





THE DEMOCRATIC leaders in the House—if, indeed, there are any Democratic leaders in that body—made two or three glaring mistakes in the management of the amnesty bill and discussion last week. The first was by Mr. Randall, in introducing the bill on his own motion, expecting to control it during its consideration, the same as it had been reported from the committee. This gave so shrewd a tactician as Mr. Blaine the vantage ground at once.

The second was in refusing to permit Mr. Blaine to offer his amendment excepting Jeff Davis from its provisions, and requiring preliminary applications and oaths. We know that neither Mr. Blaine nor his Republican associates have any special claims to courtesy or magnanimity beyond what the rules of the House require. We remember the iron rod which they have held for years over the Democratic minority. We know that they have never hesitated to call the previous question, shut out amendments, and out of debate, and that the law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," may be applied to them with the strictest justice. But we are no believer in gag law, no friend to the previous question, when used to put through bills on their first introduction and without giving reasonable opportunities for consideration and amendment. We hope that the Democratic majority will not fall into the old ways and customs of their opponents—customs more honored in their breach than in their observance.

The third mistake was made in not calling the previous question when Mr. Cox concluded his reply to Mr. Blaine. Mr. Cox said nothing that needed toning down or taking back, and the position in which he placed Mr. Blaine, by showing up his record in the last Congress, effectually checked him, had the debate stopped there. This third mistake permitted Mr. Hill to make a speech, which, whatever truth there was in portions of it, he had better left unmade. We know that Mr. Blaine, in imitation of the bully of the old log school house in the country, years ago, spit upon a chip, put it on his shoulder and dared some "confederate" fellow to knock it off. The temptation to gratify him was no doubt great, but discretion is sometimes the better part of valor, and silent contempt the best response to ill-timed or unjust assaults. It was only necessary to point to the record of Mr. Blaine and his party, to their failure to prosecute and punish Jeff Davis when a prisoner and under indictment, and to the fact afterward cited by Mr. Seelye (Ind. Rep.), of Massachusetts, that amnesty was for political offenses and not for the crimes charged upon Mr. Davis. Silence upon such provocation, or a moderate reply, disavowing for the South the offenses charged upon Mr. Davis, without calling out "you are another," would have been true wisdom in Mr. Hill. Again, silence is oftentimes the best way to "answer a fool according to his folly."

MR. HOLMAN having failed on Monday to induce the House to suspend the rules and adopt a resolution instructing the Committee on Banking and Currency to bring in a bill repealing the currency resumption act of January 14, 1875, we trust that he and his Democratic friends will let negative legislation of that kind alone. Economy in all departments of the Government, cutting down salaries and expenses, a revision of the tariff in the interest of revenue, prohibiting the Secretary of the Treasury selling gold, and requiring it to be hoarded by both the Government and the banks under reasonable restrictions as to percentage, etc., will bring greenbacks up to par before the date named in the bill sought to be repealed, and without commercial or business convulsion. Positive and not negative legislation is what is wanted.

We are pleased to see the names of Messrs. Durand, Potter, and Williams in the list of names on Mr. Holman's resolution.

NOT SATISFIED with degrading the currency of the country by making irredeemable greenbacks a legal tender, the Republican financial tinkers now propose to degrade both the gold and silver coinage. Witness the resolution introduced by Senator Sherman on Monday, looking to a treaty with Great Britain establishing "a common unit of money." It proposes the dollar as the unit, and provides that the coin of that denomination shall "be formed of standard gold, nine-tenths pure metal and one-tenth copper, or copper and silver alloy. Five of these new dollars to be the equivalent of £1 sterling."

Other gold coins of various denominations, conforming to the standard, to be issued and made a legal tender in both countries. The pound sterling is now worth in United States gold coin \$4.85, and the new coin will be depreciated or degraded 15 cents on every \$5, or three per cent. That is one way to bring greenbacks up toward par.

