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Semi-Weekly Edition.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8.

THE VETO OF THE NEGRO SUFFRAGE BILL.

The District of Columbia is an anomaly in our political system. That a small tract containing the capital of the leading republic of the world, should be deprived of republican privileges; that a government resting on the representative system should deny representation to the people who reside in the focus of its influence, is an incongruity which challenges attention and demands explanation. The great commotion and controversy which has arisen over suffrage in the federal district (the federal district being what it is), is a slight about a shadow. For what is the significance of the elective franchise? It is the instrument by which a republican community enforces its will upon its rulers. It is the instrument by which it procures the enactment of such laws as it desires, and the repeal of such as it disapproves; the instrument by which it selects such agents as it prefers to make and execute the laws. But in the District of Columbia, the elective franchise has no such significance. There, the people are deprived of all voice in framing the laws under which they live, or in creating the magistracy by which they are administered. Congress is their only legislature, and Congress is wholly chosen by the votes of other communities. Congress passes laws against the unanimous protest of the whole people of the District, and they have no remedy or redress. For merely municipal purposes, that is to say, for paving, lighting, and cleaning the streets of Washington, for constructing its sewers and supporting its police, the people are permitted by Congress to choose certain petty officers; but whatever the people decide upon in this low, narrow sphere is decided upon mere sufferance, and is liable to be reversed whenever a Congress in which they are not represented chooses to interfere. Of what value is the suffrage in such a community as that? It makes little difference whether it is restricted or universal, whether it is black, white, or mixed. Whenever suffrage of any kind produces a result which Congress does not like, that body can, in its mere caprice, say day in the year, with or without notice as it sees fit, interrupt and preclude a change. The elective franchise, when conferred upon a people so situated, is an empty mockery, as it curries with it none of the control over their laws and rulers which the ballot gives to free communities. Negro suffrage in the District of Columbia is of no importance in itself; it is merely the fulcrum on which a political party intend to rest their lever for prying up and removing the little that remains of self-government in the States. We know of nothing which more clearly betokens the great change that has taken place in the political thinking of the country, than the passage of the bill which President Johnson has vetoed. Why was such an anomaly originally introduced into our political system as an unrepresented federal district? There is no more noteworthy mark of the deference to the sovereignty of the States by the authors of the Constitution than this provision. It was thought that the federal government needed a district subject to its exclusive jurisdiction, to insure its safety and protection against the legislation of the States. With the present notions of federal supremacy and State subordination, no such idea could have gained a footing. A government so absolute as that of the Union is now claimed to be, could not have its supremacy disputed anywhere. It would have been safe against State legislation everywhere. What need of a spot into which State laws cannot intrude, if State laws must, in every place, shrink away abashed and "hide their diminished heads," in the presence of the federal authority? But the framers of the Constitution respected the sovereignty of the States, and sought for the federal government's place of refuge from the operation of State laws. But those views have now become so completely reversed that the federal district is made a workshop for the construction of models in legislation for compulsory imitation by the States. Black suffrage in the District is a pattern prescribed to the State governments; and if Congress has its will, suffrage will be an universal everywhere—and as empty, too—in the District of Columbia. The President rests his veto on very strong argumentative grounds. Like his Annual Message, it is written with great clearness and dignity. Avoiding everything narrow and technical, everything like a cavil or a quibble, it reasons from broad general principles and the vital spirit of our institutions. In a republican government, the wishes of the people on whom laws are to operate should be respected; but the people of the District have almost unanimously remonstrated, through the ballot, against negro suffrage. It is absurd for members of Congress to force upon other communities pretended reforms which even their own constituents reject; but we find the Representatives of New-York, Pennsylvania, and Indiana imposing universal negro suffrage as the national capital while their own State constitutions forbid it at home. It has always been the spirit of our government to proceed cautiously in admitting new and untried classes to the elective franchise. We have always required a five years' probation of citizenship, who are the more intelligent, independent, and better educated the political duties, then require that they be released from that probation. We consider all provisions which seek to make all men equal, when no man is equal, degraded. Adherence from the passions which we require of white citizens. There are some of the

THE PROJECTED CRUSADE AGAINST THE MORMONS.

We hope the bill for the extirpation of polygamy in Utah will not pass. It could not be enforced without a Mormon war, and under present circumstances, a Mormon war, would be a prodigious squandering of the national resources. When, some ten years ago, Colonel STROTHER was sent against the Mormons at the head of a military force, the only good that came of it was to enrich a set of Western speculators, who got lucrative contracts for supplying the expedition with horses, mules, wagons, harness, flour, pork, blankets, etc. We have no reason to suppose that Senator HOWARD has such a clique of corruptors in training in the expectation of sharing their profits if his bill passes; but certain it is that speculators will pounce upon so hopeful a chance. "Where the car-cases is, there will the eagles be gathered together."

THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

The New Jersey Legislature meets to-day. The Radicals have a majority of seventeen on joint ballot. The most pressing business is to elect a United States Senator for the unexpired term of Hon. WM. W. WHITNEY, deceased. The candidacy is narrowed down to two men, GEORGE F. COBB, of Warren, and THEODORE F. FAELINGHOUTSEN, of Essex. The latter now holds the position by appointment of Governor WARD. Mr. COBB has been an intermittent candidate for years, nor has FAELINGHOUTSEN been less willing. The one is a merchant; the other a lawyer, and bases his claims on the double fact that he can make a speech, and is the nephew and namesake of his uncle, who was not elected Vice-President in 1844. Mr. COBB's friends claim that he should be elected because he cannot make a speech, is a man of business, left the Democratic party the moment it was unsuccessful in New Jersey, and has spent lots of money against it since his apostasy. For the latter reason, perhaps, a majority of the Radical State journals favor COBB, on whose ability his opponents venture disparaging comments by the awful assertion that he is "all Cobb and no corn." A Jersey-man will tell you what that means. In opposing FAELINGHOUTSEN, the Radicals assert that Essex County is fast becoming all New Jersey, having the Senator, Governor, Chancellor, Secretary of State, four of the Supreme Court Judges, the Attorney-General, and two-thirds of the federal appointments. The twenty other counties object to being thus overshadowed. CATTLE, who occupies, without filling, STROTHER's seat, wants COBB for his colleague, because FAELINGHOUTSEN, being a speaker, casts him (CATTLE) far into the background, who can never open his mouth without putting his foot in it. The election will take place three weeks to-day.

BOSTONIAN BUNDSMEN.

[From the Boston Traveller, December 31.] The President's "policy" has been attended with the effect of putting a stop to the work of reconstruction. With the single exception of Tennessee, every State that was out of the Union a year ago is out of it now; and the prospect of their restoration is by no means bright. The positive Bundism of this wisdom is by no means so amazing as it is amusing. There is no doubt whatever that "every State" that was out of the Union a year ago is out of it now, precisely as every State which was out of the Union a year ago was out of it ten years ago, and just as every old woman in Massachusetts who was out of her head a year ago is probably out of it now. But how "the President's policy" has been attended "with the effect of putting a stop to reconstruction," it is difficult to understand, unless the Bundists of Boston intend to convey the idea that no other policy is likely to be presented, and that since the President's policy is unacceptable, the work of reconstruction or restoration must come to a dead stop. It is evidently, however, an oratorical announcement that the terms of reconstruction or restoration are to be dictated by MASSACHUSETTS; that all other policies are preposterous; that the war was not fought for the Union, but for the perpetual disunion of the Northern and Southern States; and that whatever relation the Southern States may hold hereafter to the North in general, and to MASSACHUSETTS in particular, whether as territorial possessions or colored colonies, will be dictated in due time by MASSACHUSETTS herself. Now, this sort of thing may do very well at the annual New England dinners, where the mutual admirations are impressed with the idea that the druggings of their teapots are the overwhelming current of popular opinion. But outside of MASSACHUSETTS the impression obtains widely that New-York and LOUISIANA, and the States lying between the two, are not mere appendages to Boston Common, but are great commonwealths which are not only interested in the Union, but whose voice in the conduct of all affairs relating to the Union is powerful enough to make the single voice of MASSACHUSETTS, in comparison or in opposition, seem a faint whisper merely. It will be hard to force this idea through the bulwark of baked beans the Bay State has erected as a barrier against the universe; but, if MASSACHUSETTS would feel warranted in assuming the entire control of public affairs since the peace, she should have occupied a more prominent position during the war; she should have given to the army other colonels than Colonel HENRY WILSON, and other generals than BANKS and BUTLER; and she should have sent more of her own sons and fewer Southern negro substitutes and imported foreigners to the field. Had she occupied a better position in the war, she might properly have assumed a prominent place in peace, and there would have been less impudence in her arbitrary promulgation of edicts, upon the basis of which the restoration of the Union alone will be allowed, if, indeed, such restoration is permitted at all. If she will but quarrel with MASSACHUSETTS as she will but quarrel with her greatest conquerors, her contracts, and be satisfied with the victories won by her General, BANKS and BUTLER, and with the Freedmen's Bureau, which "protects" so many of her politicians and school-masters; but the work of the restoration of the Union, involving no "committees," military or po-

TOO MUCH EVIDENCE.

Not long ago Mr. WASHINGTON, of LOUISIANA, introduced in the House of Representatives a resolution of inquiry relative to alleged frauds in the New Orleans Custom-House, and particularly to "frauds" in appointing "rebels" to clerkships, to the exclusion of "loyal" or Radical men. Pending the publication of the report of the committee which went to New Orleans to collect evidence on that as well as other subjects, it may be stated that the examination into the Collector's affairs at that port was only for the purpose of finding an excuse for transferring all the federal offices in LOUISIANA to exclusively Radical hands; for this is the real meaning of much of the talk about territorializing the Southern States. It is to furnish loyal Governors from MASSACHUSETTS for the Territory of LOUISIANA, loyal Collectors from New England for the Southern custom-houses, and otherwise to find paid places for the very few Radical politicians who are not otherwise supported in the bread-and-butter army nearer home. But an examination into Collector KELLOGG's appointments at New Orleans reveals the fact that, out of three or four hundred subordinate, the great majority are discharged soldiers and officers who served in the federal army. The Collector says that he made appointments from this class in accordance with direct instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury. Now, this is exactly the kind of evidence the committee did not want. The Secretary of the Treasury has no doubt, given such "in-

CALIFORNIA.

The Flood—The Revenue—Liquor Distillations. [Special Despatch to the World.] SAN FRANCISCO, January 7.—A despatch says the water with which the Beltingham Coal Mine has been flooded will be reduced in a few days, so as to permit the resumption of work. The internal revenue receipts of this city for the month of December were \$262,561. The receipts for the last six months were nearly as great as the whole amount received the previous year and a half years. Four hundred and thirty thousand gallons of spirits were distilled within the limits of San Francisco during the last year. The total value of sugar refined in San Francisco refineries for the same period was \$311. Twenty-five hundred pounds of rice were sold on Saturday at thirteen cents per pound. The weather is clear. The thermometer at 9 A. M. was 52 degrees above zero.

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