

Radical Disregard of the Decencies of Official Position.

From Harper's Magazine for October.
"EXCELSIOR" IN "PIGEON ENGLISH."

THE unadulterated disregard of the decencies, to say nothing of the dignity, of official position, and the utter contempt of public opinion evinced by this Administration, are glaringly exposed by two events of present occurrence (so to speak). In the first place, the Radical party of Virginia, with Gen. Grant, and the adoption of the suggestions of Sratap Reynolds by the Cabinet in conference assembled on Friday, Gen. Grant did not scruple to dictate to the Legislature of Virginia the election of his brother-in-law to the Senate, through Thaddeus and Paxton, with the most absolute reference to the personal integrity of such direct interference. This disgraceful fact, in another form, has already been commented upon in this correspondence. The letter of Gen. Reynolds betrays the fact that the military power of the United States is swayed by Texas, by a party of rebels and traitors, who are meeting held within the past seven weeks was this identical letter, and that its plan of political strategy was unanimously approved, and orders issued to carry the suggestions of the epauletted upstart into immediate operation. The guillotine was set in motion at once, and will not cease until every head refusing to bow to the new Gessler shall have been decapitated.

Radical politicians hereabout are making desperate efforts to get up a shout over what they term the *compte d'état* of Bountwell. They attribute to him the glory of heading off the bulls in Wall street on Friday, for the purpose of saving the people from the reception of his new famous telegram. Laying aside the impropriety of lugging the government into the financial fight in favor of parties known to be "Bountwell men," the assumption of merit in the case is about upon a par with that of according financial statesmanship to the man for a reduction of the public debt!

The inexorable and grinding tax laws (not Mr. Boutwell) furnish the revenue of the government. While they are continued there must necessarily be a surplus, especially if the floating debt is ignored, as it is. Wherein has he diminished the expenditures? An avuncular landlord tells him he has not, and that he can't give him a curse or comfort to the latter to be told that the process lessened his liabilities? The taxpayer is squeezed like a sponge; every dollar beyond a bare escape from starvation is seized by the government. If he is soothed by the cry that the obligations of the government bondholders are in the way of being met, who prompts payment in gold?—that the bondholders themselves may possibly be sensibly diminished in volume long after he is dead and gone? But where is the evidence of a diminution of the national debt? Let the country wait until the enormous deficiency of the House has exposed its face in the House next session! I am informed it will be of slight proportions.

I have been told of a very nice little piece of political wire-pulling, of great promise, but which somehow miscarried. It is known that Geary and other Pennsylvania State bondholders are immensely unpopular, and many of the political swains of their own party, Hon. S. C. Cameron is reported to be among them. Simon has a suspicion that Geary and his immediate clique have an "itching palm," and that in handling other people's money they are less economical than if it were their own. In plain words, he appeared to be more interested in the profits of the ticket this fall. To strengthen his energies, the immediate friends of the impudent Geary clapped a live coal of fire upon his back in the way of a proposition of uniting all the Radical tribes in Pennsylvania upon Don Cameron, the Senator's favorite son, for the vacant office of shipper of Senator Rawlins. This effected, but the old geese were not won over the world of our Radical Congress. He instantly reported to Washington to subject the veritable slate to rigid examination through a pair of spectacles of his own invention. He who cheats the venerable Senator might well feel able to cover with a幕 of the eye. He went to bondholders and the like, and thence strolled. The other confounding parties had left no trace of very industrious and effective work. If anything could exasperate Simon, it is a bare-faced attempt to buy him, or sell him, for a mess of potage. He accordingly returns to Pennsylvania. I am told in a mood a little less favorable to the many fine novices in thimblerigging than ever—Washington (Sept. 25.) Cor. *Baltimore Gazette.*

The Salt Tax.

OUR New England brethren have a marvellous tact in escaping from the general burden which the rest of us bear. They have, for a long time, availed themselves from their just share of the tax, by providing that the tax should be refunded on such cotton as was manufactured in this country. As they themselves are the chief manufacturers of cotton in this country, the latter provision was only a cunning provision for their special benefit.

The salt tax is another case in point. This tax is 18 cents per hundred pounds on salt in bulk, and 24 cents per hundred pounds on salt in sacks—an exorbitant tax on the necessities of life, of about 50 per cent. of its prime cost. But New England itself uses a large quantity of salt in curing the fish which it exports to the West, and the tax would weigh as heavily on New England as on other regions, if made general. The law therefore was made to exempt from tax such foreign salt as is used in preserving fish caught at sea. The reason for this exemption was that the New England fisheries needed protection, to enable them to compete with foreign fisheries.

The absurdity and injustice of the protective system could not be more glaringly brought out in this little matter. In the first place, salt is heavily taxed for the protection of the American manufacturer, of whom there are perhaps 500, all told. Then this tax is remitted on the part of New England fisheries, for their protection against foreign competition. The inference we draw from this, is that protection is a very good thing when it is for the benefit of New Englanders and a very bad thing when it is for the benefit of other people.

In our reference to the salt tax in yesterday's *Republican*, we committed the error of understating its exorbitant nature. We stated that the tax of 18 cents per hundred on salt in bulk, and 24 cents per hundred on salt in sacks, amounted to 50 per cent. of the prime cost of the article.

The truth is, it amounts to nearly 100 per cent. on its prime cost.

Take, for instance, a cargo of Liverpool salt. It costs, delivered on board the vessel at Liverpool, \$3.36 a ton, or 2.240 pounds. It costs for carriage to New Orleans \$2.50 per ton, making the cost at \$5.86 a ton. The import duty, then, is 24 cents a hundred—making it to \$6.10 a ton. This is nearly equal to its cost at New Orleans, so that a Western farmer is forced, on account of this tariff, to pay nearly twice as much for his salt as he would if there was no tariff at all.

But, when, when the salt tax was 13 per cent. of prime, the usual price of salt in St. Louis was 90 cents, or 20 cents a barrel—generally about \$1.10. Now it is \$2.50. Of course part of this increase is due to the depreciation of our currency; but the larger part is owing to the exorbitant and oppressive tariff placed upon it.

The American salt manufacturer, to not, in fact, need the protection of this heavy tariff is proved by the fact that the Michigan Salt Company, at Saginaw, have declared that they can make salt at 51 cents a barrel. The import duty, then, instead of being a necessary protection, is a gratuitous profit given to them at the cost of the people.—*Missouri Republican.*

—Fifteen years ago there were eighteen stages in New York city; now there are only six. Nearly four hundred stages have disappeared from the city streets.

—Administration and Spain.

The Washington administration are engaged in letting the Administration originally down from the lofty position which it took with regard to Cuba.

The latest information is, that the United States withdraws its offer of friendly mediation, and leaves the responsibility of consequences to the Spanish people. It is but a little while ago that the Administration, with the aid of Jay Cooke and others particularly interested in the most rapid possible sale of the bonds, is in the first degree, and to the last degree, responsible for the way they invested.

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