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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 endorses 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 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 inculpated 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 out 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 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 forgery 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 done and the praise of them that do well. This impression has a foundation, not in the claim 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 to benefit 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 disease. Internal corruption is infinitely a worse political disease than open, many 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 purifying. There is hope of recuperation, or 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 vitiates 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. Rings, 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 unabated 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 endorse 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.

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the state all know how shamefully he abused the trust that was reposed in him upon that question, and how 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 endorsement 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 endorsement 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.

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, 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 are two senators from Illinois that would not like to be forced to 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 have 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 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 sacrificed 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 (as it is remembered) with his record.

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