

The Mount Vernon Republican: 1882

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The Mount Vernon Republican: Vol. XXVIII No. 10, February 16, 1882

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THE REPUBLICAN.

BALDWIN & TAYLOR, Editors and Proprietors.

THURSDAY, February 16, 1882

Official Paper of the County

No Attention will be paid to communications unaccompanied by the author's name...

Send for the gizzard, gravel for the roads...

The country has got the "drop" on the assassin at last.

It's not liberty we want so much now, as 'tis solid roads.

The venerable Judge Charles Fox died in Cincinnati yesterday.

This is the season of the year for the urchin to build his mud pies.

In Japan, letter postage is only two cents. We go the same one better.

The Virginia Senate, 23 to 9, passed to engrossment the bill abolishing the whipping post.

Civil service reform is a good thing in its way, but good roads are what are wanted now.

It is said that the St. Louis bridge is becoming a very popular place of resort—for suicides.

Darke County has 1,000 miles more or less of free turnpikes, and it's a Democratic county, too.

How can we have "Law and Order" with such roads? Men are bound to swear if the wheels stick fast.

A court in Canada, decides that a man has a right to sleep in his hired pew. But he has no right to disturb his neighbors by snoring.

Democrats about Washington are mad at Senator Brown, of Georgia, voting with the Republicans and charging that he is after Federal pay.

The census reports for 1880 will comprise about 20,000 printed pages, and the entire work will occupy nearly another year for its completion.

The amount of malt liquors consumed in the United States during the year 1881 was 444,800 gallons, of which only 1,164,000 gallons were imported.

A Republican member of Congress from Indiana says that he does not look with much confidence to the next campaign on account of the temperance complications.

An International Conference in behalf of Sabbath observance in the United States and Canada, will begin at the First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg, on the 28th of March, lasting three days.

The Cincinnati Builders' Exchange give their unqualified approval of the bill before the Legislature, making it a penal offense for strikers to threaten or intimidate men seeking work on such terms as can be obtained.

The United States Senate devoted Wednesday to the discussion of the tariff. The House discussed Congressional apportionment, and passed the bill for the settlement of accounts of Postmasters for stamps lost and destroyed.

With the assistance of Democratic Senators, it is likely that the Ingalls resolution and the whole subject of pension arrears will be referred to a committee, with instructions to report back some plan to prevent pension frauds.

We are pleased to hear that the misunderstandings between our Baptist friends have all been righted, and that the angel of peace, white-winged and glorious as the sun, holds out the olive branch.

Lieutenant General Sheridan is reported as being strongly in favor of compulsory army retirements at sixty years, promotion on the retired list, separation of the Signal and Heavy Service from the army, and opposed to the suggested corps of army chaplains.

Sotelo, who was shot in the office of the Washington Republic last week, was a son-in-law of Mr. Wm. H. Clement, the distinguished railroad man. Sotelo is a very handsome man of considerable ability, who has cultivated a somewhat reckless style of journalism and thereby got into trouble.

In a difficulty in the office of the Washington (D. C.) Republic last week, between Clarence Barton, news editor of the paper, and A. M. Sotelo, formerly connected with the office, both men were shot, Barton being severely hurt, and Sotelo fatally. It was an old grudge recently revived.

Mr. Bradlaugh appeared in the House of Commons at the opening of Parliament and advanced to take the oath, but was prevented by an objection from Sir Stafford Northcote, the leader of the Tory side. It is probable that he will soon be admitted, for the Liberal leaders are determined to put an end to the invasion of the right of a constituency to choose a representative without regard to his religious opinions.

The cowardly and malicious attempt of some malignant persons to blacken the name of Senator Sherman, by charging him with willfully having permitted the public's money to be used in the building and furnishing of his private residence, in Washington, is emphatically denied by the Senator. This should be enough to convince everyone that the charges are without foundation; yet we should not be surprised to hear them reiterated in hostile papers so long as they can be used to his injury or annoyance.

The death of Sotelo at the hands of Barton is but another added to the long list of such tragedies, the result of a reckless style of journalism. The attack made upon the murdered man

in his domestic relations, even though they may have contained the truth, were unwarranted and were no part of fair or honorable journalism. No one has any right to inform the public of another's private domestic matters, where only demoralization should be the effect, both upon him who is attacked and upon those who read. The truth for its own sake is very precious, but it had better remain untold if it gives offense.