THE Detroit Post, being so accustomed to follow a leader that it imagines everybody else is in leading strings, hauls Gen. Williams and Mr. Durand over the coals for voting against the Blaine amendment to the Amnesty bill, and then for the Georgia, and charges that Mr. Hill, of Georgia, is "the champion" they followed. Suppose Mr. Hill did make a foolish speech, and was thenceforth by Mr. Blaine into being as ultra as the ex-speaker himself, is that an indication that Gen. Williams or Mr. Durand had no mind of his own? The Post will scarcely make any capital against so good a soldier as Gen. Williams by his venomous assaults.

A MEETING of the Democratic National Committee has been called to be held in Washington on the 22d of February, to consider the time and place of holding the National Convention and make the call. We vote for Chicago or Cleveland.

A LETTER WRITER from Washington to the New York Times assumes to give a list of the old and new attaches of the House postoffice, indicating the Union soldiers in the old force and the Confederate ones in the new, thereby supposing that a point is scored against the Democracy. In the list of Mr. Sherwood's (the old postmaster) subordinates, we notice the name of "R. P. Bishop, Michigan, lost an arm in the Union army." Mr. Bishop was a Union soldier; Mr. Bishop did lose an arm in the service; Mr. Bishop was on Mr. Sherwood's staff; but Mr. Bishop has not been removed by Mr. Sherwood's successor. Mr. Bishop came to his home in this city immediately after the holiday recess a year ago, having in fact been here most of the preceding fall, and has not been out of Washington since. In April, 1875, he was elected an alderman of this city, was admitted to the bar, and opened a law office. Early in the summer he resigned the office of alderman and removed to Ludington and entered upon the practice of law, with no intention of returning to Washington, and his name continued on the pay-rolls of the House until Mr. Sherwood's term expired, the Republican officials and Republican journals would do well to cover the fact up rather than parade him before the country as a victim of the Democratic guillotine.

THE Detroit Tribune says that the Evansville (Ind.) Democrat has "a spasm of sense," and quotes this in evidence: "The House made its first mistake yesterday or rather the Democrats will be held responsible for it unless they promptly repudiate the violation of old Ben. Hill, of Georgia, which disgraced the House of Representatives."

Why didn't the Tribune finish the quotation, as follows: "The Republicans should hasten to do a similar work for Blaine. This is no time for such folly."

"Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander" is a proverb we commend to our contemporary.

"Henry H. Smith, well known as a protégé of Gov. Blair and compiler of the census statistics of this State for 1870, has been appointed clerk of the committee of the House at Washington."—*Lansing Reporter*.

Not exactly. Mr. Smith was appointed a clerk of that committee during the Forty-second Congress, and reappointed during the Forty-third Congress. He has now been appointed printing clerk of the House. The *Republican* shouldn't be so many years behind the times.

IN THE Supreme Court, on Tuesday, the regulating liquor law—the minor and drunkard act—was unanimously held constitutional, Sunday clause and all.

THE contest in the Kentucky Legislature, for United States Senator, terminated on Tuesday, ex-Representative Beck winning the prize. A good selection for political offenses and not for the crimes charged upon Mr. Davis. Silence upon such provocation, or a moderate reply, disavowing for the South the offenses charged upon Mr. Davis, without calling out "you are another," would have been true wisdom in Mr. Hill. Again, silence is oftentimes the best way to "answer a fool according to his folly."

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—This is the shot a Republican scribbler fires at the New York Tribune, just because it doesn't announce itself a Democratic organ: "The New York Tribune is drifting into antagonism toward the Democratic party. Retaliate, it is prepared to leave the sinking ship." Is that generous treatment of a returning prodigal son?

At the recent Farmers' Institute held at Rochester, Oakland Co., President Abbott, of the Agricultural College, gave an address upon "Industrial Education," in which he said, "Michigan University has always been the first and foremost to seize upon that which is useful and practical." A deserved tribute.

Our daily exchanges—New York and Detroit alike—all record Mr. Saunders, Republican, of Indiana, as voting for the Amnesty bill. Now, there is no Mr. Saunders in the House, he don't hail from Indiana, and he isn't a Republican, and is, therefore, not to be credited with any such magnanimity.

