

THE DEMOCRAT.

BY S. RAY WILLIAMS

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DECATUR, INDIANA,

THURSDAY, Dec. 2, 1880.

ROBINSON, lieutenant governor-elect of Colorado, was shot and killed last Saturday by a miner.

JOHN SHERMAN and Gov. FOSTER are into the Senatorial squabble with sleeves up and war paint on.

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Democrats should not touch it. If they want to read the opposite side of political questions let them take a straight Republican paper, then they will know what they are reading. The *Enquirer* forfeited all claims to support and recognition from the Democracy of the country. Democrats who are taking the weekly *Enquirer* will do better to drop it and take the *State Sentinel*, the prospectus of which we publish this week. It is just as good for news, is more reliable, and Democratic in the true sense of the term.

Was Gen. Garfield Tempted to Suicide?

In the astonishing letter addressed to Gen. Garfield by his old friend Donn Piatt, we get a view of the Credit Mobilier scandal entirely different from that presented by Judge Black, another friend of Garfield's who knew the facts about his business with Oakes Ames.

To Judge Black, as an astute lawyer a public man of vast experience, and a friend whose fidelity never wavered, Gen. Garfield went for advice, when the consequences of his lapse from virtue began to threaten him with ruin. Judge Black gave him the counsel of a lawyer and a friend. He urged him to admit the fact of the transaction, which in his intercourse with trusted friends Gen. Garfield had never thought of denying, and to put his defense on the most advantageous grounds—the plea that a corrupt motive was wanting. But Gen. Garfield decided to risk the other course. To the first sin he added the heavier weight of perjury. To the grief of friends who had known his weakness of character, but had never believed him capable of deliberate wickedness, he went up to the stand and took oath to what they knew to be a lie.

Interesting as is the view which Judge Black gives us of Gen. Garfield's bearing at this crisis in the development of his moral character, it is not by any means complete. While Judge Black, perhaps, had little knowledge. He was not a friend from whom an unhappy wretch would be likely to seek sympathy for the inner anguish of guilt and fear. It was the legal and not the philosophical phase of his troubles that chiefly concerned Judge Black.

Col. Donn Piatt, however, is a man constituted for friendship of a different sort. Intimate, as he says, with Gen. Garfield from the time when they both occupied a cheap boarding house he had been in the habit of sharing with him the burden of difficulties and the joy of triumphs. Piatt is accustomed to look at affairs from an emotional rather than an intellectual point of view. Without caring a particle for the question of guilt or innocence or the means to be adopted to shield them or demonstrate the other, he would have felt the liveliest sympathy with his friend's sufferings, and would have been informed of every new phase of Gen. Garfield's mental anguish.

What, then, does Donn Piatt mean when he reminds Gen. Garfield of that darkest hour of your [Garfield's] life, when life itself seemed so horrible that an escape from it was a temptation?

There seems to be no doubt that this darkest hour of life when life itself was so horrible, refers to the time of the Credit Mobilier investigation, and not to the later trouble in which the De Golyer bribe involved Gen. Garfield. The earliest experience was the crucial one. Then, so far as we are aware, Gen. Garfield had never before been accused of corruption, and had never been tempted to forsake him. When the facts in regard to the pavement fee forced Gen. Garfield to the stand a second time to defend his reputation and to engage in a desper-

ate struggle for political existence, he had necessarily become hardened to the idea of perjury. It was the first contemplation of the crime that cost him the intensest suffering. But was the agony of that first struggle so great that he actually took suicide into consideration as a means of escape from dishonor? This is what Donn Piatt's reminiscence plainly alleges.

If Gen. Garfield thought even for a moment of depriving himself of life rather than to swear falsely in the name of God, the fact is creditable to him, and Donn Piatt has done his friend a service in making it public.

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Mr. Aaron Kelley, of Summer county, Kansas, is visiting friends here. Mr. K. reports business lively in the west.

Several of our young men have turned hunters of late and the way they take in the game is surprising.

James Over accidentally shot himself a few days ago. We failed to learn the particulars but at last accounts he was thought to be out of danger.

Died.—At his residence in Jefferson township, on the 16th, Mr. Geo. Byers, aged about 40 years. The deceased had been a great sufferer for some time, his disease defying the skill of the best physicians. He left a large family of children, many of them quite small, to mourn his loss.

GENEVA CLEANING.
BY RUS-TI-CUS.

Samuel Galloway has become a citizen of Geneva.

Several car loads of hogs were penned here for several days last week on account of scarcity of cars.

Will Boehm, of New Cuyahoga, has moved to town and contemplates starting a blacksmith shop.

Joe Hendricks has bought Bill Moses' interest in the saw mill and will now run it on his own hook.

We have had more nice slayings already than we had during the whole of last winter.

Talk about not being able to compete with foreign cheap labor! It cost \$1,000 a man to harress Boycott's crops, while here it could be done for \$10.—*Boston Post*.

More grimes have been committed since the election than during any previous period of the year. Shall we give John Sherman credit for that, too?—General Garfield.—*Elmira Free Press*.

In an Arkansas town on Sunday, one clergymen prayed for rain and another for fair weather, and Providence got out of the dilemma immediately sending them an earthquake.

A gentleman who married a widow complained to her that he liked his beef well done. "Ah! I thought I was cooking for Mr. Brown," said she, "he liked his rare. But, darling, I will try and forget the poor dear."—*Troy Times*.

They will never get to the north pole until it is announced that the Government will establish a new and independent Congressional District. Then look out for the rush. There are men in the State of Ohio who will walk to it.

Come now, brothers of the North, and confess that blood is thicker than water! The South has given up secession; give you up centralism!

Accept these conditions and nationality is an accomplished fact.

There is a great scandal about her because she never had a husband—we're talking about Sarah of course—and yet a Western actress has had nine husbands and hasn't escaped just the same amount of scandal. What will will please folks?—*Boston Post*.

Hymen is the only torch-bearer whose campaign never ends.—*Boston Globe*.

But the procession is growing shorter every year.—*New Haven Register*.

And it will continue, too, so long as the country remains in the hands of a Republican administration.

"What do you eat those horrid mushrooms for, Matilda?" asked the dainty Augustus. "I don't see how you can bear them. They're nothing but a nasty fungus, anyway." "That's just it," replied the fair Matilda, balancing a bit of the labeled food on the end of her fork; "I eat them for fun, Gus."—*Boston Transcript*.

Seekers after Federal office will do well to first pull up stakes and emigrate to Ohio. She has the President, the President-elect, the Chief Justice, one Associate Justice, the Secretary of the Treasury, the General of the Army, the Lieutenant General, one of the three Major-Generals, the Minister to France, the Hawaiian Consulate, and more minor officials distributed around the various Departments than you could count in half a day. Great is Ohio.

IT IS NOT MARCIA

It is not any given that she and her son, administrator of the Estate of Mrs. Smith, deceased, have filed his personal estate of the deceased, for the debts and the expenses of the administration at the February 1st, 1880, and the amount of \$1,000.00 is said to be the sum.

Alfred Denby who lives near Liberty, Jay county, sent his little boy after the cow on horseback last Saturday.

He is a blacksmith and a member of the Blackburn Club.

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