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THE DEMOCRATIC SENTINEL.

A DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER.

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BY

JAS. W. McEWEEN.

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Practices in the Courts of Jasper and adjoining counties. Makes collections a specialty. Office on north side of Washington street, opposite Court House.

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Notary Public.

RENSSELAER, INDIANA.
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Office—Up stairs, over Murray's City Drug Store, Goodland, Indiana.

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LOUGHRIDGE & BITTERS,

Physicians and Surgeons.

Washington street, below Austin's hotel. Ten per cent. interest will be added to all accounts running unsettled longer than three months.

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Physician & Surgeon,

Rensselaer, Ind.

Calls promptly attended. Will give special attention to the treatment of Chronic Diseases.

R. S. Dwiggins.

Zimri Dwiggins,

President. Cashier.

Citizens' Bank,

RENSSELAER, IND.

Does a general Banking business; gives special attention to collections; remittances made on day of payment at current rate of exchange; interest paid on balances; certificates bearing interest issued; exchange bought and sold.

This bank owns the "Zimri" safe, which took the premium at the Chicago Exposition in 1876. This safe is protected by one of Sargent's Time Locks. The bank vault used is as good as can be built. It will be seen from the foregoing that this Bank furnishes as good security to depositors as can be.

ALFRED M. COY.

THOMAS THOMPSON.

Banking House

O. A. McCoy & T. Thompson, successors

to A. McCoy & A. Thompson, Bankers,

Rensselaer, Ind. Does general Banking business. Buy and sell exchange. Collections made on all available points. Money loaned at low rate of interest. Deposits and interest paid on specified time deposits. Office same place as old firm of A. McCoy & Thompson.

april 1881

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Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps,

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RED TOE
SHOES
LADIES' FINE
EVERY PAIR WARRANTED
FOR SALE BY
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A complete line of light and heavy shoes for men and boys, women and misses, always in stock at bottom prices. Increase of trade more than object than large profits. See our goods before buying.

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Our Groceries are pure, and will be sold as low as elsewhere. In our Hardware, Tinware and Woodenware Department, will be found everything called for. Our Farm Machinery, in great variety, of the most approved styles. Brick and Tile, manufactured by us, and kept constantly on hand. We respectfully solicit your patronage.

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WILL POSITIVELY CURE

Dyspepsia, Chills and Fever, Kidney Disease, Liver Complaint,

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5500 REWARD FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE CASES THAT THIS MEDICINE WILL NOT CURE OR HELP.

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NIMMONS & COVERT, BLUFFTON, IND.

YOUNG MEN.

THE EXPERIENCE OF A GENUINE AMERICAN.

HOW POLITICAL TRUTH REACHED ONE HONEST HEART.

(New York Sun.)

To the Editor of the Sun:

SIR—As a young man, and one beginning to take interest and part in the politics of our day, I have an open confession to make. Not a confession of sin, nor of stubbornness, nor of deception by myself, but of how I have for several years allowed myself to be deceived by others.

My father was a soldier and a Republican. Republican newspapers only entered our home, and Republican voters only naturally were reared therein. I have grown up to manhood with faith strong, and I have hitherto thought unassailable, in the uprightness and superiority of the Republican party, and while, generally speaking, that conviction still remains, though in a shaken condition, a revelation has recently come to me upon one important and exciting phase of our recent politics—a revelation that has successively amazed, horrified and angered me.

It is the manner in which Mr. Hayes was found and decided to be elected President of the United States.

Until within a few weeks my convictions in regard to the Electoral Commission and its proceedings were similar to those of most Republicans. I thought the Commission was created by the wise statesmanship of both parties; that it executed its commission honestly and thoroughly; that its conclusions were based upon justice and law, and that the final result was creditable to our public men and our country, and the only just and proper one possible.

Indeed, I had so fully relied upon the statements of the Republican press, and had such entire confidence in the integrity of the Republican members of the Electoral Commission that it was impossible for me to entertain, even for a moment, a doubt that their unanimous action was dictated by firm conviction and honesty of purpose. Garfield, Hoar, Edmunds, Morton, Frelinghuysen and the Supreme Court Judges, Miller, Strong and Bradley, and especially Garfield, seemed to me the incarnation of high-minded statesmanship, loyalty to duty and firmness in defending the right, no matter at what personal or party sacrifice. I have always entertained and expressed the warmest admiration for their good work, as I had understood it, in defeating a wicked attempt to seize the Government.

On the other hand, the unanimity and persistency of the Democratic members of that Commission in voting upon every point presented favorably to the scheme to count Mr. Tilden in, I have always regretted as a sad exhibition of the sinking of the man in the politician—a painful obscuration of the statesman and Judge by the partisan. Believing, as I did, that the eight were surely right, it seemed some of the able seven must have known they were wrong; and by voting again and again for their party when they knew justice demanded other action, they earned distrust and condemnation.

Therefore it was that Mr. Tilden, in my eyes, was little better than a plotter, a false claimant and a dangerous man. Every gibe at him in the Republican press, every pretended disclosure as to his connection with the alleged bribery schemes in the disputed States was eagerly read and enjoyed by me.

