

Armageddon at Hand.

A careful survey of the existing European situation seems almost sufficient to justify a belief in the prediction of the enthusiasts who declare that the true interpretation of John's Apocalyptic vision shows that "the battle of the great day of God Almighty at Armageddon" is actually at hand. All Europe is at present like one vast camp. The nations are arming from the British Channel to the Ural Mountains; from the Mediterranean to the Baltic, as with a prophetic understanding that a terrible and portentous crisis is at hand. According to the *Paris Republique Francaise* a German "camp of maneuvers" for 150,000 men is about to be formed near Treves, under the immediate command of the Emperor. According to the *Kolnische Zeitung* (Cologne Journal) the French are about establishing a similar great camp for drill and military maneuvers near the German frontier. The nations are becoming armies; the general masses of the people are being turned into soldiers. Russia has a greedy eye on India and the Sick Man. Austria has long coveted a portion of the territory of Turkey. France is said to be still cherishing feelings of bitterness and revolving schemes of revenge. There are also those who predict a great Ultramontane combination for the restoration of Rome and the temporal power to the Supreme Pontiff. Rumors of schemes of conquest, of plots, conspiracies and new alliances fill the circumambient air, as motes people a sunbeam. The arsenals are busy shaping more deadly implements of destruction than were ever before known. The foundries are casting colossal cannon compared with which those heretofore used in warfare are but children's toys. The powder with which these mighty engines were to be charged was not thought to have sufficient power, and the world is now given to understand by the *Baltic Gazette* that the German Government has discovered or secured the secret of a new "prismatic powder" for its heavy guns which is immensely superior to any used or known elsewhere in Europe. When we contemplate the present attitude of the Continental Powers; when we estimate the vast numbers of their standing armies; when we consider the amount of interruption to the arts of peace, and the crushing burdens upon the people which they entail; when we see Germany and France arming to the teeth, and by their vast preparations compelling their neighbors to strain every nerve and tax every resource for the same purpose, in order to be ready for the fearful crisis which all seem to anticipate—when we see these things we may well feel thankful that our happy position, with no powerful nations upon our borders, exempts us from such necessities; that with a feeble navy, and a standing army inferior to that of any fourth-rate Power of the old world, we still draw peaceful breath, and sleep untroubled by dreams of danger from any external foe.—*S.F. Chronicle*.

The Rival Languages.

Two centuries ago the French language was spoken by more people than any other language in the European world; but next and close upon the French, the Spanish was the language of Europe and America. The German came third and the Russian fourth. In the reign of James I. the English language was not spoken by more than twenty millions at the extreme. Now no language of European origin is so much spoken as the English. The French is still the "court" language of the world; but it is not spoken by more than thirty-nine to forty millions, including France and all her colonies. The German empire contains about 38,000,000 souls, of whom two millions or more speak French or Danish, or Slavonic, leaving 36,000,000 to use the German. To these we must add 12,000,000 for Austria proper, and say 3,000,000 for Belgium; making 51,000,000 who speak the German. There are 75,000,000 Russians, but they do not all speak the same language. Perhaps not over 50,000,000 speak what is called Russian. The Spanish is still a widely spoken language, notwithstanding the low level to which the mother country has sunk. Five or six million Mexicans, a million Central Americans, and not less than ten to twelve million South Americans,

speak in that language. To which add 20,000,000 for the Spanish Peninsula and her colonies in the West Indies, and we shall have nearly forty million speaking the Spanish language. Italy has no colonies, and Italian is only spoken in that country by about twenty-two million.

