

Democratic Sentinel.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1877.

Mr. Morton is very ill.

The men who work turned out en masse, at Indianapolis, on the evening of the 13th. Their resolution sound very Democratic.

We yield considerable space to-day to "Nick of the Woods." The comparison he draws between Governors Hartranft and Williams is very correct and appropriate.

LETTER FROM NICK OF THE WOODS.

Sketch of the Colfax [Gran Parish Riot and Thrilling Incidents. 1877. MAGNOLIA, Miss., August 17, 1877.

Dear Sentinel: Recent events transpiring in some of the Northern States bring to mind the old adage: "chicks will come home to roost." The scenes and tragedies enacted, consequent upon the great railroad strike, at the North, prove that no community can expect, always, to be free from lawlessness and bloodshed. They prove also that, when a gross wrong has been perpetrated upon a people, either by a powerful corporation or a tyrannical government, and the people become aroused to a sense of the wrongs they have suffered and unite for their own self-protection and that of their families, how weak their oppressors are, and how easy it is to overthrow a seemingly well-organized government. No government can exist without the consent of the governed, and had it not been for the natural law-abiding proclivities of the people, their love for their government, daring and resolute men could have organized a formidable revolution in the Northern States which no power on earth could have stayed until the wrongs had been righted and justice yielded to the poor and oppressed. The weakness of the Governor of that great and powerful State, Pennsylvania, is strikingly similar to that of Kellogg in Louisiana and Ames in Mississippi, and shows what little could have been expected of him with his fifty thousand militia tendered to Grant, when brought face to face and muzzle to muzzle with an equal number of Louisianians or Mississippians to force them to further submit to the oppressions they had so long suffered. And, indeed, what a great contrast in the executive ability of Governor Hartranft when compared with that of the wise and consistent Governor of Indiana. Hartranft, by the organization of his militia, and his boasted prowess, caused millions of property to be destroyed, and streams of blood to flow, hearts to be broken, and poor, helpless women and children to be brought to greater suffering, and whose walls are heard throughout the length and breadth of the land; while Governor Williams, with a single stroke of his pen, his soothing voice and wise counsel, quieted the passions of his people and restored peace and harmony all over the State without the loss of a drop of blood.

The wise counsel of a father will often win the obedience of a child, when tyranny and unjust punishment will cause him to rebel and seek deeper revenge for what he deems a great injustice. The Anglo-Saxon race are a people that naturally love good government, but are peculiarly sensitive to wrong, and while they are dangerous and yet they are ever ready to yield to the right.

The lawlessness in the South, as it is termed by Northern radical papers, originated from causes of a more provoking character than those which actuated the strikers in some of the Northern States which I propose to show by writing you a series of sketches of some of the Southern riots, and give the above as a preface to those sketches.

Emerging from the great contest between the two sections of our country, the South drifted into a conquered position, their rights guaranteed by the Federal Government, all their rights in the Union, with republican form of State government, was guaranteed to the Northern States. With soldiers quartered in our midst, who rode rough-shod over the white people, robbed them of their cotton, horses, cattle and other property; with thousands of worthless vagabonds, thieves and criminals turned loose upon us, society upheaved and society disorganized, a military despotism clanging about us, who, followed by the establishment of a radical supremacy over the white people—property-owners and tax-payers—which continued an inauspicious system of open robbery, thus reducing the people to great sufferings, and subjecting them from year to year to mortifications, oppressions and even barbarous outrages, I claim and can prove to any unbiased, unprejudiced mind, that there was justification in almost every single act of general or public violence, except in the South by the white people. Having lived in Louisiana for six or seven years after the war, and being familiar with its political history, I propose to begin my sketches about events which have transpired there, and follow them up by similar occurrences in Mississippi and elsewhere. These sketches will contain accounts of outrages committed by negroes and carpet-baggers, thrilling incidents, &c., together with causes from which they originated, and which I hope will prove interesting to your numerous readers.

THE GRANT PARISH RIOT.

