

identity. Let us resolve in advance, and declare aloud that no man shall be nominated for Vice-President whom we would not support for President. Wire-pullers, intriguers, crafty politicians, shall be put aside, and statesmen, tried and true, approved by the heart and the mind of the loyal country, shall be those from whom the choice is made. Local claims are to be despised. There are men in our ranks whom the whole loyal land honors and loves; who are identified with the long, long struggle for the true American principle of the Government; whose service in the war, in whatever station they may have been, showed the exact Presidential qualities. Among those men, whether in public or private position, let our search be made; as we resolve that none but such a man—no mere local politician—shall be the Vice-President to whom, in the inescapable future, the government of the country may be intrusted.

ALEXANDER T. STEWART.

In the March Number of *Harper's Magazine* we gave a brief sketch of the life of this distinguished and successful merchant. An allusion was made to his restrictions and his strong devotion to the Union during the recent rebellion. Nominally belonging to the Democratic party, and also an adopted citizen, he yet never for a moment faltered or doubted in regard to his duty to that flag to which he had sworn allegiance in early manhood. No considerations of personal interest deterred him from the expression of his sentiments. When Sumter fell there was probably two millions of dollars due him from merchants and others in the seceding States. A few debtors were willing and anxious to pay their Northern creditors. Many were quite willing, if possible, to wipe out their debts by war, or to allow the debts to be cancelled by the Confederate Government. One firm, largely indebted to Mr. STEWART, announced its intention not to pay if the report should prove true that he was a loyal and patriotic man.

The following letter, addressed to him, explains itself:

"MEMPHIS, April 28, 1867.

"Mr. A. T. Stewart:
"DEAR SIR,—I inclose you a telegraph dispatch which was published in our city papers yesterday morning, stating you had offered a million dollars to the U. S.

"I have only returned home a few days ago from your city, and many of my friends, knowing the fact, have asked me if it were possible that you had done as represented by this dispatch. My reply was that I did not believe such to be the fact. Yet it has had more influence than a similar dispatch would have had had it have emanated from any other person than yourself. Among the business men throughout the South there are many of large wealth, to whom you and others have given credits, and who are now considering whether or not it is expedient to pay their Northern creditors under existing circumstances, and the conclusion is, that in justice to ourselves and our section of the country, that we will no longer assist those who we did hope would not attempt to conquer, degrade, or govern us by force. In determining not to meet (as borrowers) our maturities, we do not seek to be understood that it is our intention to repudiate our liabilities, or that we are not able to meet each note as it may mature. Such is not the case; for as regards our promptness and ability to pay, your books will show whether we faltered in '57 and '58, or in '60 and '61, and in both instances we were considerably more indebted to your houses than any other in N. York; and it is unnecessary to state whether we asked you either time to hold up a single note of ours. It is our intention, as soon as the present hostile state of the country is adjusted, to immediately meet all our liabilities; and it is also our intention that what we may possess shall not be used in unreasonable demands of our creditors during the present condition of affairs; nor shall we during the pittance we may have to those who would deprive us of our privileges and make us bow in submission to their dictates.

"Yours most respectfully,
"J. P. STRANGE, of
"SPRING, DONOMO, & STRANGE.

"P.S.—We this afternoon permitted our first note to be returned, amounting to only one hundred ninety-three $\frac{1}{2}$ dolls."

To this letter there was a prompt answer, and one worthy of enduring record, and which would have done honor to the most distinguished patriot even of the Revolution, though "to the manner born."

"NEW YORK, April 29, 1867.

"DEAR SIR,—Your letter requesting to know whether or not I had offered a million of dollars to the Government for the purposes of the war, and at the same time informing me that neither yourself nor your friends would pay their debts to the firm as they mature, has been received.

"The intention not to pay seems to be nearly universal in the South, aggravated in your case by the assurance that it does not arise from inability; but whatever may be your determination, or that of others at the South, it shall not change my course. All that I have of position and wealth I owe to the free institutions of the United States, under which, in common with all others, North and South, protection to life, liberty, and property has been enjoyed in the fullest manner. The Government to which these bless-

ings are due calls on her citizens to protect the capital of the Union from threatened assault; and although the offer to which you refer has not in terms been made by me, I yet dedicate all that I have, as I will, if need be, my life, to the service of the country, for to that country I am bound by the strongest ties of affection and duty.