English, however, has spread all over the better and most vital half of the New World, all over Australia and New Zealand, into Scotland and Wales and Ireland, and denizenized itself in all the principal commercial cities of the world, to a greater extent than the French or the German. At Shanghai, Canton, Hongkong, Yokohama, Nagasaki, Osaka, all along the Indian and African coasts, the English outnumber any other and perhaps all other foreigners. We sum up English-speaking nations and peoples:

The United States.....	40,000,000
Great Britain.....	31,000,000
The Dominion.....	3,200,000
Australia and New Zealand.....	1,500,000
Cape of Good Hope, Natal, etc.....	1,000,000
All others, including the English in India, China and Japan.....	2,000,000
Total.....	78,700,000

In another half century the English language, from present prospects, will make such rapid strides as to leave all others far behind. There will be probably 100,000,000 speaking it in India, 20,000,000 in Australia and New Zealand, and at least 100,000,000 on the North American continent. In short, if any particular language is destined to become the language of all mankind, this is the one, and not the German nor the French. It will gradually but surely supersede the Spanish in Mexico, Chile, Peru and the Argentine Confederation, and probably within the century become the popular and commercial language of all the great maritime cities of India, China and Japan.—*Sacramento Union*.

A Red-Hot Gospeler on the Louisiana Troubles.

At the regular weekly meeting of the Methodist preachers of Boston and vicinity, held at Wesleyan Hall Tuesday afternoon, the recent difficulties in Louisiana were discussed at considerable length. Bishop Bowman gave an account of what he knew about the treatment of colored people in Louisiana, narrating a number of instances in which they had been shamefully abused, and deprived of life, even. By invitation, Rev. B. I. Ives, of New York, addressed the meeting, and his speech was of the most radical kind. He declared there is altogether too much toadyism on the part of Northern people in their treatment of the South.

He said we are undertaking now to coax the devil out of the miserable whelps down South, when nothing but strychnine and cannon ought to be used. He rather agreed with Phil. Sheridan's declaration during the war, "that if he had owned hell and Texas, he would lease out Texas and live in the other place." Mr. Ives administered a castigation to the Church, declaring that there is not a paper in the Methodist Church that dares to discuss the civil rights bill, and ask that it be enforced. He said he believed the meanest rascals in the South are in the Methodist Church South. He declared himself a radical of the strongest kind, and said he believed the more he hated the rebels of the South, the more he loved God.

He declared he believed the spirit now rampant in the South has got to be crushed out by another war, and he longed for the appearance of some colored man able to become a leader among his people, wielding the sword and torch. He said the Bishops ought to come out publicly and declare the whole truth about the treatment of the colored people in the south, but he didn't believe they would. If they did he knew they couldn't return to the south, for if they did they would be hung; but he intimated that it was no worse to hang a bishop than a minister, but he suggested if it was done it might wake up the people quicker than anything else.

He thought the bishops were too tender-hearted, and they reminded him of the man who wanted to cut off his dog's tail, but he was too tender-hearted to cut it off where it ought to be, so he cut it off an inch at a time. The speech of Mr. Ives was received with frequent demonstrations of approval, some

of his most radical utterances exciting considerable applause, mingled with laughter.—*Boston Herald*.

The Lesson of New Orleans.

The whole country has been deeply stirred by the recent events in Louisiana. The earnest attention which those events have aroused is a good sign. Whatever temporary injustice may be done in the heat of discussion, we trust the sober good sense of the American people to come ultimately to a right decision; and we would far rather see them too sensitive than too lethargic when such questions are at issue.

We wish to consider this subject in the most dispassionate manner, and to consider it in its bearing on the broad question of the general policy of the government towards the South. In the whole complicated affair, it is the part borne by the United States government that alone concerns us at present. Looking at the recent occurrences in the calmest and broadest way, we have this conspicuous fact: The leader of a political faction being governor of a State, and in a desperate political contest where neither side is scrupulous as to means, is allowed discretionary power over a United States military force; and in a civil emergency, involving most embarrassing questions of justice and legality, he marches these troops into a legislative hall and settles the dispute by the bayonet.

In such a case, to state the facts is to pronounce the verdict. By whatever steps the government was brought into this position, the position is untenable and full of mischief. We heartily acquit General Grant of the slightest wish to play the despot; we credit him with a sincere desire to govern honestly and well; but, with whatever intentions and by whatever road the government came to employ its military force in this fashion, the issue warns us that it has got upon dangerous ground, and ought to be brought back within safe limits.

