

EVENING COURIER & REPUBLIC.

VOLUME XI.

BUFFALO, N. Y., TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 17, 1871.

NUMBER 13.

COURIER & REPUBLIC.

Tuesday Evening, Jan. 17, 1871.

PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL SENTIMENT.

In his speech accepting the democratic nomination for U. S. senator from Missouri, Gen. Frank Blair said he should endeavor to carry out the principles upon which the liberal democrats carried the state last fall. He declared that he stood upon the platform adopted at that time; that he would leave the political past undisturbed, and would lay aside the spirit of retaliation. He asserted that the democratic party of the present and future had a higher and nobler mission than to grapple with the things which are gone, and cannot be remedied; it must aid the people of the south to secure the political freedom and justice which the democrats of Missouri had just battled for so successfully, and strike down the monstrous monopolies with which the millionaires of the east have saddled the life blood of the west. In accomplishing this mission he would pursue such a policy as would call to the aid of the democratic party the liberal, progressive republicans all over the country who sympathized with Grant, Brown, and Carl Schurz, and were weary of the corrupt, prescriptive and fanatical policy of the last five years.

Mr. Blair's declaration is a vindication of the progressive political sentiment which has so long been striving for full expression in the democratic party, and which at last assumes its rank and control in councils and action. As the avowed champion, in 1868, of obstruction and resistance to the irreversible political accomplishments which had been wrought, Mr. Blair did a serious injury to the party which nominated him as its candidate for vice president. It is a lamentable sign that one who then occupied so prominent and representative a position in the party should now openly avow such changed sentiments, and put himself in a position to atone in some degree for the mischief he has done. It shows that the true spirit of the party, which has so often been misunderstood and ignored by mistaken managers, is prevailing, and that it will control the party in 1872. Instead of continuing a party of mere resistance, clinging to old ideas and old issues, the democracy has entered upon its new mission, and has already grappled with the living political questions of policy and reform which affect the present and the future. Already we have seen the fruits of the new departure which has been made, and of the vitalized effort toward reform which has been put forth in a succession of brilliant democratic victories north and south, in the recent elections, not the least of which was that whereby Mr. Blair is about to be elected to the United States senate.

Evidence similar to that which has just been afforded by Mr. Blair, abounded all over the Union, that in the next federal canvass the democratic party will be untrammelled by the unwise counsels which have, hitherto, both for the party and the country, so long prevailed. A progressive statesmanship has taken the place of an obsolete adherence to old prejudices and obsolete ideas. The cardinal and imperative political principles upon which the government was founded have been brought into harmony with the organic changes which have taken place. A revived and consolidated spirit of opposition to radicalism, and its outrageous and dangerous assaults upon our political institutions, has been developed. We hope and believe that we shall hear no more of the dead issues of the past in democratic councils, but that with common accord the party will accept its mission as the champion of reform and progress.

In the great battle of the future we have a most important part to perform. We must crush out the foul spirit of radicalism which constantly seeks to invade the rights of the people to self-government; we must purge the legislative centers of the corruption which has been engendered by ten years of control and impunity; we must destroy the strongly entrenched hierarchy of property; we must battle in behalf of civil service reform, which can only be successfully done by a party, not in the control of the office holders; we must change the prevailing financial policy, which is impoverishing the business interests of the country upon the insane plea of boot-licking the public credit, and, above all, we must bring the country back to a recognition and firm assertion of the legitimate functions of federal power. These and other accomplishments constitute the future mission of the democratic party, and the prospect is daily growing brighter, that it will be entered upon in a true spirit of harmonious co-operation, which is not afraid to achieve success.

REPUBLICANISM A FAILURE AT THE SOUTH.

It is reported from Washington that the president's message on the condition of the south has made very little impression upon the senate, or upon political circles in Washington. Except among a few of the most extreme radicals there is no disposition to meddle any further with affairs in that section. They are convinced that a fresh attempt at reconstruction would meet dammingly upon the administration and the republican party. We are told that the majority of congressmen are disposed to let the south alone, and recognize the rights of the states to manage their own political affairs. There is no question that this is the wisest policy; but still there is a general disposition among republican leaders to concede that, unless something is done, the south will go democratic in 1872. They are consequently in a quandary, and are anxiously devising ways and means to avert the general defeat which seems impending.

The fact is that radicalism at the south has proved an utter failure. Instead of obtaining permanent political control of the southern states by means of the freetraders and carpet-baggers as was hoped, the people have been consolidated in their opposition, and the probabilities are that every state, with the possible exception of South Carolina, will be strongly democratic in the next general election. The radicals have played a bold and unscrupulous game, and have lost, not only at the south, but at the north. They can only hope to succeed without a fresh resort to military usurpation, and there is danger that the people of the north would resent such a course, at the polls, with an emphasis that would utterly confound them. Truly the radicals have been wretched in the houses of their friends, and are in a bad way.

THE END DRAWS NEAR.

