

THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE is quite lengthy and we have as yet had no time to examine it, and hence are not prepared to give an opinion concerning its merits. We shall give it a careful reading, and should we find anything therein peculiarly worthy of note, will give our readers next week the benefit of our lucubrations. We will at all events furnish our readers with a synopsis of the leading features of the message so that they can judge for themselves of the correctness of the President's position on national affairs.

The Plot Thickens.

It is now pretty well understood that southern members of Congress are not to be admitted to seats in that body until the States they represent shall have not only passed the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery and placing the freedmen under the direct supervision of Congress, but shall also admit them to the exercise of the elective franchise and permit them to testify in all the courts under precisely the same rules and on the same terms applicable to white men. That Congress has any constitutional right to impose terms upon a State regulating the qualifications of electors or witnesses, no intelligent honest man pretends. Even Gov. Morton in his late message admits as much relative to the control of elections in the several States, and surely the general Government has no right to assume the regulation of the practice in State courts. To assume such right is no more nor less than a dangerous usurpation by Congress which ought to be met on the threshold with a firm and determined opposition by all who have a just sense of the liberties of the citizen, or the rights of a State. We are aware that the doctrine of "State's Rights" as contended for by the south in the recent rebellion, has been by the force of arms permanently settled, and the country will cheerfully abide the result, but it by no means follows that the States are deprived of all rights. That which has not been delegated to the general Government by express grant in the Constitution, is by the explicit statement of that document, "reserved to the States, or to the people," and the people of the States should see that it remains where it belongs, at least till such time as the States or the people shall surrender to Congress the rights reserved to themselves. This can only be done by amending the Constitution of the United States as provided in the Constitution itself.

The radicals just now seem to have adopted the line of tactics pursued by a dutchman of whom we once heard. His son having committed some real or imaginary offence, he gave him a sound thrashing which the young hopeful received with becoming acquiescence. The old man seeing him thus quiet, exclaimed, "rot you tinks?" "Nothing," "Yes you do, I know rot you tinks, you tinks d—n it, and I vips you for dat." The south having acquiesced with as good grace as possible in the result of the war, and having abolished slavery with less opposition than was to have been expected, the radicals insist that they nevertheless think d—n it, and have determined to punish them still further, not for what they do or leave undone, but because they fear the people of the south do not think as northern radicals would have them think. Even if the southern people should accede with alacrity to all the demands made upon them, (and they have done so thus far,) still the radical puritanical element of New England and its lick-spittles in the west would as strenuously oppose the re-admission of the southern States as they now do. Why? Because the States once more in harmony and peace, there would be an end to much of the government patronage at present existing, by means of which hundreds of thousands of the elect are and have been amassing princely fortunes. These sleek-faced Amindabs have no notion of being justly deprived of the golden (greenback?) opportunity of rearing "brownstone fronts" and of providing themselves with those concomitants of wealth enjoyed only by aristocrats and shoddy nabobs.

Happening to be at Indianapolis a few days since, we took occasion to drop into the Senate Chamber for an hour or two, and were pleased with the manifest intention on the part of the Senators to promptly attend to business as it came up in its regular order. We had the pleasure of hearing several of the members speak on the habeas corpus bill, among whom were

Messrs. Cobb, Cullen, Niles, Wilson and Corbin. The speeches we thought hardly equal to the occasion, but perhaps we were expecting too much from our most potent grave and Reverend Seigniors. We did not have time to visit the House of Representatives, which we regretted very much as there were several questions of importance to be acted on in that body, which we should have been glad to have heard discussed.

Machine Poetry

The versatile old gentleman who edits the Republican has made a dash into a new field of operations. Week before last he announced with quite a flourish that he had "a rod in pickle" for the editors of the Democrat. Well, a week passed by, and sure enough the pickling process being completed, the aforesaid pickled rod made its appearance in the form of a "magnificent poetical effusion," entitled Copperhead Lamentations, from which we make the following wise and witty extracts:

Father Osborne limps and tramps his lip,
And Harvey lances his much-milch head,
For the last bright spot is faded out,
And snakes in Marshall are about all dead.

We have killed the President, we know,
But it made the trouble bigger;
And now to hell we all must go,
For fighting against the nigger.

O! Lord we've sinned against thee,
In numerous ways to tell,
Ours our sinners, guilty souls,
From a bottomless burning hell.

