

## EDITORIALS.

LAST year, a little more than twelve months ago, the world was startled with the news of one of the most appalling catastrophes history has ever recorded. The Chicago fire, in the area destroyed, and in the damage resultant, ranks with the noted conflagrations of history. Now we have had to record another, about equally disastrous, this sudden, extensive and ruinous fire at Boston, paralleled in this country only by the Chicago fire.

Calamitous sensations appear to be thickening and multiplying. In a very brief space of time three first-class sensations have arisen—the horse disease, the Woodhull slander, and the Boston fire, quite sufficient to fill the whole country with nervous excitement, too much of which has a deleterious effect upon the public mind.

Two of the most important commercial centres of the country have now been devastated by the fire fiend to an appalling degree, in little more than one year, and the commercial world cannot help but feel the effects of such great destruction and the check which it otherwise places upon business. All destruction of property is of public as well as private interest, of general as well as local importance, and when the destruction is so vast, though individuals suffer by far the most, yet the public at large is a loser also by reason of enhanced values and in various other ways.

Insurance scatters the losses and distributes them among so many, near and distant, that much of the crushing weight of the disaster is removed from the shoulders of the comparatively few whose property has been destroyed, yet hundreds and thousands, who have nothing insured, have lost their little all, besides being suddenly deprived, at the commencement of the winter season, of their accustomed means of making their living. The situation of such is probably as trying as that of any, and help to them will be of the nature of true charity. Many of them, accustomed to skilled indoor work, and now suddenly and unexpectedly deprived thereof and of immediate prospect of any, will find themselves in a peculiarly needy condition. At the best their privations will be grievous, and it is to be hoped that something will speedily be done to relieve their situation and place them in a condition to sustain themselves.

It is gratifying to see the alacrity with which help was and is offered by neighboring and distant cities and towns, first to subdue the flames, and next to mitigate the effect of the accident and assist the struggling sufferers to regain their financial and business legs and re-establish themselves. Chicago, so lately and so extensively a sufferer, promptly sends her cash contribution, and a noble one it is. Other cities will doubtless liberally and energetically follow in her wake in the good work, so as to lighten as much as possible the dire weight of the calamity to the more immediate sufferers.

The banks and the insurance companies, it is indicated, will do all they can to tide over the calamity and restore financial and commercial matters to a healthy condition at as early a period as is practicable. There will be tightness in many places, but a panic may be saved by the assistance of those who have the means to assist. The government, it appears, is ready to do whatever is reasonable to relieve the strained finances. So that although the loss and the privation and the inconvenience will be great, they will be very materially modified by the assistance of various kinds which will be combined and concentrated from so many quarters, where it is due or proffered.

If the winter be mild a rapid rising out of the ashes will be likely, but before it is seen, it is to be hoped that, where reasonably practicable, the laying out of the streets will be improved, for heretofore there was plenty of room for improvement in that respect in many parts of Boston.

One of the results of the presence of women in the Michigan University is said to be that the behavior and appearance of the classes now in attendance are better than ever before known.

A Cincinnati colonization firm has purchased a large tract of land in Northern Louisiana at \$3 an acre, and between 150 and 200 persons will shortly leave Cincinnati to work the land.

## THE REPUBLICAN RATIFICATION MEETING.

LAST night the Institute was well filled with the friends of the Republican party, to listen to congratulatory addresses on the triumph of the party in the re-election of President Grant. The meeting was advertised for 7 o'clock, but the proceedings did not commence until about twenty minutes to eight o'clock, the entrance of the National Band, and the performance of "Yankee Doodle" being the opening of the programme.

An individual named Perkins—a zealous member of the "ring" clique, took the rostrum, and, evidently fired with desire to create a fuss if possible, and to furnish a pretext for a spicy lying Associated Press dispatch, said:

"It has been stated to several members of the State Central Committee that an organized attempt would be made this evening to break this meeting up. I would here state that the first person attempting to do so will be put out, and all others shall follow." This individual then nominated Judge Haydon for chairman of the meeting, and retired.

The nomination of Mr. Haydon for the chair and that of Messrs. O. Sawyer and J. Saulsbury for secretaries were carried, when the chairman said, it was a time-honored custom for a chairman to state the object of the meeting he was called upon to preside over. They had met there for the purpose of exchanging congratulations on the great victory which truth, law and loyalty had achieved. The voice of the nation, from the pine forests of Maine to the golden shores of California, in tones terrible to traitors and joyful to patriots, had declared that U. S. Grant should be the nation's Chief Magistrate for a second term. With a brief but highly eulogistic tribute to Democratic forms of Government, and to the labors and achievements of the Republican party the speaker closed and gave way to

General Maxwell.

