

THE THIRD TERM.

Responses to the Whispers from the Capital by the Sea.

The Press on the President's Three-Term Aspirations.

Grant Shipped to Salt River.

[From the Fall River (Mass.) News—republican.]

And now comes a howl from some mysterious source that the President has "been and gone and done it." He is claimed to have entered into a combination to run for the third term, and scare his enemies to death by a union with the liberal party and the Southern democrats on the platform of specie payments, civil service reform, universal amnesty (which means to let Jeff Davis have a chance to get back to Congress) and opposition to the Civil Rights bill, &c. * * * It would be a nice combination for General Grant to find himself shipped off to Salt River by lightning express in November, 1876, and if he does not know any better than to ship for that region let him go and try its beauties.

More of a Sphinx Than Ever.

[From the Buffalo Courier—democratic.]

Some time ago Grant announced himself as about to try to "unload" the republican party of some of its more obnoxious elements. If the New York HERALD's Long Branch correspondent * * * is to be believed, these elements are now endeavoring to unload Grant. He has ceased, it would seem, to be useful or ornamental as an adjunct of the loyal party, and is more of a sphinx than ever to its leaders. This being the case it will be good news to them, if true, that the republican "old man of the sea" is about to step down from the party's shoulders of his own accord, albeit the other party that is to take him up remains as yet in the realms of the invisible.

The Despair of the South.

[From the Petersburg Index—conservative democratic.]

As deeply as we regret the advocacy of the claims of General Grant for a third term, we still more deeply regret the feeling of utter desperation and helplessness on the part of some of our people which has given rise to such an idea.

It is the last resort of men who believe that principle has no longer any power upon the minds of men; that right is an empty word and expediency a panacea.

It is the taking from the hands of the people (where it belongs) the power to better their condition and placing it in the hands of one in whom their misfortunes, though mainly caused by him, have strangely given them faith.

In discussing this subject it is pertinent to inquire whether or not there exists any cause for the feeling that has called up to our view so monstrous a sight as Grant three times a President.

As far as one not in the far South, where Grantism seems so rife and full of life, can judge, there exist there no evils for which the people of that section are not in some degree responsible. Though desolated by four long years of war, and the whole labor system of the country changed, they seemed never once to have felt the force of such changes, and to have looked immediately for a prosperity which only time, assisted by the most determined efforts of the people themselves, can bring. Instead of looking to their lands and their own labor for assistance, they rushed at once to seize the broken helm of politics to guide them through their trouble, and, failing in this, they see no other hope and loathingly yield to despair. Such a course is unworthy of Southern men, and when coupled, as now asserted, in faith with Grant, it sadly reminds us of the ignorant people of China, who in their troubles, thinking their good God will do them no harm, offer their prayers and sacrifices to the devil.

It is a matter beyond doubt by the instances of Virginia and Georgia that wherever the Southern people have quietly accepted the situation and looked to their own efforts for prosperity they have not failed.

There is no royal way to success either for an individual or a nation. No legislation, no legislator or other man in power, can by law or force bring prosperity upon a land. Such a result is only caused by the spontaneous workings of society. We earnestly believe that one twelvemonth, during which all national politics were forgotten, and every effort of the Southern people used to promote their material prosperity, would accomplish more good for our unhappy brothers than the elevation of any man in the nation to the Presidency.

We do not deny that, with an upright, honest President the Southern people would have a better chance for the improvement of their condition than they now have, of which chance they can only reap the benefits by combining with it their untiring efforts for such an improvement. In blindly following any one man as their prophet they are following a "pilot who keeps his promise to their ear and breaks it to their hope."

Most fatal, we predict, will be the results of a policy which favors a coalition between Grant and the South.

The South does not admire General Grant; in truth, it hates him, and that too for good reasons. To support him would imply the contrary. A policy founded in falsehood must bring disaster as a return. The South needs no such artificial means for its improvement. The agitation of such a question distracts its attention from its proper objects. How much better would it be for our country if its citizens, casting aside all such "sick man's dreams" of a third term or an empire, would go earnestly to work building manufactories, making crops and inviting foreigners to come and settle in our country. Quickly then would the discontent now so prevalent disappear, and in its place would come peace and prosperity, and that which is greater than either, manly reliance on their own efforts.

It is vainly talked that the South has nothing to lose by the election of Grant, and probably much to gain. Upon what such an assertion, upon what such a hope is founded, we cannot conceive. We are not of those who despair of any good being left in the American system of republican government; we believe that there is much about it that merits our admiration and care. It holds all that is left of that liberty for which we and our fathers before us fought and struggled. It is our sacred duty to keep it and improve it, and surely this can never be accomplished by honoring such a creature as Grant. *Back with remorse and regret will be the day when the South lends its aid to the elevation of this man to the Presidency, discarding and condemning by that one act all political principle, honor and honesty.*

The Third Term.

[From the Richmond (Va.) Dispatch—conservative democrat.]

