage of the holidays to pay a visit to Mr. Tilden at New York.

A GUBERNATORIAL ERROR CORRECTED.

The Brothers Dickinson Released from Illegal Arrest.

On the 1st of November the Governor of Massachusetts issued a requisition on Governor Porter for John W. and Benjamin F. Dickinson, charging them with "cheating by false pretenses and intent to defraud."

In September these persons, residents of Memphis, were indicted by the grand jury of the Circuit Court of Boston, the indictment stating that "at Boston, aforesaid, did then and there unlawfully, knowingly and designedly falsely pretend and represent to Henry C. Thatcher that they, said John and Benjamin, had shipped and forwarded to him, said Thatcher in said Boston, sixty bales of cotton, each of the value of \$100; that the owner, master, clerk or agent of the steamboat Ben Franklin, then and there lying at said Memphis, had theretofore received said cotton in good order; and said John and Benjamin did then and there exhibit and deliver to said Thatcher a paper, writing and receipts."

The parties were also indicted for the alleged offence of sending fifty-seven bales of cotton by the steamer Andy Baum, which the indictment charges were not shipped.

On November 9th Governor Porter issued a warrant of arrest which was executed in this city, but on Saturday last, for good reasons shown, the Governor revoked his warrant in the following order:

James D. Porter, Governor of the State of Tennessee, to the sheriff, constables, and other civil officers of the State of Tennessee, and more especially to P. B. Athey, Chief of Police of Memphis, and to H. C. Piggback and Charles Philbrick, agents of the State of Massachusetts, Greeting:

Whereas, on the 9th day of November, 1876, a warrant of arrest was issued by me for the arrest of John B. Dickinson and Benjamin F. Dickinson, in due form of law as alleged fugitives from the State of Massachusetts; and on good cause appearing in the insufficiency of the requisition of the Governor of Massachusetts, upon which said warrant was issued; now, therefore, I, James D. Porter, Governor, as aforesaid, do hereby revoke and annul the said warrant of arrest, and direct you to set at liberty the parties named as such fugitives, or either of them, if arrested, and to desist from any further proceedings under said warrant of arrest.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed, at Nashville, on the 22d day of December, 1876.

JAMES D. PORTER.

By the Governor.

CHARLES N. GIBBS, Sec'y of State.

When the arrest was made here by Chief of Police Athey and the Boston officers a habeas corpus writ was sued out before Judge Ray, of the Probate Court, and the legality of the issuance of the requisition and warrant was inquired into. It became apparent that the defendants had not been in Boston, and consequently were not fugitives from the State of Massachusetts, and that if any crime had been committed it had been committed in Memphis, and the defendants were subject to indictment and trial only where the alleged crime was committed. These facts having been brought to the knowledge of the Governor he, on Saturday last, revoked his order of arrest, and the defendants were set at liberty.

One thing about the matter is, that Thatcher's allegations made in Boston are dated on the identical day upon which the bills of lading are shown to have been drawn.