Lord Granville, in a dispatch to the British Minister at Washington, says his Government is of opinion that the Panama Canal, as a water way between the two great oceans and Europe and Eastern Asia, is a work which concerns not only the American continent, but the whole civilized world. He can conceive of no more melancholy spectacle than competition between nations in the construction of fortifications to command the canal.

He believes an invitation by the United States to all other maritime States to participate in an agreement based on the stipulation of the Convention of 1850 would make a Convention adequate for purposes for which it was designed.

When such an inveterate old fossil as Jefferson Davis shows signs of awakening to a realization that the Union has not stopped because of the "Lost Cause" there is good ground for hope that the South is making progress. Living upon the memories of the past, a past made up of hatreds and prejudices, is fast being discovered to be a poor fool for a people who care to make much of life in this New world. In a recent speech he exclaimed "the still ever ready to fight for the Union, as he would be willing to unsheath his sword for it."

That sort of language from the late President of the Southern Confederacy, is encouraging to all loyal men—as encouraging as Dan Voorhees' championship of the soldier. Well, why may not a man change his mind. The fact of a man's having used all the early years of his strength in trying to break up the government, is no reason why, when old age comes on and his powers are decayed that he should not undergo a change and become supremely and terribly loyal, and what right has anyone to doubt the sincerity of a man who now professes as the soldiers' friend, because twenty years ago he called them "dogs" and "hirelings." We should learn to forgive and forget.

"Hath not a Jew had organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions, fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer as a Christian is?" If a Jew wrong a Christian, what has his humility? Revenge. If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his suffrance be, by Christian example? Whilken? The villainy you teach me, I shall execute.

The long list of outrages being practiced by the Christian Russians upon the Jews of that country has become a subject of much remark, and has evoked in more enlightened hearts and amongst more humanized people a feeling of great indignation. The causes for these outrages are not very satisfactorily stated. It is said that the thrift of these people has been the cause of arousing the ill-will of their Christian neighbors against them; that they by their shrewdness have succeeded in acquiring a large part of the country's wealth, and that the agrarian sentiment has become developed in the poorer masses. In truth, this account in part for the ill treatment which this much abused race are now receiving in Russia; but it must not be forgotten that this is only one instance of persecution; that for centuries these people have borne the savage and cruel assaults of Christians—not only in such semi-civilized countries as Russia—but in Germany and Protestant England. The only reason why we have not heard of them where their rights are respected, and where they can enjoy full freedom from violence or partial laws, is in the United States. We need not wonder, then, to find in the future that this will become the home of that unfortunate race. The fact that these people have always been in nearly all places the victims of Christian hatred and abuse is shown upon every page of history for nearly two thousand years. Why this is so, is not so exactly told. That a people who have become the professed followers of the meekest and holiest of men, the ideal incarnation of all that is lovely in humanity—that the disciples of such a moral hero should persist in the practice of a systematic tyranny against a race, is one of the paradoxes of human action. Not one word, not one act, of the Founder of Christianity can be reconciled with this conduct. In truth, every influence that came from Him was directly antagonistic to such a spirit. His virtues were His inspiration, and not one stone more clearly than his great human sympathy for all men of whatever nationality. He was the first to give forcible utterance to the doctrine of universal brotherhood; and yet, notwithstanding all this, His professed followers have found it in their hearts to stain the record of every year with this same blood that flowed through His veins. But this savage spirit of the Christian has always a cause; to find it we must go back beyond the birth of Him who spoke as never man spoke. Can the seed for this savage spirit be found in the prophecies? If so, then better a thousand fold had the lips of the prophet been stricken dumb before his words were uttered than that the will of man should be soiled by the blood of all that life affords—it's happiness. The maledictions pronounced upon the sons of Abraham by the prophets of old were terrible. Judgments, such as only nature stepped in cruelly could suggest—this was to be the portion of the Jew. It is not here found a sort of divine sanction, that has wrought with terrible energy and power in the Christian world, but it is in a course of brutality beyond even the power of Christ to check. Has not the Christian always found an excuse for his enmity against the Jew in the pictures of divine wrath expressed by the prophets? Has he not, in fact, felt it incumbent upon him to verify those baleful prophecies? We are unable to unravel the skein of influences that have molded Christian thought or made society in general what it has been. It has been the belief that nature had cast them in a little better mold—where the feeling of superiority had become registered in their constitutions, and the less favored were designed by Providence to serve; to say its poor notion to attempt to plant in genuine Republican soil, and a meager and sickly growth it is destined to have. The Republican party has been in the front of a quarter of a century, and it is rather early yet to write the political obituary of James G. Blaine. The man is not yet dead, and Mr. Blaine is by no means a "cast" "out of politics" as some people would like to have him. Mr. Blaine has weathered several storms before, and is still standing.