We have said that this particular affair is a natural outgrowth of a general policy. That policy is the close supervision of the federal government over the affairs of the Southern communities. It involves a continual use of federal troops, in one way and another, for the settlement of local trouble. In effect, this policy implies that the general government holds itself directly responsible for social order throughout the Southern States. The *Christian Union* has often pointed out the great disadvantages which this policy involves. The Louisiana difficulty only brings home with new force a principle we have often maintained: that the plan of a special supervision over the South by the federal government should be definitely abandoned, and the Southern communities be left to manage their own affairs, as the Northern communities are.

No general argument could give to this idea any such force as the events in Louisiana have given to it. All that can be said in defense of the President's action, and even of Governor Kellogg's action, reacts powerfully against the entire policy of supervision. Granted that the conservatives acted most illegally in seizing the legislative organization; granted that there was a kind of pretext for Kellogg to interfere; granted that the use of the troops prevented disorder and bloodshed. These are just such contingencies as must often occur in the state of society which exists in many places at the South. There always will be factions and tricky politicians and heated contests in communities like New Orleans. There will be constant occasions for United States troops if those troops are once to undertake general police duty. We shall be thrown back more and more on the strong arm of the President; more and more will the idea be lost that the local community is bound to keep its own peace; more and more will society sink into feverish lassitude, and all healthy political life be destroyed. The road we have started on is an easy and alluring one. It is so pleasant to have a Providence enshrined at Washington to regulate the disorders we do not want to grapple with ourselves! When a Tweed controls and plunders the metropolis, how desirable to have a few regiments ordered across from the forts in the bay, instead of being left to doubtful lawsuits and wearisome election

contests! When Pennsylvania politicians carry an election by fraud, how simple to ask the President to set it right! When Canal Rings are quarreling for the control of a Legislature, and trickery leads to brawling, and cunning provokes force, how great a relief to quiet people to telegraph to Washington and presently have a dashing cavalry officer sent to set matters straight! There is hardly any disease of the body politic for which this simple recipe may not be offered, "Get the general government to attend to it."

We take it that the American people do not mean to choose this way out of its difficulties. We believe the idea is quite as firm as ever in the Anglo-Saxon mind that it is better to manage one's own affairs than to have them managed for him; that the household, the church, the township, the State, ought each to order its own matters, not shirking them on to somebody at a distance; that in short, the theory of a "paternal" government, which shall relieve its subjects of the trouble of taking care of themselves, is a worn-out humbug, and in practice a mischief and a curse. And we believe that what the majority of the American people choose for themselves they will soon recognize as the right of each constituent part of the people.

We are by no means blind to the objections to withdrawing Federal supervision from the South. But they seem to arise mainly from a superficial view of the case. The evils of Southern society, as we have often pointed out, are only to be got rid of through the slow, long, painful process of education. The radical evil is a deficiency in civilization, and men are not to be civilized by bayonets. The strong argument to Northern minds for continued supervision is regard for the safety of the freedmen. But the hard truth is that the freedmen must suffer, in one way and another, till education has raised them and humanity has pervaded the lower class of the whites. The weakness engendered in the slave class, and the brutality in a portion of the ruling class, are a growth of centuries, and their effects must long appear in various forms of injustice. No one deprecates this more profoundly than we do. But it is hopeless to try to cure the evil by military force. Even in a physical sense, our little army, with a vast frontier and a chronic Indian danger, is totally incapable of protecting the four million blacks scattered over the South. Quite as much, in a moral sense, is it impossible to bring the blacks and whites into right relations except by surrounding influences. And whatever has been done to protect the freedmen in recent years by military force, is far outweighed by the injury of teaching them to look to Washington for whatever they want. To a weak and ignorant race, slowly learning the duties of citizenship, no more mischievous lesson could possibly be given than the habitual sight of order maintained and political disputes settled by a military force. It is not thus that self-government is to be learned.

In the case of Louisiana it may be said that a withdrawal of the Federal troops would be followed by instant revolution, as in last September. But in that State revolution has had its occasion in election frauds which were believed to have defeated the popular will. Let Congress once take measures to have that will ascertained and followed, and then it may safely leave the State government established by an honest vote to take care of itself.