Truly the old man is growing ethereal as age "steals softly o'er him," and there is no longer any doubt about the fact that Plymouth contains at least one poet. Our devil has also caught the poetical itch, and we expect ere long he too will be laying claim to authorship in the department of classical literature,—indeed he insists that we shall make room for the following sample of his aptitude in this direction, and we confess that we think it equal to that of our scholarly neighbor:

Ignatius is a gentleman;

(I pray you not to snigger.)

He edicts the Republican

And dearly loves the n—r.

His handsome face of ruddy hue,

Of classic mould and figure,

Pats on a smile superbly new,

When he sees a n—r.

Once in a while he funny grows

And chuckles in his throat,

But gracious goodness what a nose,

And how he loves the bottle!

ACCIDENTALLY SHOT HIMSELF.—The

Warsaw Indian says a clerk of Messrs.

Phillipsen's store accidentally shot himself

in the leg with a small revolver. He was

carrying a pail of water, and shifting the

pail from one hand to the other he accidentally

hit the lock of the pistol in such a

way that raised it so as to fall on the cap

with considerable force and burst the cap

lodging the contents of the revolver in his

thigh.

THE DELINQUENT TAX LIST.—We

have waited with some anxiety since the

extra session of the legislature was called,

to hear some suggestions from the press of

the State relative to the price fixed by

law for the publication of the delinquent

tax list. The price paid for its publication

is too small,—it hardly pays the expense

of labor and time consumed in setting the

type. Even before the war the price was

thought to be very low, yet the price for

its publication is the same now as then,

with an advance of 100 per cent in the

price of printing materials. We think

the legislature should fix the price to cor-

respond with the rise in printing materials.

THE OFFICIAL VOTE OF ALABAMA.

The following is the official vote of

Alabama for Governor:

R. M. Patton.....21,422

M. J. Patton.....15,234

W. R. Smith.....8,194

Patton's majority over Butler.....6,188

Mr. Patton was a Douglas Democrat in

1860.

Reminiscence of the Wirz Trial.

"One of the witnesses for the prosecution

in the case of Wirz, the Andersonville

jailer, was a person who called himself the

Marquis de la Beume, who claimed to be

a grand nephew of La Fayette. The wit-

ness testified to the individual killing or

murder committed by Wirz. During the

progress of the trial the Marquis, it is said,

obtained the recommendations of members

of the military commission for his appoint-

ment to a clerkship in the Interior De-

partment, and was afterward appointed by

the Secretary of the Interior. Yesterday

he was dismissed from his position as clerk

upon the representation, as we are inform-

ed, of the officers and soldiers of the Sev-

enth New York (Steuben) Regiment, to

which Beume formerly belonged, and from

which, it is alleged, he deserted.—

It is said the real name of this person is

Felix Oser.—N. Y. Times, (Republican.)

Beume was one of the witnesses who

helped swear away the life of Wirz, and

was rewarded therefor by a clerkship.—

We now see what kind of a rascal he was.

One day last week a woman and two

children, one a little boy apparently five or

six years old, the other perhaps seven or

eight months old, got on a train of cars

between Indianapolis and La Fayette, and

when the train arrived at the Battle

ground, she and the oldest child got off,

leaving the "baby" to the tender care of

the conductor. Whether she left the little

one by accident or design no one of course

knows.

XXXIX CONGRESS.

Prompt Organization of the House.

Numerous Bills Introduced in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.

SENATE.

After prayer by the Rev. Mr. Gray, the

following Senators were present: Messrs.

Anthony, Brown, Buckalew, Chandler,

Clark, Coates, Cowan, Cresswell, Dixon,

Doolittle, Fessenden, Foote, Foster, Games,

Guthrie, Hawes, Howard, Howe, John-

son, Lane, of Ind., McDougall, Morgan,

Morrill, Nesmith, Nye, Putnam, Ramsey,

Riddle, Sillibury, Sherman, Sprague,

Stewart, Sumner, Trumbull, Van Winkle,

Wade, Wiley, Williams, Wilson and

Wright.

Mr. FOOTE presented the credentials

of Mr. Luke N. Pollard to fill the vacancy

occasioned by the death of Mr. Collamer,

of Vermont. The credentials were read

and Mr. P. took the prescribed oath of

allegiance.