If the three hundred and thirteen gentlemen who voted for General Grant in the election of 1868, had been told the fact, there is no reason why they should not unite in buying bronze medals which commemorate it. The man who has no public interest in the very little public interest.—Norrison Herald (Rep.)

According to the Tribune's Washington correspondent, the report that Mr. Blaine is to be Secretary of the Treasury is absurd, and perhaps the nearer truth the greater the absurdity.—Buffalo Express.

Taxation of Church Property.

The following editorial from the New York Independent on the taxation of church property will meet the views of a large class of people. We give it entire:

President Fairchild has published an article in The Nation of January 26, 1882, in which he assigns two reasons against the taxation of church property, in common with other property, of which we do not regard as sound.

The first reason is the alleged fact that no holding would be taxed by the taxation of churches in the way of an equal and exact distribution of the burdens of government." In support of this view Dr. Fairchild proceeds to say: "Those who build and sustain the churches would divide among themselves the taxes assessed upon church property, and would pay essentially the same taxes as at present. The property-holders in every community are the supporters of the church. They have no other consequence to them, so far as the amount of their tax is concerned, whether they pay the tax as assessors upon their private property or pay a part in an assessment upon the churches in which they are interested. The aggregate must be the same, so far as it goes, if it were true that all taxpayers were also voluntary supporters of churches. This, however, happens not to be a fact. It is not true that even a majority of taxpayers are voluntary contributors to church expenses. The larger proportion of them do nothing for the support of churches, except in the indirect way of paying taxes. This, however, is an increased rate of taxation on their property, as the necessary consequence of exempting church property from taxation. The tax is not levied on any church. They do not attend any church on the Sabbath and have no sittings. They are not sorry that this is so, yet our sorrow does not change the fact.

Now, in respect to these non-church-going taxpayers, we are to think of the majority of taxpayers. Dr. Fairchild's first reason will not hold. Tax exemption of churches means increased taxation to them. They are compelled indirectly to contribute to the support of churches which they do not attend, and support in principle in which they do not believe. The aggregate of church property, as assessed, is \$354,483,881; and if all this property be exempt from taxation, then it does not take much arithmetic to see that an increased tax-burden must be imposed upon property that is taxed. A part of this increased burden is levied upon that large class of taxpayers who have no church relations, and who, as we think, may justly complain that they are compelled by law to support churches which they do not attend, and for the deficiency arising from the exemption of church property. We do not believe in the compulsory support of religion, whether directly or indirectly.

The other reason of Dr. Fairchild reads thus: "The church is not property in such a sense as naturally to render it subject to taxation. The churches belong to the community, and are not to be taxed as public property, as really as court houses and public-school buildings, and have sprung from an endeavor on the part of men of good spirit to do a great public work—a duty which the Government has limited to the citizens." The great difficulty with this reason consists in the fact that the main proposition is false. It is not true that church property is "public property," or that it belongs to the community; any more than the property of a bank corporation belongs to the community. It is private property, in the same sense as the property of an individual. It is not to be taxed as public property, but as private property, whether individual or corporate. We concede that the uses are beneficial to the public; but this does not give to church property the character of public property. If it did, then nearly all private property would be public property, and the Government would be bound to exempt from taxation.

The plain matter of fact is that the land upon which the churches are built is property; that the buildings erected thereon are property; and that all the property is to be taxed as such. The moment that Government's capital must be invested according to a scheme, it shrinks, and will not invest.