"I had hoped that Tennessee would be loyal to the Constitution. But however extensive may be secession or rebellion, as long as there are any to uphold the sovereignty of the United States I shall be with them supporting the flag.

"Yours, etc.,
"ALEXANDER T. STEWART.
"To Mr. J. P. STRANGE, Memphis, Tenn."

But there was an unobscured watch kept over that firm of merchants, and the moment Tennessee was reconstituted a mailed hand was laid on them. There was no escape, and they were compelled to pay the interest farthing. The mills of the gods had ground slow, but they had ground exceeding fine.

THE RESPONSIBILITY.

The Albany *Argus*, in a late article upon the situation, declines to take any responsibility of the President and his performance; and adds, that the Republican party is responsible for the present condition of affairs because it elected Mr. JOHNSON, and has had control of the Government for so long a time.

This is as wise as the assertion that the Republican party was responsible for the war because there was no war until that party came into power. It was not the Democratic President who declared that there was no authority to prevent secession; nor the Democratic Attorney-General JEREMIAH BLACK who furnished that opinion; nor the Democratic Secretary FLOYD who sent arms to the rebels; nor the Democratic Secretary TOMBS who disposed the navy; nor the Democratic Secretary CRESS who stabbed the national credit; nor the Democratic Secretary JACOB TOMPKINS who organized a conspiracy; nor the Democratic leaders in the Senate and House who withdrew to take up arms against the Government; nor the State Rights doctrines of the Democratic party interpreted in the light of the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions; nor the insupportable necessities and insistent ambition and unscrupulous conduct of the slave interest in this country—none of all these are responsible for the late war, but the Republican party is alone guilty.

This party had the audacity to insist that the will of the slave interest should not be the government of the country; that the equal rights of citizens of the United States should every where be maintained; and that the Government should not be destroyed by rebels if patriotism and valor could save it. When, therefore, the Republican President, constitutionally elected, found a vast armed conspiracy under the leadership of the Southern Democratic leaders, defying the authority of the Government, morally supported by the Democratic press, and Democratic Tweedle Hall and other conventions in the Northern States, and did hear the gun fired by that conspiracy at the flag of the United States, he called upon the country to defend its Government, and the country responded. This was the responsibility of the Republican party for the war.

The alternative was the surrender of the Government to the armed demand of open rebellion, the total and disastrous failure of the representative Republican system, and the unquestioned domination of a party whose sole aim was the erection of a huge empire founded upon human slavery. This was an alternative whose only supporters were found among the members of the Democratic party who to-day declare that the Republican party is responsible for the war.

Continuing our retrospect, which is very familiar but also very useful, we find that, during the war waged by the Southern Democratic leaders upon the Union, the same moral aid was rendered by the Northern wing by embracing in every way the actions of the administration, until at last after more than three years of the conflict the Democratic party in their National Convention declared the war a failure, and virtually insisted that the Government should surrender to the rebels. And what did the Republican party? Steadily prosecuting the war, cherishing an unswerving faith in the result, supported by its profound confidence in the constancy of the nation, it supplied means and sympathy to the great cause. We do not forget the patriotism and liberality of many Democrats; but we are speaking of party action.

In the midst of the war came the Presidential election. In an unhappy moment, as we have elsewhere in this paper remarked, and detailed by a wholly mistaken magnanimity, the Republican party nominated a Democrat for the Vice-Presidency. And from that fatal error springs the present situation. The Republicans bought a wooden horse into their camp, and from his prolific belly issue all our woes. If the country is distracted, if reconstruction is postponed, if bitterness of feeling is doubly embittered, if there are commercial apathy and impending panic, if there are grave perils immediately menacing the country, it is because of

the enormous error of the Republican party in electing a Democrat to the Vice-Presidency. Except for that the country would be at peace. But it is their sole error of the kind, and will not be repeated. But if one Democrat can make so much mischief in reconstruction, what would the whole Democratic party do if it could get a chance?

GENERAL SICKLES ALSO.