This gentleman supposed he was placed on the catalogue of speakers because he was always chosen as a vidette, he was destined to break the ice, and was one of the skirmishers when big guns were to follow. He would therefore open the ball with just a little skirmishing fire, nothing more, and the General did so, in his usual strain, though a trifle less rabid than he usually is, when he undertakes to express himself in public. The Liberals of Utah had perhaps as much or more at stake than anybody else in the re-election of President Grant; for had he been defeated their rights might not have been respected. He had always been their friend, he had stood by them, but a republican Congress had never done so. Then followed a somewhat incoherent rhapsody about the "bloody chasm," American liberty saved and triumphant, the extinguishment of slavery, &c.

The band played the "Star Spangled Banner," and the audience was next addressed by

Col. Wickizer.

He thought it was good to be there; it certainly was for him, for the republican party was his idol. It was only sixteen years old—sweet sixteen! He was at its birth—he saw it born. When it was only five years old he saw it baptized in blood, and he saw it emerge from that baptismal font in robes pure and white. It struck the shackles from four millions of serfs, and to-day the poor black man of the cotton States was equal before the law with the President of the United States. The republican party had thus brought to a culmination the great principle enunciated in the Declaration of Independence—that all men are born free and equal. This was the first time in the history of the world this perfect consummation had been effected, and that only after sixty centuries of human suffering and struggling.

The indomitable republican party had put down the greatest rebellion the world had ever seen, and while the nation was bleeding at every pore, and "we" were trembling in the balance, it—the republican party—built the great Pacific Railroad. It gave to every American citizen a homestead, and not only to native born citizens, but it stretched out its hand to foreigners and gave them the same privilege if they but declared their intentions to become American citizens. It had paid the national debt at the rate of a hundred and fifty millions a year, and had reduced the taxes on some articles seventy-five to a hundred per cent., and on others had abolished them entirely.

A eulogy on the personal character of General Grant then followed. The speaker had known him long and intimately, and his whole course, whether in public or private life, had proved him to be a modest and unobtrusive gentleman. When he had been reviled he reviled not again, and his march to glory had been rapid and well deserved. Many of the people of Utah were enthusiastic for Greeley, and Greeley was a great man. He was a man of ponderous brain, and had probably a greater fund of intelligence than any man had possessed since the days of John Quincy Adams. But he had always been a peculiarly erratic gentleman. He had adopted, in the course of his life, every "ism"—had been a leveller, an agrarian, a disciple of Fourier, and finally after having fought democracy and its principles for thirty years, in the hope of getting at the public crib, he joined those whom he had so long vilified. But he had come out on the same side as he started in, like the old sow Mr. Lincoln used to tell about. It was so with Mr. Greeley—he had tried to get at Uncle Sam's corn crib, but he had come out on the same side, and with a dissatisfied grunt he had promised never to try again.

The next speaker was Hon. James B. McKean, the

Chief Justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our presiding officer, this evening, referred in beautiful terms to the beautiful banner that is festooned over his chair. There is a little item of history connected with that banner, and which connects it with Saratoga, my former home, which is not generally known to the world. I will refer to it by saying, what is generally known, that the thirteen colonies, when they first united, did so, not for the purpose of gaining their independence, but for the purpose of securing a redress of their wrongs. They adopted a banner composed of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; but the field of that banner was the British Union Jack. That banner indicated union among the colonies at home, and devotion, fidelity and loyalty to the mother government across the ocean. That was the banner under which a number of the first battles of our Revolution were fought.