And therefore, also, during the whole of the Hayes Administration, my impatience was great at the manner in which the opposition press persistently fanned the fires of discontent which burned within the Democratic party on account of the previous Presidential election. To me their violent language, their use of unfriendly adjectives and epithets in speaking of Mr. Hayes, and of others who aided in placing him in the Executive Chair, or profited thereby, seemed little less than criminal.

Thus have I grown up, a zealous young Republican of the Western Reserve, loving my party, making tearful pilgrimages to the sepulchre of Garfield, and confident and happy in the worship of my idols.

But now my eyes see with a different light. Who was black before is now white, and, alas! the spotless white of old is now stained and discolored.

It is with shame that I confess that, until within a fortnight, I, a young man of fair education, average intelligence and enjoying exceptional opportunities for getting information, have been ignorant that Samuel J. Tilden was really elected President of the United States, in November, 1876, and that Rutherford B. Hayes was declared elected to that high place only through a most shameful conspiracy to suppress the truth and seize the Government.

A few weeks ago my curiosity by chance became aroused as to the precise methods employed by the Electoral Commission in reaching its momentous conclusion, and I procured and read the full official record of that body—not a partisan record, but, as I have said, an impartial, thorough, and official history of its deliberations and actions.

At near the beginning of my reading, and little dreaming of what was to follow, I was displeased with the decision of the Commission to refuse to hear evidence or to go further back than the formal certificates of the Governors of the several States. It was my immediate impression that such a complete abandonment of all pretense to investigation was a confession of prejudice on the part of the Commission, and of wicked intention to procure a certain result regardless of impending facts and reasons; and when, a little later, the several opposing counsel made it plain that the safety of the Hayes case rested upon such abandonment of inquiry, and, on the other hand, I saw that the Tilden hopes were based upon the most thorough and impartial investigation, this impression deepened and took firm hold upon my almost unwilling reasoning faculties.

Still later, when it appeared that this decision was such as would make the error of a State Governor a national calamity, or magnify his corruption in the small matter of signing false certificates of election for a few obscure men into a crime against the Nation and civilization itself, I could not regard such decision as well based, either in equity or constitutional law.

When it was pointed out that this decision virtually placed the election of President of the United States within the power of the State Governors, or a few of them, to be by them manipulated wickedly or corruptly, the Federal Government being powerless against any conspiracy that might be entered into against it; when it became clear that this decision placed with one or two or three States the power to inflict great and lasting wrong upon the whole Union. When I had comprehended this, I felt sure that the decision under consideration was not the enunciation of a constitutional principle to secure the great and final end of public safety, but a legal technicality upheld by partisan Judges to cover great

wrong to persons and greater outrages upon the almost sanctified government of the people.

The evidence ready to be offered, but shut out by the Commission's decision not to investigate, and to allow the formal returns from the State to decide the election—no matter whether the formality was an ornament to honesty or a cloak to robbery beneath it—was of such a character as to confirm all the natural inferences from the Commission's refusal to admit it. It was such evidence as must have led to the declaration of Mr. Tilden's election—such evidence as could only incite such men to such a monstrous subversion of constitutional law by an over-convenient technicality.

But if the cases of the States of Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina, in which the above decision was final and overwhelming aroused the indignation of a thinker who once crawled out of his shell of prejudice, launches headlong into the tide of inquiry, what shall be said of the State of Oregon, where it was found necessary to temporarily suspend the operation of the decision in order to prevent Mr. Tilden receiving the one vote necessary to his election? What words can express the horror an honest citizen must feel upon reviewing this lamentable fact in the history of our country?

On February 9, 1877, the Commission reported:

That it is not competent under the Constitution and the law to go into evidence to prove that other persons than those regularly certified by the Governor of the State of Florida had been appointed electors, or by counter proof to show that they had not.

This is the decision which first gave Florida and then Louisiana to Hayes. There were grave doubts whether the persons regularly certified by the Governor as being electors had really been appointed electors by the people of the State, but the Commission decided that "under the Constitution and the law" no evidence as to that could be received, the only thing to do was to receive the votes of those electors holding the Governor's certificate.

But when, in alphabetical progress, Oregon was reached, it was here found that a Presidential elector, holding the regular certificate of the Governor of Oregon, had cast his vote for Tilden for President. This vote would elect the Democratic candidates. Did this great Commission, composed of the greatest statesmen in a great Republic, apply the same "Constitution and law" to Oregon that it applied to Florida and Louisiana? Did it do what itself had declared was the only thing lawful and Constitutional—accept the votes of those electors holding the certificates of the Governor of the State? No! It declared that the man holding the Governor's certificate was not entitled to it, that the Governor had no right to issue it to him, and that another person, who did not hold the Governor's certificate, was entitled to vote for President. This other person's vote was accepted, and counted for Hayes.

Thus, the Commission declared a person who had not the Governor's certificate to be a competent elector. To make such a declaration, to even know the name of this person, the Commission must have heard evidence; it could not have decided a regularly certified person to be an imposter, and a non-certified one the only true elector, without testimony. And yet this same Commission had just declared:

It is not competent under the Constitution and law to go into evidence to prove that other persons than those regularly certified to by the Governor had been appointed electors.

The disgusting cup is not yet quite full. When South Carolina was reached a condition (Concluded on 8th page.)

McCRACKEN & KIRK, BOOTS & SHOES, LIBERAL CORNER, RENSSELAER, INDIANA.