The President is reported as thinking that the discussion of the Amnesty bill "has seriously crippled the Democrats." The public will be so glad to know that the President does "think" occasionally, that the Democrats will cheerfully forgive his conclusions.

The selection of Cincinnati as the place of holding the Republican National Convention is regarded as a victory of Bristow and Morton over Blaine. Well, judging from 1872, Cincinnati is not a first class place to organize a victory in.

The Springfield *Republican* counts out Blaine, Conkling, and Morton, and names only Grant, Bristow, and Washburne as entered for the Presidential race. And this since Blaine's speech on amnesty and Grant's and Washburne's letters of declination.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* says that the battle of New Orleans "was a useless and wanton battle," and the *State Register* (Ill.) rises up and maliciously insinuates that the *Enquirer* can't forgive Gen. Jackson for being a hardy man.

Gov. Carroll, just inaugurated in Maryland, is a grand-son of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Of course he is a Democrat.

The Paw Paw *Courier* has stolen the march on the Detroit *Post*, by nominating Zack Chandler for President. There is nothing like being on time.

Morton's Movement on Mississippi. Ex-Senator Revels, of Mississippi (colored), now out of politics and engaged in the work of the ministry, has written to President Grant concerning the recent election in that State, which Senator Morton proposes to investigate, with a view of upsetting, just because the Republicans were beaten. He says:

In view of the result of the recent election in our State, I have determined to write you a letter canvassing the situation as giving you my views thereon. I will premise by saying that I am no politician, though having been honored by a seat in the United States Senate. I have never sought political preferment, nor do I ask it now, but am engaged in the pursuit of the law, and feeling an earnest desire for the welfare of all the people, irrespective of race or color, I have deemed it advisable to submit to you, for consideration a few thoughts in regard to the political situation in this State. Since reconstruction, the masses of my people have been, as it were, enmeshed in mind by unprincipled adventurers, who, caring nothing for the country, were willing to stoop to anything, no matter how infamous, to secure power to themselves. I am a Republican, but as they are naturally Republicans, but as they grow older in freedom so they do in wisdom. A great portion of them learned that they were being used as mere tools, and, as in the late election, engaged in my calling them to my people, by casting their ballots against these unprincipled adventurers to overthrow them. My people have been told by these schemers, when men were placed in office, that they were notoriously corrupt and dishonest, and they must vote for them; that the salvation of the party depended upon it; that the man who scratched a ticket was not a Republican. This is only one of the many unprincipled, malignant demagogues who have devised to perpetuate the intellectual bondage of my people. To defeat the policy at the late election, men, irrespective of race or party affiliation, united and voted together against men known to be incompetent and dishonest. Without receding from the masses of my people who read, recognize the majority of the officials who have been in power for the past two years as Republicans. We do not believe that Republicanism means corruption, theft, and an expenditure of the public money for the purpose of securing office. We have been prevalent among the portion of our office-holders; to them must be attributed the defeat of the Republican party in the State, if defeat there was, but I, with all the lights before me, look upon it as an uprising of the people to crush out the demagogues and men from power. The bitterness and hate created by the late civil strife has, in my opinion, been obliterated in this State, except perhaps, in some localities, and would have long since been entirely effaced were it not for some unprincipled men who keep alive the bitterness of the past and incite a hatred between the races in order that they may aggrandize themselves by office and its emoluments to control my people, the effect of which is to degrade them. I give you my opinion that had our State administration adhered to Republican principles, and stood by the platform upon which it was elected, the State to-day would have been on the highway of prosperity. If the State administration had not advanced patriotic measures, appointed only honest and competent men to office, and sought to restore confidence between the races, bloodshed would have been renewed, peace would have been entirely effaced, and the State would have been a scene of anarchy and confusion. I give you my opinion that had our State administration adhered to Republican principles, and stood by the platform upon which it was elected, the State to-day would have been on the highway of prosperity. 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