Events swept on so rapidly that the war, which they had hoped to avoid, came upon them, and the affairs at Concord and Lexington, and the battle of Bunker Hill were all fought under that banner, with the thirteen stripes and the British Union Jack for a field. That was before the declaration of independence, and for almost a year after the declaration of independence the colonial union banner was the banner borne in our battles. But in June 1777, almost a year after the declaration of independence, the Continental Congress decreed a new banner, or a banner partly new; and that decree required that the national banner should be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with a blue field and thirteen argent stars arranged in a circle. (Applause.) But though that banner was decreed in June 1777, yet the great battle at Saratoga was fought under the other banner—the Colonial banner. I say the battle, we speak of the battle of Saratoga. I lived near that battle field, and have wandered over it many times. We say the "Battle of Saratoga," but there were two of them. The first was fought on Bemis Heights, in the town of Stillwater, in the county of Saratoga, in September 1777. There the lordly Burgoyne was worsted and he retreated ten or twelve miles. Nearly a month later, in the month of October, another battle was fought there, in the town as well as county of Saratoga, under the colonial banner—the thirteen stripes with the British union jack, when Sir John Burgoyne, humiliated, defeated and captured, marched out and surrendered. Then, for the first time on any battle field, was thrown to the breeze the new banner—the "stars and stripes." (Applause.) The stripes still remain the same in number, but the stars have increased so rapidly that the circle is now a constellation. (Applause.)

From that time, in October 1777, that was the banner under which the battles of the Revolution were fought, and it was carried in darkness and in light, in defeat and in victory, until finally at Yorktown, held aloft by the illustrious Washington, it saw the last defeat of our formidable foe, and we were free. (Applause.)

Then when the new government was organized the people chose for their first president a man who was a soldier, and they choose him because he was a

soldier. During the four years of his term he proved himself to be a statesman as well, and they chose him again because he was a statesman. (Applause.) Time rolled on and another war came upon us, and on Lake Champlain and Lake Erie, along the Canada line, out on the high seas, and on many a battle field this banner sometimes saw victory, and sometimes saw defeat, but at last, held aloft by the strong right arm of "Old Hickory" at New Orleans, it was victorious over our former foe. Then, after the close of that war, the American people chose for their president a soldier, because he was a soldier, and during the four years of his administration he proved himself to be a statesman, and then they chose him again because he was a statesman.

Time rolled on and our country increased in population, wealth, enterprise and intelligence; and at length another great war came upon us, in comparison with which all the wars in which we had ever been engaged were but mere skirmishes. And that banner, borne aloft in the east and in the west, sometimes saw defeat and sometimes saw victory, but at last the strong right arm of a staunch, firm, calm, large-brained, little man held it aloft above the murky clouds of war, at Appomattox, and peace came again upon the land. Then the American people chose for their president a soldier, because he was a soldier (applause); and during the four years of his administration he proved himself to be a peerless statesman, and just now they have chosen him president again, because he is a statesman. (Applause.)

Washington the Federalist, Jackson the Democrat, Grant the Republican, (applause), peerless soldiers and peerless statesmen, illustrious trio! Each one wears over the brilliant regalia of the soldier the graceful toga of the statesman and civilian; each one great in war, great in peace! Let the world no longer say that republics are ungrateful. (Great applause.)

The next speaker was

Mr. A. S. Gould.

He did not expect to speak, but being a soldier in the good cause, he was never so poor or so reluctant that he could not speak a word in its defense. He had recently returned from the East, the great political battlefield, where had taken place the greatest campaign probably ever witnessed in the American republic. He felt very grateful to the Almighty for the privilege of addressing them in favor of the great and good man who had just been elected President, for his victory was the victory of freedom, and was a cause of congratulation not only to the people of the United States, but to all freemen dwelling on top of God's footstool. It had not been a contest of men, but of principle, and the result was indicative of the rapid increase of virtue and intelligence among the American people, for it proved that no few men or politicians, but principle only, could rule this country.

The chair then introduced JUDGE CAREY of Illinois who read a speech, in which he related an anecdote of Gen. Taylor and Mr. Webster, applying it to Sumner, Trumbull and Schurz. Said the speaker, of the three latter gentlemen and Mr. Webster, like him they have been taught by 700,000 majority of the freemen of the United States that, whether the malcontents modify their opinions or not, the people have confidence in the modest, straight-forward, honest man who first turned the tide of battle in favor of the Union, who led the armies of the Republic on to a final victory, and whose administration for the past four years has been one of the most successful in the history of the republic. Twelve years ago 4,000,000 of slaves were toiling in this free America, having no rights, according to the highest legal authority in the land, which white men were bound to respect, freedom of speech and freedom of the press were prohibited rights in nearly half of the States of the Union. But all this is changed; the four million slaves have become four million of freemen.

No party has outlived its usefulness so long as it recognizes the great questions of the hour, and shows its willingness and ability to meet them and direct new issues in the way that shall be most beneficial to the country as they arise; and this I believe the republican party has done.

The audience was next favored with a short and somewhat humorous speech by

Judge Tooley.

He by way of commencement informed the audience that if President