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## The Sentinel.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12.

France has been thrown into a turmoil by the resignations of Ministers Say and Dufaure. The trouble grew out of the coming senatorial elections. An attempt is now being made at a compromise.

The New Hampshire Republican convention declares against a third term, and then indorses the Grant administration and resolves to support it. That is about equal to Mr. Grant's letter in which he declined a third term, but in certain circumstances would yield his own wishes for the sake of the party.

## The Cordon Tightening.

The meeting of the grand jury at Chicago indicates that big fish are to be taken in there during its sittings. It looks now like there will now be a further disgrace attaching to President Grant. Orville and Fred Grant are said to be implicated. This will be a lasting disgrace to our country. If the president himself is not incriminated before the investigations are over it will be very strange. The suspicion against Mr. Grant is broadening and deepening and the cordon of evidence is tightening around the White House.

## The President of the Senate.

It appears that the Republicans of the Senate are determined to oust Mr. Ferry from his position as president of the Senate. The exact motive of the senators is not apparent in this movement. Do the senators really fear that Grant will die before the end of his term, and that they will then have a president who is adverse to the platform laid down in Sherman's bill? It is well known that Mr. Grant's friends are very uneasy about his habits, but it is not generally understood that the danger is so imminent as to cause this restless anxiety to provide a successor who will be in harmony with the party in favor of contraction if he should die.

## Morton on Resumption.

The greenback Republicans who wish to put some faith in the Journal's new fledged zeal on the subject of a repeal of the resumption bill of Mr. Sherman, have been greatly surprised that Mr. Morton has not said anything on this subject yet in congress. He can arise and talk on other subjects, but he does not wish to speak on his Western opinion in the East. Mr. Morton surely has some opinion now upon that subject. He can not leave the Journal here to take care of his greenback views, and be silent in congress. The republicans of this state do want to know just what chute the party, and that means Morton, will take upon this subject. The 15th of February will soon be here, and if Mr. Morton fails to come out openly against the longer continuance of the Sherman bill as the law, then they will, as the Evansville Journal proposed, find a political home in the maintenance of their views in another party.

The Democratic members of the House speak out plainly. Senator McDonald has spoken out plainly. It is well understood how the Democratic party of this state stands on the subject of resumption. Only Mr. Morton keeps quiet. Is he on the fence?

Now that cruelty to dumb animals has been provided against, or partially so, by

Mr. Bergh, New York proposes to look after the young human animal. A society for the prevention of cruelty to children has been created. It held its first meeting last week, and the occasion is said to have promised something for this good cause. Better late than never applies to this movement. It is well to interfere in behalf of the dog, the horse or the mule, to save him from the violence of a brutal master, but how much more loudly do the cries of helpless infancy, extorted by half savage fathers and mothers, call for the interposition of humanity? Instances are not wanting in every considerable town and neighborhood of barbaric cruelty exercised by degraded, drunken and ferocious parents upon the children left wholly and unprotected in their power. It is not New York alone that should awake to this philanthropy but every state and every city where civilization, refinement and Christianity hold their seats. The course and work of the New York society will be studied with careful scrutiny and its results reported as an example to be followed, if it is successful.

## High Treason.

The Americans are a polite people, and use mild and tropical language to express ideas. The word, investigation, now heard about the halls of congress and throughout the land, is one of the terms used designating an inquiry into things that are supposed to be irregular or dishonest. The language thus used covers up, measurably, ideas of immorality which, if expressed in plain words, would arouse and alarm the people and move them to really apprehend the public danger that besets the state. Crooked whisky and sinuous spirits are substituted for forged and robbery, and the people quietly look on and say that things ought to be investigated. It is unnecessary to say that this is an alarming condition of things if rightly apprehended. There is something terribly depraved in the public morals when public thievery goes on unmolested by the righteous indignation of an outraged people. But this is the exact situation to-day. There is an impression upon the minds of the people of all parties that the sworn servants of the state, the administrators of the law, are venal and corrupt, and that they are violators of the law, and not set to become representatives of the law for the punishment of evil doers. This impression has a foundation, not in the clamor of party prejudice, but in vice and immorality too evident to be denied. The lack of opportunity is the only reason that saves the whole civil service of our country from this suspicion.