In strongly urging the withdrawal of Federal supervision from the South, we do not ask the government to leave itself helpless against sudden or special danger. It would still have its troops available at short notice; and the constitutional provision for a State requisition for help would be sufficient for all emergencies. But we desire no longer to see troops in the discretionary power of local politicians. We desire to see the Southern people, black and white, assured in the most unmistakable manner that it is their business to govern themselves, and that neither Congress nor the President is going to play *deus ex machina* in their party quarrels. We desire to see the United States government removed from its discreditable position—a theoretical guardian of the peace, and at the same time the ally of a faction, while its army is made the "trump card" of politi-

cal gamblers. Let republicans remember that they are furnishing a precedent. Suppose a democratic President at Washington; suppose South Carolina the field of disturbance, and the federal army used in the conservative interest instead of the radical? The only escape from a long train of dangers lies in the withdrawal of the federal government from the local affairs of the South. That this is what the people mean shall be done is growingly clear. Will republican leaders accept and carry out the purpose in a spirit of patriotism and statesmanship, or will they leave it to be attained by a democratic triumph in 1876?—*Christian Union*.

Chandler, the Outgoing Michigan Senator.

The editor of the *Detroit Post* calls us a blackguard for putting in circulation that truthful narrative of Senator Chandler sitting on a baby in a hack.

But we forgive the editor, and do so mainly because he is the friend of the great Michigander. We want our Chandler returned to us. Newman's gone, Mullett's gone, Grant is going, and what will we do when bereft of our Chandler? We may as well hang up our fiddle and our bow, and it is not a long bow either, so far as our Zachariah is concerned. He carries, as we have said before, so little drapery about his base, and he makes such an exhibit of the singular fact, that we never tire calling attention to the ludicrous circumstance, for it is funny in a senator. And then the senator does his absurdities in such a public manner:

Ever when on a spree,
Zachariah he,
Doth climb a tree

In a high old state of inebriety,
Which all the people laugh to see.

Jesting aside for once: Senator Chandler is a wealthy man who has a fancy to be senator. Now, although he has not the first qualification for the place, there is no reason why he should not be a senator if the people of Michigan are willing. He is a kind-hearted, good-natured, coarse man. He has not the remotest idea of the duties pertaining to the position he fills. He is as ignorant of political science as a horse, but in this he is not alone among senators. But he must not attempt to secure this place through false pretenses. He must not claim to be a sober model of propriety at home, and reserve his sprees for us in Washington. Our readers are well aware that we never meddle with an official's private short-comings or failings so long as he keeps them private. But when such office-holder makes an open scandal of his dissipated habits they become public property and are fit subjects of criticism. It is well then that the people of Michigan should know that, for 10 these many years they have appeared here senatorially in a way to make the wicked laugh and the judicious grieve. As we belong to the wicked, we rather enjoy it; and then the big, unwieldy, impulsive senator is always committing such delicious blunders.—*Washington Capital*.

Senator Chandler is now on his third term, and has had all the honor his character and his talents entitle him to—and, in the estimation of very many people, more too. But his greed for power would not allow him to yield even for the good of the republican party. What lobbying, and dragoning, and coaxing, and threatening could do was done to bring the seven republicans into the traces. And one—Mr. Garfield—was whipped in and made a very miserable showing when he came to vote for Chandler, by trying to apologize, in saying, "Contrary to my own convictions, but in obedience to the wishes of four hundred of my constituents who have petitioned me to do so, and at the demand of the largest lobby that ever subjected a member to pressure, I vote for Mr. Chandler."

Unquestionably there were many among the Republicans who felt forced to vote for Chandler who rejoice at the result. The fact is, Chandler has been political lord and master of Michigan for years. He has been dictator as to the offices, and no man had a ghost of a chance, politically, unless he threw up his hat for Chandler. It is well the spell has been broken, for the taint has rested long enough upon Michigan Republicans, that