The public had become somewhat tired of this phrase, we suppose, but the New York HERALD's Long Branch correspondent has given it fresh interest by reporting what President Grant is said to have communicated to a liberal republican from the West. This Long Branch interviewer may be shooting out of a "long bow," but we apprehend we shall not soon know any better; for, as a friend says, General Grant will hardly deny the accusation if anybody were to charge that he had poisoned his mother. If he is correctly reported by the letter in the HERALD, which we published yesterday morning, "the great silent man" was for once in quite a talking mood.

Take the reported interview with the liberal republican as we may, it will create a stir, and add much to the excitement and the manoeuvres in the political arena. It will increase party confusion, and cause much uncertainty and indecision among politicians.

Speaking for the present, we are not clear what is best, and we remain uncommitted. *That the Presidential term will be extended by some one at a time not far in the future, we feel satisfied. Every country has afforded an example of this. This government is too strong to allow for any great period the principal officer of government to be displaced, and succeeded by another every four years.* The motives for holding on to power will be too strong, and the head of the government will be too well sustained by the authority he wields, and the patronage he controls, to allow the term of office to be limited by mere custom. Public opinion will be unable to keep a check upon personal ambition thus powerfully fortified.

It is therefore to reflective minds absurd for people to say that there never will be a third term or that the Presidential office will never be extended. We cannot hope for any such exemption for this country from the fate of all nations. The Presidential office must at some time be extended and the ruler of the country will possess and exercise a power that will as much exceed that exerted by the federal President since the war as that power has exceeded the simple powers of President as defined and exercised by the first Presidents of the Union.

Entertaining these opinions, we have felt no great and undying respect for one ancient usage after seeing so many just as sacred discarded and trampled into the dust. And we have said that, for a really good, honest, impartial and wise President we would be happy to see the old custom disregarded by his re-election any number of terms.

This is what we believe would be the best for the country. We know that the Presidential aspirants, who are numerous, and their friends will fight a hard fight for the "ancient custom," and that because they want to get to the White House they will make loud professions of a veneration for the "ancient custom," which they do not feel. But in spite of all this there will be a fight before long for the third, and possibly, the fourth and fifth terms. *We have never intimated a disposition to support General Grant, and we shall by no means do so now.* But we repeat what we have often said, that if the country could get a proper President for a third or fourth term it would be better off than it

can be with the fearful aspirations and corruptions of the Presidential canvass every four years.

We hope the discussion will proceed. It stirs up the expectants and sets new sails to catch popular currents. It will help to purify the political atmosphere and reform the public policy with a better regard for the general welfare and less for the spirit of fanaticism and dictates of bigotry and sectional malice.

The South and the Third Term Question.

[From the Boston Globe—administration.]

While there have been many rumors and speculations of newspaper correspondents regarding a movement in the South in favor of the election of President Grant to a third term, there has been little evidence on the subject coming directly from those who may be regarded as leaders of the ex Confederate element. General Paul O. Hebert, for several years Governor of Louisiana, in the old days before the war, a fellow student of General Grant at West Point, and one who distinguished himself while there far more than the present incumbent of the Presidential chair, a gallant officer in the Mexican war and the commander of the Confederate forces in Louisiana when they surrendered, in 1862, may fairly be regarded as at least a fair representative of the views and wishes of his class. He writes a letter to the New York HERALD, in which he does not say directly that there is any movement in the South in favor of the re-election of Grant; but he does intimate that such a movement would be likely to find support.

The Globe here quotes from Governor Hebert's letter to the HERALD, and remarks:—

Whatever may be thought of General Hebert's opinion of General Grant and his ability to bring about the era of good feeling and united prosperity between North and South, his representation of what the South needs will receive the hearty approval of all thinking men. The one great question with the people there, he says, is "their peace and their material reconstruction." The questions which divide parties in the North concerning the tariff, finances or foreign relations are as "dust in the balance in comparison with the vital issues of domestic tranquillity and their pecuniary rehabilitation." If the people generally in that section of the country have reached the conviction that their first and greatest duty is to obtain peace and rebuild their industries, it is a cause of congratulation to the whole nation; but they should give proof of their conviction by avoiding local quarrels, by throwing away their old prejudices against the negro and against Northern enterprise and capital, and by devoting themselves to the work which they long to see done. It depends mainly on themselves, and the national administration, whatever its character, can do little for them.

Sam Bowles and General Hawley Speak.

[From the Hartford Courant—anti-Grant republican.]

Do we understand the Hartford Courant to deliberately express the opinion that any honest democrat of fair abilities and reputation could beat General Grant for the Presidency in 1876?—*Springfield Republican.*

You may understand that the Courant deliberately expressed the opinion that if General Grant accepted the "liberal" programme reported as his by the New York HERALD, he could be easily beaten by a fair and honest democrat. Further, we have never considered the nomination of Grant by the republican party for a third term among the possibilities.