This is a serious charge, if true, for it argues the downfall of the Republic. When the people are indifferent to the character of the rulers, then the rulers will become indifferent to the interests of the people. Here is where the fault lies in the present political and moral situation. The people do not care and the stealing goes on. Party prejudice is stronger than a hatred of vice. A case in point in our own community illustrates this. A sworn officer of the city government violates his oath of office, takes advantage of the opportunity his official position gives him, and embezzles the funds of the city. But the party he represents is endangered by calling a thief a thief, and the foul crime is slurred over, and influential papers condone the outrage upon public morality by attributing false motives to those who would punish the guilty.

If we take a wider view, and consider the state at large, and then signalize the public disapprobation of the chief magistrate of the nation as weighed in the balance and found wanting, we have another example. There is no honest way of relieving Mr. Grant from the odium that attaches to his administration as venal and corrupt. Rascality has gone on from year to year as the result of his own acts, keeping men in power and positions of trust who are not faithful to their responsibilities. While this is known, and true beyond all shadow of controversy, yet after an eight years' trial which commenced bad and has got worse every month since, there are those who would rejoice in the perpetuation of the dynasty for a third term of presidential office. Nay, there are those who shut their eyes, and from positions of eminence and respectability, say in effect, let the stealing go on.

The Sentinel affirms that this is moral treason to the state; it is high treason, and more dangerous to the perpetuity of the republic than leveling arms against the state. Considering the state as a personality, it simply bleeds it to death by slow degrees, rather than a resort to sudden decapitation. A state may be overthrown in a day by revolution, but of corruption it only dies by slow degrees, and none the less certain is the death on account of the delay. Internal corruption is infinitely a worse political disease than open, manly revolution, even if it in its end convicts the agents of being mere rebels. The one leaves the nation torn and bleeding, the other leaves it rotten and putrifying. There is hope of recuperation, of staunching the wounds, of binding up the broken limbs, but in the other case there must only be a burying of the carcass out of sight.

A depraved nation is the saddest spectacle in the history of ages. Under the moral government of the world, when the unrighteous rule the people suffer. It has been demonstrated again and again that, inasmuch as the people may determine who their leaders shall be, they do actually suffer for the crimes of those in power. The offense of President Grant and his hordes of official plunderers would not be so pernicious and would not be so great if the influence and evil thereof would end simply in a pillaged treasury—a bankrupt people. But the wound is deeper. It violates public morality, and brings public calamity. The history of all nations failing and falling through internal corruption attests the correctness of these views.

Never before in the history of our country have we had such reasons for serious alarm as at present. Never before has public opinion been so pronounced against an administration as corrupt. The facts are too

plain to be concealed. Ringe, false contracts, subsidies, defalcations and direct embezzlement of the public funds are matters discussed daily. Is not this treason? Are these schemes not attacks upon the life of the nation? In the light of morality we can not read the record otherwise. The present administration is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors. It should be impeached, not at the bar of a truckling Senate—we know what would be the result there—but at the bar of public opinion, and the judgment should be rendered at the ballot box. Unless the people will arouse to consider the danger threatening and lay aside party chains, they will find in the end that the vice of rulers suffered to go on unrebuked will work the downfall of the nation.

## The Senate on the Finances.

Senator Morrill has introduced a bill into the Senate to provide for the resumption of specie payments, and, in doing so, prefaced its introduction by the significant remark that he presumed no senator there was in favor of the repeal of the resumption act, therefore it was necessary to prepare for carrying out its provisions, that the secretary of the treasury may redeem the greenbacks by the time appointed. The Sentinel does not propose to discuss, at this time, the merits of Mr. Morrill's plan of preparing for resumption; suffice it to say that the bill would never have been passed if there had been incorporated in it any such provisions for carrying it out as are now suggested. Senator Schurz and others, again and again, demanded to know how Mr. Sherman proposed to carry out practically what was proposed, but received no satisfaction. Senator Morton, in his advocacy of the merits of that bill in the Ohio canvass, declared that it was not the purpose of the bill to retire the greenbacks, but to float them. That a reduction to three hundred millions would place them on a par with gold, and then the people would be satisfied with them and they would continue to be the currency of the country.