The tenor of the dispatches from Paris indicate that the fate of that city is very nearly determined. The struggle which took place last week must have been a desperate one, involving fearful loss upon both sides, and resulting in a very decided victory to the Prussians. The French armies are reported to be broken, disorganized and in retreat. It is hardly possible, under such circumstances, that Paris can hold out many days longer, and we should not be surprised to hear of its occupation by Prince Frederick, and his vast army at any moment. Imagination shudders at the suffering and loss of life, not to speak of the destruction of treasures of art and property generally, which must already have taken place. Much innocent blood will be shed, and untold suffering inflicted upon those whose lives are spared. Hunger and cold must soon make sad work among the poor in that great city. In the interests of humanity, therefore, it is to be hoped that a speedy end of the siege may be arrived at, even though it should involve the humiliation of France.

DEPRESSION OF BUSINESS.

The serious depression of business which prevails throughout the country is attracting the general attention of the press, and various theories are advanced as to the real cause. It certainly cannot be overtrading abroad, or certainly cannot be overtrading at home, or a drain of gold from the country—two causes that almost produce that result—for statistics show that while our imports for 1870 were \$11,000,000 greater than last year, our exports were \$18,000,000 in excess of those of the same period. We must look, therefore, in some other direction for an explanation of the present unprecedented stagnation of business. To our mind the explanation offered by the N. Y. Express is the true one, which is that the trouble originated with the government, and is the result of the suicidal policy which has been pursued by Secretary Boutwell. The Express says:

Since the 14th of March, 1869, the government has purchased \$155,700,730 of 5 and 6 per cent. bonds, and has paid therefor \$187,298,221 in currency. Decrease of debt since March 1, 1870, \$106,209,623. Suppose this amount of money had been left in the hands of the people, and had been used for the purchase of a part of the great foreign debt which we have contracted, instead of paying it when it was earning but 3 and 4 per cent. A difference of 3 per cent. between its worth in the hands of business and labor and in the hands of the government would amount to \$5,618,344 per annum. Instead of paying it when it was earning but 3 and 4 per cent. A difference of 3 per cent. between its worth in the hands of business and labor and in the hands of the government would amount to \$5,618,344 per annum. Instead of paying it when it was earning but 3 and 4 per cent. A difference of 3 per cent. between its worth in the hands of business and labor and in the hands of the government would amount to \$5,618,344 per annum. Instead of paying it when it was earning but 3 and 4 per cent. A difference of 3 per cent. between its worth in the hands of business and labor and in the hands of the government would amount to \$5,618,344 per annum.

POLITICAL NOTES.

A resolution was presented in the Massachusetts senate yesterday, approving the course of Senator Sumner in the San Domingo job. Gen. Randolph, of New Jersey, in his message, speaks in the most glowing terms of the prosperity of the state. The tables are turned in Hayti. An alien white man cannot be a citizen, or own real estate. There are said to be at least a half dozen senators who are anxious about Chief Justice Chase's health. Three hundred women of Ohio have sent General Garfield, for presentation to congress, a remonstrance against woman suffrage. Hon. Samuel J. Randall, in debate in the house, Tuesday, intimated that the democratic presidential nominating convention of 1872 would be held at St. Louis.

There is a contest in Delaware between the brothers William and George S. Slaughter, as to which one shall be elected senator for the term beginning March 4th next. An English hatter publishes a letter from President Grant, expressing his thanks for the present of a hat! The smallest favors thankfully received. The democrats in New Hampshire intend to carry that state in March next. They have harmonized all their party differences, and nominated James A. Weston, of Manchester, for governor.

Chapman's Weekly contains a very fine wood cut engraving, from a photograph by Brady, of the Hon. Wm. M. Tweed. The likeness is good, and the biography complimentary. A critic, speaking of the geneses of Mr. Lester Wallace's recent says, "It is impossible to acquire these peculiar qualities—you catch them from early association." The Hon. Wm. M. Tweed, the likeness is good, and the biography complimentary. A critic, speaking of the geneses of Mr. Lester Wallace's recent says, "It is impossible to acquire these peculiar qualities—you catch them from early association." The Hon. Wm. M. Tweed, the likeness is good, and the biography complimentary.

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however, that the confirmation will prove a poor and inefficient compromise, and that the senate will soon pass the house bill abolishing the grade of admiral, and thus drop Porter into civil life.

Col. Campbell, in his answer to the notice of Gen. Schenck's intention to contest his election to congress, makes some grave charges. He says that many who voted for him were intimidated, and in effect, were driven from the polls; that many illegal votes were cast for Gen. Schenck, and that many votes were procured for Gen. Schenck. In consideration of money, and for other valuable considerations.

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THE NATHAN MURDER. The following particulars of the discoveries recently made with regard to the Nathan murder are from the N. Y. World of Sunday. A brief synopsis came by telegraph but the fuller account will be read with interest.

A Chicago detective, Mr. W. P. Feleker, now connected with the secret service, has received from the chief of police, Mr. J. J. Kelly, Chief of Police, Judge Cardozo, and others relative to the capture of a man whom he says is the murderer of the late Mr. Nathan. So many have been made in the past, and the public, and particularly the officers of our police department, look with distrust upon any report of discovery; but this man came forth as a man of the highest character, and his capture is a most important step in the investigation of the Nathan murder.

PERSONAL. It is said that the philanthropist, Mr. Madison Grant, the owner of a steamship of more than forty years, has retired by Brady, of the Hon. Wm. M. Tweed. The likeness is good, and the biography complimentary.

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