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A PERIOD OF TERROR.

[From 1st page—concluded.]

ourselves to do all in our power to drive him from the lumber market of Chicago." Only one man, S. B. Gardiner, opposed this boycott. It is related by Garrick that not long after this he procured a heavy contract for the supply of ties for a railway company, and that then it was a common thing for the chaps who had boycotted him to come to him and beg him to give them a cargo of ties for shipment. It may be added that since the period of the meeting each of the members had apologized to Garrick for his action in the matter.

Democrats were assaulted on the streets without any provocation, and the acts were excused by public opinion on the ground that they were the punishment of treason. The editor of the Times, in coming one day out of the Sherman House, was struck down to the sidewalk by a Republican ruffian, named "Horse-Eddy," without a single word being uttered save a blasphemous curse by the "loyal" thug as he launched his fist.

All this persecution, which, by the way, was exclusively the work of the stay-at-home patriots, extended, as said, into business, private life, social relations, and more especially into politics. It was at this point that the Order of the American Knights was instituted. It was for the protection of its members at the polls and in the enjoyment of their political rights as citizens and voters. To this end citizens organized. They had to do something to dam the waves of fanaticism which threatened to overwhelm everything Democratic. They had the entire right to do this, and they had the further right to purchase and store arms, with whose aid they proposed to defend their rights. It was a period when the righteous laws of self-defense demanded that these men should be ready to resist to the death the outrages to which they were subjected.

Thus, one element in the alleged conspiracy, so far as the oath-bound order of American Knights is concerned, may be regarded as eliminated.

A little investigation into the character of the men who composed the alleged conspiracy may afford some light as to its real character. One of the prominent men was Buckner S. Morris, whom no more honorable man or citizen ever had existence. This fact is not denied even by the fanatics who were engaged in persecuting all who differed from them in their views of the conduct of the war. Insurrection, bloodshed, the horrors of an internecine contest were as repellant to the gentle nature of Mr. Morris as would be the taste of carion to a dove. He was sensitive, benignant, charitable, and supported by his excellent wife, occupied himself in efforts to relieve the condition of the Confederate prisoners in Camp Douglas.

At this point it may be said that this generation is not fully nor correctly informed as to the treatment which was extended to the prisoners held in this city. It is generally believed that it was unmanly, christianlike and beyond re-

proach. Such was its superficial appearance; at the bottom there is reason for believing that outrages and iniquities prevailed that were fully as infamous as those charged to the account of Andersonville. The death-rate among the prisoners was enormous, far larger, in fact, than in the worst prison pens in the South. Extortion without limit was practiced on the prisoners, on the form of it being the charging of 25 cents for a postal-stamp, and other prices in proportion.

Said a well-known and entirely reliable citizen: "I had the handling of a great deal of money collected for the benefit of the Confederate prisoners, and I have since learned from conversation with many of them that at least 50 per cent of the amount sent them by me was stolen!" Another citizen who spent some time in traveling in the South since the war, and who saw and conversed with many ex-Confederates who were confined in Camp Douglas, asserts that the narrations of many of these men were horrifying in the extreme, and that Wirtz, the tool of the Confederate authorities, was in no sense worse than some of the officials who controlled the Chicago pen. It was to alleviate the hardships endured by these people that Judge Morris gave much of his time. It was this sympathy with suffering of "rebel" prisoners that drew on him the suspicion of the "loyal" stay-at-homes in Chicago and led to an attempt to inculcate him in a conspiracy.

Many people when they hear mentioned the name of Charles Walsh, the indicted conspirator, immediately create in their minds a fierce, truculent Irishman, with the appearance of a brigand and the bloody tendencies of a pirate. He was known as "Brigadier-General Walsh, commander of the Sons of Liberty," and the conspirator whose outhouses were filled with muskets and pistols, and whose family occupied its time in making cartridges. Such, at least, was the testimony of detectives who appeared on this trial.

Let us glance, for a moment, at this formidable cabalist, traitor, conspirator, and criminal. At that time he was a man of about forty years of age, with a mild blue eye, light complexion, and a gentle expression. He was a man of a warm, sympathetic nature, hating wrong of all kinds, affable in his neighborly relations, untiring in his friendships, and an honorable business man. Is this the kind of material of which conspirators, plotting unholy insurrections, are made?

Mr. Walsh owned and occupied a spacious and pleasant home in the southern part of the city, not far from the camp containing the Confederate prisoners. He had a family of seven children, of whom two were chronic invalids. Now, it is very probable that, occupying such a locality, and with a family of young children, he would deliberately plot an encounter which would necessarily bring the waves of battle directly over his hearthstone? Only a fool or a blind fanatic would assert or believe any such improbable charge.

Professor Rodney Welch was, at the time of the alleged conspiracy, the principal of a public school in the immediate vicinity of the Walsh residence. He was a familiar and frequent visitor, and he surely would have seen some of the cartridge-making and the other warlike preparations alleged to have been in progress, had there been any such thing in existence.

He states that he was in the habit of visiting the family frequently and at different hours, calling when desire prompted and opportunity offered, and yet he never saw any indications unlike those presented in the average household. In fine, there is every reasonable probability that Charles Walsh was no conspirator; that the arms which he accumulated were in part those belonging to a disbanded military company which he once commanded, and in part those which were purchased by the American Knights to protect themselves in their political rights in Chicago.

The real facts in the cases of the alleged conspiracies in Chicago, in the autumn of 1864, have never been given to the public. For years after the pretended occurrence the person who dared even to hint that Walsh, Morris and the others were not vile conspirators and traitors, and deserving of death, was liable to be mobbed. The time has not yet come when the passions of the "loyal" masses in this vicinity have sufficiently

cooled to permit a complete, unbiased investigation of the occurrences of that period.

When that time shall come it will possibly be found that there was a conspiracy, but not among the men nor for the purpose heretofore charged. It may be elicited that the conspiracy was one to influence popular sentiment; to create feeling against Democrats, and thus encompass the defeat of McClellan. It is not in the least in stating the logic of the situation to assert that on the surface the conspiracy was the result of federal machinations, into which a few Confederates and some extreme Democrats were inveigled, the intention being to explode the scheme so as to influence the November presidential elections.

Were John Wentworth to tell all he knows concerning this conspiracy, which was "exposed" two days before the national election, he would probably say that he was privy to it, and was a prime mover in giving it shape and in bringing it to its consummation. It is not doubted in the least by many that the strange people who came into the city, and whose appearance, skillfully worked up by the Republican newspapers, created intense alarm, were imported here by that long-headed as well as long-

legged politician. He had more to do with creating apprehension than all the rebels from Canada, and beyond question, should the truth ever prevail in this matter, it will be fixed in history that he and his political confederates were the real originators of the conspiracies of 1864.

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