But now Senator Morrill reveals in his bill the concealed policy of the Republican party, and with the hope that the House of Representatives, said to be in favor of resumption of specie payments, will indorse the plan. All that the country feared is proposed to be enacted. Would the Republican party have dared to go before the people of Ohio with this sort of a supplement to the legislation of January 14, 1875, on finance? By no means, and the members of the lower branch, whatever the majority of the Senate may do, can not surely be so suicidal as to give a moment's consideration to this plan of radicalism to secure the favor of the money power and get the Democratic branch to assist them. If the representatives understand the situation they surely will not divest themselves of all power before the people, by giving a moment's consideration to this plan to ruin the whole country.

It can not be denied that since the assembling of congress there has appeared around Washington a disposition to yield to the demand of the money power, and oppress the people still further by financial legislation. It is alleged that the committees are selected in the interest of resumption. However this may be, the Sentinel undertakes to sound a note of warning to the representatives there assembled, that if it is designed to throw away every advantage that the Democratic party has gained in the charge of majorities in the present congress, all that is necessary for our Democratic friends to do is to refuse to repeal the resumption act, and place a burden of twenty millions per annum of interest upon the people in preparing for it. If they do it, not a party representative would be returned from this state next fall. The Democratic party is now in no way responsible for the financial legislation that is oppressing the people and depressing trade, and it should enter the next presidential contest with clean hands. There should be an early, distinct and decided expression of opinion of the House of Representatives on this subject, an ultimatum, and then leave the matter to the Republican Senate to accept or reject, and on their vote of rejection, according to Senator Morrill's suggestion, let them go before the country. The West and South, as the Sentinel reads the current opinion of the people, are not clamoring for inflation, nor are they claiming that there shall be any revolutionary legislation on currency or finance that conflicts with the generally received decisions of sound political economy. But there is a demand for the repeal of the resumption act that must be heeded. Senator Morrill counts without his host, and will put in the saving clause that he had not consulted the opinion of others in the sentiment that no senators desired the repeal of the resumption bill. There is one senator from this state that will vote for the repeal, and it is greatly to be desired that Mr. Morton also shall be put to the test on this question. It is correctly reported that his Western opinion or position is for repeal, and that his Eastern opinion would favor the bill of Senator Morrill. There are two senators from Illinois that would not like to be forced to vote on that question just now. The Sentinel is rather pleased than otherwise that this bill has been introduced into the Senate, and it is to be hoped that it will be put to a speedy issue before that body, and also before the House. The respective positions of the parties upon that question ought to be decided, and then let congress address itself to the good work of the purging out of corruption, of which they will have enough to do to keep them busy until warm weather.

## Morton's Financial Position.

A number of years ago, when Senator Morton was perfectly aware that three-fourths of the people of this state were opposed to the adoption of the fifteenth amendment, he made a speech at Richmond, in this state, opposing the project of conferring the right of suffrage upon the negroes until they, by the gradual process of education and the influences incident to their emancipation, should be fit for the