When the radicals and negroes, thro' the power of the Federal army obtained control of the State of Louisiana, they were in a position to double, if possible, their representation in the State Legislature. In the river parishes the negroes were largely in the majority and in order to secure this double representation they must form new parishes in those sections of the State where the negroes were known to be in the majority. Another plan was to enact a registration law, disfranchise as many whites as possible and then take a new census and see that the negroes largely in the majority make a fair registration, and stuff ballot boxes in order to show their vote equal and in proportion to the census. Grant Parish was formed of portions of Barataria and

Natchitoches parishes and the slices were taken off so as to insure the negro majority. Colfax, the place selected for the parish seat, was a spot of ground on Red River belonging to one of the large plantations of Willie Calhoun, a dwarf, and one of his employees, a negro mill was used for a court house. A renegade named W. B. Phillips, a white man, who lived in open concubinage with a mulatto woman, was appointed parish judge. The tax-assessor and collector were selected from men of a similar stripe whose sympathies were wholly with the radical party and negroes. A black unmilitated scoundrel named Ward was elected to the Legislature, and thus organized they were in condition to have things their own way. They levied the most oppressive taxes on the white people, and in judicial matters in which a white man was concerned against a negro, the white man stood no chance at all. There was not even security in appeals to the higher courts, as they were in full pitch with each other. Willie Calhoun, who married an octopus, and who owned several thousand acres of the richest Red River lands, secured an exemption from taxation by non-assessment, while the highest assessments were made on other peoples' property who had the burden of taxation to bear. Then lordly officials also encouraged the greatest insolence among the negroes for the whites and sought every opportunity possible to insult them, besides carrying on a systematic system of robbery of stock of all kinds. Things went on for several years. Among the negroes, however, there was a class who were in sympathy with their old masters, and soon learned that they themselves also were suffering by these scoundrels who had been foisted into office over them, and consequently took sides with the whites. Knowing this fact, the whites determined at the next general election to put a good ticket in the field and rid themselves of their oppressors. In 1872, there were two tickets put in the field—McEnery or Fusion ticket, headed by John McEnery for Governor, and D. B. Pease for Lieutenant Governor, and the radical ticket headed by Wm. Pitt Kellogg, for Governor, and O. C. Antoine, a negro, for Lieutenant Governor. Warmoth was then Governor of the State and by a stroke of policy on the part of the democrats a large number of negroes were secured to their support. In Grant Parish, James Hadnot ran on the Fusion ticket for the Legislature, and was elected. Grant assumed the responsibility of acting himself, and therefore sent the United States troops to Colfax to keep the negroes from the office of Governor. And, knowing Kellogg's illegal claims to the office of Governor, and demanded the surrender of the forces which had organized in resistance to Kellogg's authority. Not wishing to come in contact with the Federal Government, the white people yielded to the stern decree of military authority. A company of U. S. troops was stationed at Colfax to keep the peace, while Kellogg fitted up a lot of gunboats and metropolitan police and sent them up Red River to terrify the inhabitants and to arrest those who were engaged in the Colfax affair under McEnery and Hadnot or hunt them down as outlaws. Nash and his associates were driven from their homes and sought safety in the dense forests of Red River and western Louisiana. A large number of persons, however, were arrested, taken to New Orleans and confined in dingy dungeons for long months without the benefit of bail, while the radical black and white leaders who incited the negroes at Colfax were allowed to go free.

The presence of the U. S. troops at Colfax and of the State militia having some hope of the success of Kellogg the radical magnates of Grant Parish set up a claim for the offices for which they had been defeated. Headed by Ward, Phillips and others the negroes assembled at Colfax, killed Judge Rutland, who was elected on the other officers, committed acts of violence in different places, threatened a general massacre of the white people, killed their cattle, hogs, sheep, and stole their horses and mules, and did great damage to all other property. This threatening and violent attitude assumed by the negroes caused a general rising and arming of the white people, who formed into companies and tended their services to Sheriff Nash to restore order at the Court House. Nash exerted himself to induce the negroes to lay down their arms and return to their homes, but they and their leaders were deaf to his requests and entreaties, when he sent a message to them telling them that he would not disperse, he would attack and drive them by force of arms from the Court House. Nash and his associates were driven from their homes and sought safety in the dense forests of Red River and western Louisiana. A large number of persons, however, were arrested, taken to New Orleans and confined in dingy dungeons for long months without the benefit of bail, while the radical black and white leaders who incited the negroes at Colfax were allowed to go free.

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