

Republican Progress.

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— Could Senator Conkling have been unanimously and promptly re-elected to the Senate of the United States by the Republican members of the New York Legislature, after his absurd and most petulant exhibition of resignation, it would have been regarded by him and accepted by the country as the endorsement of his party and personal friends. It would have been that and nothing more. Not to be so promptly and unanimously endorsed, must be to him a surprise and mortification. If it shall turn out that he is not returned to the Senate, then he must accept the fact as a rebuke to him, and as an evidence that his strength in New York is not so much due to his personal greatness, or personal popularity, as to the fact that he was a leader within the Republican party, and his power was from a patronage that belonged not to him but to the Administration. Conkling has been disappointed and humiliated. He may rally, may organize a successful campaign, and after a struggle fight his way back to the Senate. If he can do this he will have regained his prestige, and will have demonstrated the possession of real force, and may justly claim it as evidence of political power. If he fails, and does not regain his position, his fall will be permanent, his defeat irretrievable, and Mr. Conkling will be driven back to private life profoundly humiliated. He has taken a step from which there is no retreat. He must advance. If he can hold a majority of the Republicans of New York to his following, triumph over his party enemies, over Blaine, his personal antagonist, and over the Administration, he will have achieved a triumph to which the annals of American politics present no parallel. No one believes this is possible to Senator Conkling—to any man in a republic. In governments where all men are of equal political rank, and where the ambitions of public life are attainable to all, or at least where all may struggle for them, the individual must be pre-eminent great who can do with success that which Mr. Conkling has undertaken. The Senator, in his vanity, has allowed himself for years to labor under a grave misconception of his true relation to the American people and of his own popularity. He has mistaken the adulation of friends and admirers, the sycophantic representations of his parasites and the flatteries of artful and selfish office-holders, personal followers, and party expectants, to lead him altogether astray in reference to his own position. He has been so hedged around with the mercenary, the cowardly, and the sycophantic that he has not heard the truth. His own arrogant and supercilious deportment has driven from him all plain, blunt, true men—all sincere friends. He has allowed but two relations to be held toward him—a man must be his enemy or his slave. Those who were neither, kept aloof from him. Like a king, he has been hedged about by panders and parasites, by mercenaries and soldiers of fortune. Wrapped in the mantle of his own sublime egotism, he was the only man in New York that did not know that he had more enemies than friends, and that the great, sensible heart of an intelligent public opinion did not think in sympathy with him. The good and great Caliph of Bagdad, was in the habit of going among his people in disguise, and thus, coming in direct contact with them, he learned their sentiments toward himself, and found out many things that it was good for a ruler to know. Conkling has all his latter life played the role of Lord of the White Elephant. He has gone forth among the people, mounted above its ivory tusks, and had his way cleared by its swaying proboscis, and looked down upon the people. It was a foolish thing for him to resign his seat, and come down among the walking mob. He had forgotten in his vanity that any one of that mob had just as good a right to ride the elephant as himself, and that all except his own attendants, and those he had snatched upon and aided in time of power, would oppose his removal. He failed to appreciate that, out of the Senate, out of power, with no patronage to distribute, at war with the Administration, down upon the lobby level at Albany, he must depend upon

his own strength, his own valor. He invited the conflict. He challenged the field. He is to-day the most surprised and disappointed man in America. That surprise comes from being made to realize his own want of popular strength, and his disappointment comes from an ascertainment of the utterly worthless character of those whom he had gathered about him and depended on friends.

— Still another comet has just been discovered, and this time there is a chance of its proving no telescopic affair, but one big enough and portentous enough to be worthy even of this year 1881, so full of omens to the superstitious. Dr. B. A. Gould, our distinguished countryman, who has charge of the National Argentine Observatory, on La Plata River, believes the new comet to be the great comet of 1807, returning after seventy-four years' absence, instead of after the much longer absence which had been calculated for it. But it would seem hardly possible to determine this point with precision at so early a date after its discovery. Four and a fourth centuries ago, all Europe was terrified by a comet which was thought to presage the triumph of the Turks, then assaulting Christendom. The prayers offered up on all hands were to save the world from the devil, the Turk, and the comet. The Turk has long since ceased to be a terror—he is a sick man, mostly engaged in saving himself; the devil has been ciphered out of existence by a host of modern theologians; while the astronomers have encouraged mankind, of late, by assuring them that the world may often have been swept by the tails of comets without feeling it, while even should it hit squarely by the head of a comet, it would only be bad for the comet.

— Five of the professors of the State Normal School have resigned, because of the disagreement with President George P. Brown, who is upheld by the board of trustees. The trouble seems to be that Mr. Brown demands to have his own way, and wants a faculty that will carry out his plans loyally and without question. President Bartlett, of Dartmouth, is now on trial upon charges prepared by the faculty of that college because of his assertion of autocracy, and the question is to be tested whether a professor is anything more in the government of a college than a mere tutor or hearer of recitations. On a smaller scale, it seems that is the question involved in the Terre Haute disagreement.

— A series of interviews with lumber dealers, published in the New York Tribune of Sunday last, shows that the walnut lumber of this country is getting pretty well used up. It now ranges as high as one hundred dollars per thousand in that city, for the best. From that interview and other sources it is also learned that a determined effort is being made to change the fashion in furniture material. Walnut has reigned supreme for the last twenty years, but there are indications that other woods are gradually supplanting the favorite.

— Being short of material and wishing to give the public a relief from the legislative deadlock and bribery nastiness, the New York papers have revamped the Masonic Margin disappearance. Some old bones have been discovered and are being heralded as the remains of the man who disappeared fifty-five years ago. Thurlow Weed should be sent for to hold another inquest.

— *Sam in High Places.*
W. H. Jones, Secretary.
My Old Friend.—When I read the "Endorsement" in the last Progress, I inquired who was W. H. Jones, and to my surprise learned it was Harrison Jones, my old friend. And so, as such, let me take some notice of this endorsement. It is:

1st. That dancing is a sin.
2d. That this sin was "inaugurated" at the last Alumni entertainment.

3d. That the Rev. J. W. Webb by pronouncing a sin in high places merits the endorsement of the Methodist Quarterly Conference.

I propose to consider these three matters.

1st. Is dancing a sin?

Now, for morrow half of my life has been danced at dancing schools at balls, and in the houses of individuals, occupying a high place in society, in official position, and in the Church. It is a common social amusement in all our cities especially. Now, is it not something rather strange, Old Friend, that so many persons, in these various conditions of life, of high intelligence and moral worth, should have failed to see the "sin" in this common recreation? Certainly, I have never seen anything like it.

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