proper exercise of the elective franchise. The people of this state all know how shamefully he abused the trust that was reposed in him upon that question, and how he soon afterward strove to maintain his position and influence with his party throughout the country by the manipulation of the legislature of Indiana in securing the alleged ratification of the amendment by the state of Indiana. Upon another occasion Mr. Morton, in striving to be in harmony with public opinion in the West, took a position in favor of the finance bill that Mr. Grant vetoed. It was but a short time before he forsook the cause of the people, the election being over, and was soon found yielding submission to President Grant, and actually labored to secure the passage of the resumption bill, and, indeed, claims something of its paternity, assuming to be the god-father at least. Now the position of the Republican party, which will soon nominate a candidate for the presidency, is decidedly in favor of the resumption bill, which is gradually contracting the currency. There is no question about this. The whole party vote in congress was for Sherman's gold bill, and the Democracy voted against it. But Mr. Morton saw, and still sees, that his own party in this state favors the repeal of the gold bill. He sees very plainly that in order to maintain supremacy in this state he must take a step backward. Hence his organ, the Journal, now comes out in favor of a repeal, and letting resumption take care of itself in accordance with the natural laws of finance. Are Republicans who occupy the exact position assumed by the Sentinel on the finance question going to trust Mr. Morton in his new position which he so earnestly opposed only last October in Ohio. The Journal, which espouses his nomination for the presidency, it may be presumed, reflects his views on the question. In February the Republicans of this state will meet in convention. Morton wishes the indorsement of that convention for the presidency. He could not get it if he adhered to his Ohio speeches. The Journal knows this. It knows that the sentiments of Republicans in this state favor repeal. Hence the change in order to secure the indorsement of the state convention. Now since the Journal has been so kind as to open its columns to afford the publication of Democratic sentiments, and let Democrats be heard, as it claims, the Sentinel returns the compliment, and asks the Journal in behalf of the Republicans of this state if Senator Morton does propose, as a candidate for the presidency, to take the position of favoring a repeal of the Sherman bill. Republicans want to know this before they endorse him in February. It is true that it may embarrass Mr. Morton's position with his party generally, and the administration, to come out openly on that question just now, but it is due to Republicans that he should do so if they are asked to endorse him.

## The State Board of Agriculture.

Several aspects of the situation unite to make the policy of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture at this time of great importance to the whole state. This body has now attained a position which commands attention and arouses expectation. The state fair has become established. The society's property amounts to over \$300,000, it has held three notable expositions and taken its place by the side of similar organizations in other states, representing the agricultural standard of Indiana. It can not now recede from its prominence without disgrace, nor can it stand still. It must go forward. Other important duties are presented to this society which can not be disregarded. Indiana has begun the Purdue University, which is now struggling into place and appealing to the state for countenance, support and such aid as every institution must have, not of money, but influence, students and respectful recognition. The state board has a responsibility in this direction, as well as the greater duty of urging on the progress of the farm interests up to the front with every other concern of the state. More is expected of it than what has been done in the past, gratifying as that is. Again, it can not be disguised that the last exposition was to some extent a failure, so that a new policy should be considered for the future. There is an important crisis impending which will require the wisdom, energy and devotion of the board to turn the result on the side of future success. The members of the board are among the best and most intelligent farmers of the state, but they can not give their whole time and attention to the society. In one word, the work and enterprise of the society must depend upon its officers. A president, secretary and other officers are to be chosen. For president the board should select with care, and choose their best man. He should be qualified by experience and sound judgment, to which it is important that decision of character and will should be added. But no less important is a competent and efficient secretary. In all societies of this kind the real work must be done by that officer. If he be qualified for his duties by education, industry and ability, he will carry forward the purposes of the board to success and give character to its proceedings. It is patent to all that hitherto there has been a defect at this point. The annual reports have not been such as to do credit to the state when sent abroad, nor to awaken interest at home. While the business of the society has been honestly performed and with the best intentions, it has been wanting in those elements which place the board and the state itself in a proper light before the country. The public interest and general sentiment both demand a change at this most vital point, where all the best efforts of the board may be counteracted by incompetency. The work of organization, which is on hand to-day, is of the highest moment, and the board should use judgment and act for the welfare of the state. They must know that with such quality of service as they have had in the past any very marked progress is impossible. The clerical and documentary exhibits of the society go very far in determining its influence and the respect paid to

it. In making these plain suggestions, the Sentinel does no more than to express the sentiments of intelligent men on this subject, many of whom have expressed a desire that the present opportunity to inaugurate a new and more efficient policy should not be allowed to pass without proper action.

