

**A BLOW BETWEEN THE EYES.**  
In the *Sentinel* of July 13th we published a letter of Judge Jere Black reviewing the action of the 8 to 7 Electoral Commission. In the *North American Review*, E. W. Stoughton, one of Hayes' counsel before the electoral commission, and late apposite to the Russian court, attempts a reply. We regret that that we have neither time nor space to copy the report of Judge B. in full, and must therefore content ourselves with the extracts given below.

The Judge begins by telling the gentleman that if there is any defense of the great fraud he is not the person to make it, and after dealing him a blow for using abusive language in his argument, tells him that he will give some reasons for his opinion, and take the chances of making him comprehend them. In relation to an inconsequence in the decision of the commission he says:

We could not refuse to abide by the award without being guilty of bad faith, and of a sacrifice of justice of it with any view to reverse or modify it. You need not fear the stability of that award, however, iniquitous you may know it to be. You can enjoy its fruits in perfect security, and we the people will on our part "perform the vows which we have vowed before the Lord," however much it may be to our own hurt.

But to acquiesce without a protest—to confess without a protest—the right and the evil a good—that is out of the question. In discussing the whole subject with great plainness of speech; we not only obey an impulse, but perform a duty.

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Of course the wickedness of all this depends on the *scinter*. Involuntary ignorance would be an excuse. But the corrupt character of this certificate was known to all the world, and no one who was even slightly informed to know it; besides that the evidence was exhibited to their eyes; their decision of it assumed it to be true; and they expressly ruled that no proof of fraud, however clear, would diminish the value of the false paper.

Temperance Meeting at Presby-  
terian Church next Monday evening.  
See programme on next page.

in their estimation. So far as I am informed they have never pretended to be ignorant of the fact that this vote was the offspring of a fraudulent conspiracy nor have they denied the first division from Bradford to Rensselaer. Some ten car loads of iron have already arrived. We hope the friends of the RR. will do their duty to leave their reputation for judicial integrity, as Bacon left his; to foreign countries, to future ages, and to men's charitable speeches."

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DEAR SIR.—Your letter of the 5th instant has been received and considered.

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The supreme court has repeatedly decided that when no office has been created by the legislature that body has the power to lengthen or abridge the term thereof. (See Walker vs. Peeler, secretary, etc., 18 Ind., 483. See also 2 Parsons on Contracts, p. 52.)

The only township officers whose offices are created and the length of the term thereof defined in our state constitution are justices of the peace. (See Article 7, section 14; article 6, section 3.) Four years is the length of the term for justices of the peace as defined in the constitution. In my opinion the legislature possesses the power to abridge the terms of all township officers other than justices of the peace; and the act of March 3, 1877, aforesaid, manifestly provides for the election of their successors every April, and that they shall qualify and take possession of office in ten days thereafter.

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