The peremptory removal of General SICKLES is only another indication of the superlative folly of the President. Whatever may be the merits of General CANBY, every body knows that General SICKLES is removed because of the earnestness and ability with which he has executed the will of the people in enforcing the reconstruction law. He, like SHERIDAN, is removed because his course is not agreeable to the late rebels, and is approved by all faithful Union men. The only conceivable effect of his removal will be delay in reorganizing North and South Carolina. The smouldering embers of rebellion revive under the Presidential breath. The rebel chiefs who were taught by the old political associate of Abner JOHNSON at the North to despise the character and purpose and patriotism of the free States, will despise them all the more that they could have been so degraded as to place him in his present position. Those men will not believe that he can help them back to power. But they see that they can help him to defy Congress. And they despise him as thoroughly as ever.

When Generals HANCOCK and CANTY were at their best posts of duty they were tried by these leaders. If they remain as firm and true as SHERIDAN and SICKLES they will be opposed but respected. If they yield, and become much under rebel manipulation, they will be used and scorned. Men like LONGWORTH, who acquiesce in the decision of the war, and are as anxious for peace as they were earnest in fighting, can only regret the dull folly which postpones a settlement. But the violent editors of the newspapers at the South, who daily lament the lost cause in the most elaborate and defiant rhetoric, will shake their terrible pens at Congress all the more fiercely, and rejoice that the heel of Despotism has been wounded by the doughty warfare of the White House.

Delay in the reorganization which was so well begun, continued suffering and hopeless agitation, postponement of peace, and consequent possibility of more rigorous measures, and universal disgust, are the only results of such a course.

A PLEASANT PICTURE.

The following testimony to the character of the freedmen we take from the correspondence of the New York *Times*. That paper will not be suspected of employing correspondents to write Radical tracts; and we have not seen an apparently truer picture of the actual conduct and temper of this important class of citizens. From the beginning of the war until now they have constantly justified the efforts made for them and the confidence felt in them by the other loyal people of the country:

"When the war was over the question, 'What shall we do with the blacks?' agitated the whole country. The very fact that the negro had been held to work until freedom was proclaimed was taken as an indication that under freedom he would so work, and would become an unmanageable and considerable burden on the community. This anticipated evil found expression, on the part of the South, in the negro codes—a system of legislation next only in infamy to slavery itself. The establishment of the Freedmen's Bureau—its institution which, in spite of some attendant evils, has been of incalculable benefit to the South,—helpfully broke this up, and the blacks were left free to choose their own employers. Well, to the joy of his friends and the discomfiture of his enemies, the negro became an industrious laborer. It is two things that did not work very smoothly the first year, but they were a great deal better the second, and this year the demonstration of the industry and fidelity of the colored class is complete. Throughout the South there is only one answer to the question as to how the negroes are doing: 'Very well; better than could have been expected; better than ever before'—variant in form, but so strong in its cumulative evidence as to leave no doubt in the mind of any dispassionate observer.

"Then there came that day, or that to the negro he was made a citizen. This was a measure the wisdom of which was gravely doubted by the majority, even of those who really wished well to the colored man. I confess that when I went South I believed the enfranchisement of the blacks would prove a mistake; but I very soon perceived that it was at least a necessity. And, indeed, I have seen no intelligent Southerner who does not admit that when the negro was deprived of the protection of his master it was absolutely necessary he should have that other protection which comes from the possession of political rights. But here again a pleasant surprise met us. To justify the faith reposed in him, the colored man began eagerly to fit himself by education for citizenship. The progress in this regard has been most astonishing. Not only are the children being taught, but adults show a passionate hunger for learning; and if an educational qualification had been required for voting, I believe that before the next election there would hardly have been a black man in the South that would not have been able to read and write. I must add that equally gratifying has been the improvement in morals—in honesty, truthfulness, and civility."

PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.

SCIENCE is the precise character of science that those who are most familiar with chemistry have no difficulty in initiating nature exactly in the production of odors, colors, and some other equally curious exhibitions of what were once supposed to be beyond the ingenuity of man. There is not a fruit grown the rich juices of which are not imitated in manufacturing establishments so as to be more desirable than the original article copied, as the apple, plum, cherry, peach, raspberry, strawberry, pine-apple, and others, raised in conservatories, are used in confectionery houses instead of the real natural juice. Why are they not equally good and wholesome? They are as really the same thing as the juice of two pine-apples are intrinsically the same. Nature makes by one process, and science teaches how the component elements may be mixed and instantly produce precisely the same fruit, with its characteristic flavor. Our ice-creams, when apparently charged with the fresh juices of fruits, as they formerly were, are now dependent on these artificial productions for their excellent flavor of some favorite fruit. Colors, beautiful as the rainbow, of every imaginable hue, and brilliant as the tints of a rose-leaf or a violet, are extensively produced from coal dug out of the bowels of the earth. Science is the strong arm of an advancing civilization.

CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO.

REFORMATORY efforts of the most persevering character have been brought to bear upon smokers, chewers, and snuff-takers without the least effect. Notwithstanding prohibitory laws, enormous quantities of the growth and sale of the terrible vegetable narcotic, its use has extended over the globe. The savage and the Christianized philosopher, the king and the peasant, are alike slaves to tobacco. Neither the denunciations of His Majesty James I. of England, or a Sultan of Turkey threatening to burn out the eyes with the hot ashes of his subjects who should smoke the hateful weed, which he resolved to drive from his dominions, ever checked its onward progress. Wits, philosophers, lecturers, learned physicians, and men and women of all orders have reasoned against it, appealed to the common-sense of the people, plead with their friends and fought with a common enemy, to no earthly purpose. Tobacco is triumphant. Even the last great tax on the luxury of cigars and pipe-stalk, by Congress, which seemed likely to limit its consumption, has had no more effect than beating an elephant with a feather. But in the mean while people die prematurely of palsy of the heart, cancerous stomachs, and diseased lungs from its excessive use; and they will continue to do so if half the world is depopulated by this vegetable tyrant.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTHERN RECONSTRUCTION.

A FEW of the freedom of the first and fourth districts of Georgia are advocating the propriety of sending men of their own color for Congress. A colored Conservative candidate has been put forward, but is rebuffed by the whites. The colored man recruited him, and on August 31 nobled a couple of colored creoles who advocated his claims. Governor OR, of South Carolina, expresses the opinion that the promulgation of negroes in politics will produce a reaction in the North. Sembrill of the same idea appears to have inspired the ultra-conservative press.

NEWS ITEMS.

We trust we have had in the disastrous ending of the ocean trip of the little yacht *John T. Ford* the last of a series of adventures which are likely to be of use for notoriety or are originated by the spirit of gambling. There is no true, lasting glory to be won in any enterprise, however daring or hazardous, which has not a good and noble purpose in view; nor is there any true courage evinced in crossing the ocean in miniature ships, perfect in every respect, and strong and staunch in proportion as the largest. Experience and navigators assert that there is no greater danger to such vessels in mid-ocean than in the straits of our inland bays; and the experience of the *John T. Ford* clearly proves this. This vessel, the smallest ocean vessel ever built, after safely crossing the ocean was captured by a hidden signal in the English Channel at the moment the voyage was being concluded. Captain Charles A. Gold, and Edmund Murphy were drowned; and the one passenger who was carried out was saved only to find himself not down as a British fellow for his venturous spirit. At the time of the sailing of the *Ford* we gave an engraving of the vessel, and portraits of Captain Gold and the seaman Murphy. Those of our readers interested in the subject will find the engravings and portraits in the second issue of the *Weekly* for June 1, 1867.

The tunnel of the Central Pacific Railroad through the Sierra Nevada mountains, 1,635 feet in length, was finished on August 2.

"Mike McCool" and "Aaron Jones" were seen at Seneca's Station, Ohio, on August 21. Two thousand persons witnessed it. Jones, "a professional," was deservedly well whipped, and the other, "an amateur," was soundly punished.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Napoleon has lately been indulging extensively in speeches. At Arns on August 5, he said in a very circular manner: "Weak Government is often sought to divert public attention from domestic troubles by sending foreign quarrels. On the other hand, those Governments which rest on the national will, have strength, and need only resist to whatever shall be proposed to promote the permanent interests of the country, as a matter of giving the honor to the national flag." At Lille he expressed the hope "that the world would inaugurate with the certainty of peace." At Arns he declared that the glory of France had not been tarnished in Mexico, and said he was certain of the peace of Europe would not be disturbed.

Ministers of Columbia and Santa Anna, of Mexico, after settling their respective countries for many years, meeting and exchanging civil arms which have retarded their progress and placed them far behind other nations in civilization, peace and order, have been indicted and are to be shortly tried for the crime of treason.