## How Senator Morton may be Nominated for the Presidency.

The gallant manner in which Senator Morton has espoused the cause of the colored men of Mississippi must be exceedingly pleasing to them. Now that every right of citizenship has been secured to them, and the black man has the same rights as the white man, including the right to vote and to hold office, the senator's present attitude will serve to remove from the memory of the colored people the fact that he was strongly opposed to giving them the ballot. Indeed, if he favored the abolition of slavery as a war measure, he was careful not to put forward his sentiments, so far as we remember, in any of his public speeches or addresses. The present course of the senator is entirely consistent (be it remembered that he is sometimes consistent) with his record. While he has been doing so much to conciliate the negro votes of the South, he seems to have overlooked the East. He owes a lasting debt of gratitude to Massachusetts which he ought not to forget. While the Democratic soldiers of Indiana were in the South fighting the battles of the war, soldiers from Massachusetts, stationed in this city, rallied about our polls. Democrats who attempted to vote had to face these gallant soldiers, and many of them were driven from the polls. The boys from the Old Bay state handled ballots even better than they handled bullets. Let the service they rendered never be forgotten. The state was saved and Morton was elected governor of Indiana.

Years have passed. The war is over. The soldiers of Massachusetts in their quiet homes among the hills delight to tell their children about Governor Morton, and how they fought at Indianapolis; how they glorified the character of their Puritan ancestors and saved the state of Indiana for the "great war governor." And yet, New England does not feel kindly to Governor Morton. He has failed to recognize the services rendered him during the war by her sons. He must do something or he will loose the votes of the Eastern states. If he will be advised by us we think we can put him on the road which leads to fortune. Let him offer a resolution in the Senate of the United States to turn, at the expense of the government, ten thousand leather medals for the soldiers of Massachusetts who did service at Indianapolis in the memorable campaign of 1864. Let these medals be handsomely engraved that they may please the eye, and receive the indorsement of the national bankers. In the dim back ground there should be the court house and jail of Indianapolis, obscured by ranks of soldiery. In the foreground, a brave soldier of Massachusetts in full uniform, depositing his ballot, while his comrades are driving away the Democrats from the polls. On the reverse of the medal should be a bloody shirt, the emblem of the man in whose interests this nefarious work was done.

If Senator Morton will get this matter through congress and see that the medals are properly distributed, his nomination for the presidency is assured. Let him be up and doing.

## The Southern Indiana State Prison.

Information has been received from Jeffersonville touching the condition of labor in the Southern State's Prison that calls for a visit from the governor and other state officers who will leave for that place this morning. It appears that under the administration of Mr. Shuler, as warden of the prison, the labor of nearly all the prisoners was contracted to the Southwestern Car Company on such terms as would give relief to the state in annulling the contracts upon failure to pay the stipulated wages at designated times. Due notice, in accordance with the terms of the contract, had been given, and finally upon the failure to respond, the prison doors were closed upon the Car Company's free employees and foremen from the outside, and the entire business of the company was suspended. The result of the matter is that the prisoners will be idle, while the expense of feeding, clothing and guarding them will go on. This will all be a heavy expense to the state, which should be avoided if possible.

Under the system adopted while the state prisons were under Democratic management, the prisoners were never all hired to one firm, and for the purpose of avoiding such a contingency as has just occurred. Under the old system of letting out the labor in parcels of fifty and one hundred men to different contractors, and these engaged in different occupations, there was almost always employment for all, and the wages promptly paid. If at any time a contractor failed to pay promptly the warden could close the door against him, and turn the prisoners over to other contractors, dividing them up as the prisoners happened to be suited to particular work. The addition of five or six or more to any contractor was always acceptable, so the internal management of the prison put on without interruption. This left the warden more independent, and always ready to withdraw the men when their wages were not promptly paid. But the consequence is readily seen in the plan adopted by Col. Shuler. No disposition could be made of the men if they were withdrawn, and the state would not lose anything by their work. So the prisoners have been continued at work until some thirty-four thousand dollars of indebtedness has accrued. But now the state in self-defense is forced to annul the contract and leave the prisoners idle.

The state can not afford to make any compromises in the matter now, even if the prisoners remain idle. In a matter involving such expense nothing should be done to impair the perfect independence of the state in dealing with this matter. If there is any yielding or swerving from the contract the maintenance of discipline and the making of the prison self-sustaining will be impossible. The Southwestern Car Company

had obtained a very favorable contract and profited by it while times were brisk, and the state should assert her own and demand the bend now. The Sentinel will contain full reports from Jeffersonville as to the progress of the affairs at the prison and the recommendations made by the state officials.