Mr. WRIGHT presented the credentials

of Mr. Stockton as Senator from New Jer-

sey.

Mr. COWAN presented a protest

against the reception of Mr. Stockton,

signed by members of the New Jersey leg-

islature, alleging that Mr. Stockton did

not receive a constitutional majority of the

votes which was necessary to his election

as senator. The protest was ordered to be

laid upon the table for the present, and

Mr. Stockton was duly sworn into office.

Mr. WADE presented a bill to regulate

the elective franchise in the District of

Columbia. The bill provides that from

and after its passage, every male citizen of

twenty-one years of age, who is a citizen

of the United States, a resident of the

District for six months, and never convicted

of an infamous crime, shall have the right

of suffrage in the District.

Section 2 imposes a penalty for inter-

ruption or interference with the right

granted above.

The bill was ordered to be printed.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a bill to pre-

serve the right of trial by jury, which pro-

vides that grand juries shall consist of

half of persons of African descent in sec-

tions where one-sixth of the population are

Africans, and the same proportion in petit

juries, where the matter relates to any

injuries inflicted by a person of African

descent upon a person not of such descent,

or vice versa, and prejudice against such

African race is made a ground of challenge

and exclusion from such juries. The bill

was ordered to be printed.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a bill pre-

scribing an oath to maintain a republican

form of government in the States in rebel-

lion, as follows:

"I do hereby swear that I will at all

times hereafter use my best endeavors to

maintain a Republican form of Govern-

ment in the State of which I am an inhab-

itant, and the Union of the United States

that I will at all times recognize the indis-

soluble unity of the Republic, and will

always discountenance and resist any

endeavors to break away, or secede from

the Union; that I will give my influence

and vote at all times to sustain the national

credit; that I will always discountenance

and resist any attempt, directly or indirect-

ly, in any way, the debt which was con-

tracted by the United States in subduing

the rebellion or the obligations assumed to

Union soldiers; that I will always dis-

countenance and resist any laws making

any distinctions of color or race, and al-

ways will strive to maintain a State Gov-

ernment completely loyal to the Union

where all men shall enjoy equal protection

and equal rights." Such oath shall be

preserved, and it falsely taken such person

shall be guilty of perjury, and in addition

to the present penalty for that crime he

shall forfeit his right to hold office. This

was ordered to be printed.

Mr. SUMNER offered a bill to enforce

the Constitutional Amendment by punish-

ing any attempt to control the services of

any person, contrary to this provision, by

a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars,

or imprisonment not exceeding ten years,

or both, at the discretion of the Court;

and it shall be no defense that the claim

is sanctioned by any State law. It annuls

State laws in conflict with it and restricts

jurisdiction in cases growing out of it to

United States Courts. This was ordered

to be printed.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a bill to give

the right of suffrage to persons of color

in the District of Columbia, which was

ordered to be printed.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a joint resolu-

tion proposing to amend the Constitution

so as to make voters instead of population

the basis of representation in Congress.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a series of res-

olutions declaratory of the duty of Congress,

especially in respect to the loyal citizens

of the States lately in rebellion.

Mr. BROWN gave notice of a bill to

authorize the construction of a bridge

across the Mississippi River at St. Louis;

also, a bill to reimburse the State of Mis-

souri for expenses in calling out and

equipping militia, &c.

Mr. HARRIS introduced a bill to

regulate the judiciary system of the United

States.

Mr. FOOTE moved the adoption of

an order that the Senate meet every day

at 12 o'clock; which was carried.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill to main-

tain the freedom of the inhabitants of the

States declared to be in insurrection, which

was ordered to be printed.

At 12 o'clock the Senate took a recess

until 1 o'clock, when it reassembled, and

directed the Secretary to inform the House

of its organization.

HOUSE.

The galleries of the House are densely

crowded.

At noon Mr. McPherson, the Clerk,

proceeded to call, as required by law, the

roll of the members elect. While it was

being called, Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee,

wanted to suggest something, but the

Clerk refused to be interrupted. After

the call was completed, Mr. Maynard again

rose to speak, but the Clerk again ruled

him out of order. One hundred and sev-

enty-five members answered to their names.

Mr. JAMES BROOKS, of New York,

made a speech characterizing the omission