What the Nation Hopes New York Tribune. The scheme of Mr. Blaine for convening a Peace Congress of commissioners representing all the republics of the American Continent, including the United States, with a view of maintaining a mutual understanding as would avert the evils of war and substitute for the sword the beneficent influence of the pen, means of settling any difficulties that might arise between them, which is the gist of his circular letter of last November, is not a new or original idea to be dismissed with a contemptuous sneer. Whether such a scheme is practicable, and whether it would be realized, and whether the co-operation of Congress ought to be given to it, are questions not sending out such an invitation are matters about which there may be honest diversity of opinion. Be this it is not a new or original idea to be dismissed with a contemptuous sneer. It is eminently fitting that the United States should be the first to inaugurate such a movement; and we see no reason why the nations of Europe should be excluded from the consideration. We award to Mr. Blaine full credit for a great and good idea. He says, in the opening letter of his circular, recently published, that President Garfield was thoroughly in favor of the measure, and that, but for his untimely death, he would have put it into effect. He also says that the matter was submitted to President Grant, and that he, in the presence of the President, and that by him the invitation was ordered to be sent to the republics of South and Central America, and that the President had intended to disseminate the invitation, but that he had been prevented from doing so by the death of the President. It is to be so specifically recalled, for the reason assigned by Secretary Frelinghuysen, that Mr. Blaine evidently intended in this letter to defend himself against the hostile attacks of a portion of the press, and to show that he had been entirely successful in fixing the official responsibility of the invitation to the President, while forcible as it was, it was a mistake. It was, indeed, a grave and singular error. It placed the man who established the 37th Meridian in a position of a pretended revelation from heaven, in the position of the direct representative of the United States Govern-

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Object of the "306" Medal. St. Louis Post-Dispatch. We read a description of the beautiful medal which is being struck in this city for the 306 noble stalwarts who fought and bled for Grant in the Chicago Convention last June. It is a beautiful medal, and the design of these gawgaws dangling at his bosom presents himself at the White House he will be promptly taken into the back kitchen to give to the President's private bottle of cherry-brandy.

It Can't be Crowded. Cincinnati Enquirer. There is one unfulfilling mark of a financial fool. It is the display of a propensity to coerce capital. One who has no sense or no education. The moment that Government's capital must be invested according to a scheme, it shrinks, and will not invest.

What the Nation Hopes New York Tribune. The scheme of Mr. Blaine for convening a Peace Congress of commissioners representing all the republics of the American Continent, including the United States, with a view of maintaining a mutual understanding as would avert the evils of war and substitute for the sword the beneficent influence of the pen, means of settling any difficulties that might arise between them, which is the gist of his circular letter of last November, is not a new or original idea to be dismissed with a contemptuous sneer. Whether such a scheme is practicable, and whether it would be realized, and whether the co-operation of Congress ought to be given to it, are questions not sending out such an invitation are matters about which there may be honest diversity of opinion. Be this it is not a new or original idea to be dismissed with a contemptuous sneer. It is eminently fitting that the United States should be the first to inaugurate such a movement; and we see no reason why the nations of Europe should be excluded from the consideration. We award to Mr. Blaine full credit for a great and good idea. He says, in the opening letter of his circular, recently published, that President Garfield was thoroughly in favor of the measure, and that, but for his untimely death, he would have put it into effect. He also says that the matter was submitted to President Grant, and that he, in the presence of the President, and that by him the invitation was ordered to be sent to the republics of South and Central America, and that the President had intended to disseminate the invitation, but that he had been prevented from doing so by the death of the President. It is to be so specifically recalled, for the reason assigned by Secretary Frelinghuysen, that Mr. Blaine evidently intended in this letter to defend himself against the hostile attacks of a portion of the press, and to show that he had been entirely successful in fixing the official responsibility of the invitation to the President, while forcible as it was, it was a mistake. It was, indeed, a grave and singular error. It placed the man who established the 37th Meridian in a position of a pretended revelation from heaven, in the position of the direct representative of the United States Govern-

PUBLIC OPINION.

John Kelly showed himself a bigger man than the whole Democratic party. Where is Montgomery Blair? Mr. Tilden has not been nominated for the Presidency for a whole week.

Minister Harburt is elected unanimously by the whole country to the United States in private life for the rest of his mortal career.

Our silver dollars were made to stay at home. No unfavorable turn in the exchanges can rob us of these.—Cincinnati Gazette.

The American protective principle is not cosmopolitan; it is not intended to build up the industries of England, France or Germany.—Albany Journal (Rep.)

By the way, what has become of the Democratic Free Trade issue? Has it been abandoned, and if so, why does not Mr. Watterson begin the shouting?

The trial of Guitau illustrates the point that it is in America only where the meanest and most malignant citizen is protected by the law until he is proved guilty of a crime.—Denver Republican (Rep.)

Senator Cox reading Gladstone outside the pale of humanity is a spectacle for a painter. The two men in juxtaposition, with