## Investigations.

It is evident that the present congress will enter upon a series of investigations to discover the methods by which the revenues have been wasted by the present administration. It is desirable to the end that the discoveries made shall have full weight with the people; that these investigations shall be pursued in no partisan spirit, and that only justness shall be done. With so many evidences of rascality and fraud everywhere, the committees charged with these duties go forward with almost certain convictions that alarming developments will be made, but yet, if good is to be accomplished and the people made to believe their reports, they should be divested of all partisan characteristics. The Sentinel regards it for the best interests of the country, that now, before the people decide at the ballot box this year touching the next administration, that a House of Representatives, that can not be biased by the administration, is to make these investigations. It shows the value of the constitutional provisions of appealing to the people every two years, in the election of representatives, that the people may make demand upon the administration to give an account of its stewardship whenever they are dissatisfied with what has been done.

In England, whenever the administration is not sustained by the people, the ministry resign, but our term of service of the cabinet is limited to the short term of the administration, and, by common custom, there is no resignation of these officials. But the people, by their representatives, have decided that an opposition congress shall sit in judgment upon the acts of the administration. The organization of the House having been completed before the adjournment, members now come back refreshed and ready for business. They have already taken up the president's message and will give due consideration to his recommendations. The duties that especially devolve upon them, in view of the fact that their election is a vote of the people of a want of confidence in Mr. Grant's administration, is to overhaul the doings of the administration which have alarmed the people. The navy department seems to invite special and speedy work. The unlawful expenditure of over two millions of the people's money is a matter that calls for prompt and decided action, for which a bill has already been introduced into congress. Other departments will receive attention in due order. The atmosphere around every department is tainted. Suspicion of corruption lurks in the high places, and all the way down to the lowest stratum of subordinates. The people demand that these suspicions shall be cleared up, and that when they pay taxes, direct or indirect, they need not fear that they are being robbed. Until a better confidence is restored in the honesty and capacity of those in official station, the people will become uneasy and restless. The Republican party, by its administration, is now on trial. The House of Representatives are the jury and the people the plaintiff, and after the verdict is given, the people will render the judgment at the next session, in November. Let the trial be impartial, but thorough, and let no guilty man escape.

## Indiana and the Presidential Election.

The allusion of the Sentinel to the quadrilateral way of making presidential nominations has called forth from the New York Tribune, which the same was an important angle at Cincinnati, the declaration that the nomination of Messrs. Hendricks and Morton was regarded everywhere outside of Indiana only as a joke. The Tribune's sphere of observation is not as good as it was before the tower was built. The suggestion of the name of Mr. Hendricks as the probable candidate that would properly represent the Democratic party in the coming contest is not simply from the state of Indiana.

Mr. Hendricks is known throughout the country as a leading statesman, and in the last electoral college received the votes of forty-two members, although he was not and had not been a candidate for the presidency before the people, Mr. Greeley having died before the college cast their votes. In the Democratic national convention of 1868 he was warmly supported for the nomination by several states, and had it not been for the coup d'état which nominated Gov. Seymour, would most probably have been the standard bearer of the Democracy in that campaign. And now, when his future is so propitious, and he has supporters in every state in the union, we are gravely told by the Tribune, that his candidacy "is a joke." We shall say nothing in relation to the candidacy of Governor Morton, for it can not be expected that we are authorized to speak for him. He has a party organ here which is able to take care of his interests and is supposed to speak his sentiments. We will venture, however, to say to the Tribune, his party friends in Indiana consider him a formidable candidate for the Republican nomination, and in this view are supported by others outside the state. Neither his candidacy nor that of Governor Hendricks is considered to be a joke under the editorial rooms of the paper "founded by Horace Greeley."

Mr. Ruskin pitches into the young lady Sunday-school teachers. "At present," he says, "you keep the dancing to yourselves and teach your scholars the catechism. Suppose you were to try for a little while learning the catechism yourself and teaching them to dance."

It is said that fifty of the girls who have entered Wellesley College propose to study Greek. We know of several husbands who wish their wives had never learned when young any language but Greek. Old Socrates probably wished many times that his wife had never even studied that.