

DESERET NEWS:
WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - - Nov. 25, 1874.

GRANTISM.

THERE are newspapers and public characters not a few who take the position that a large part of the responsibility for the republican disasters at the recent elections rests upon President Grant, or that those disasters were largely due to what is termed "Grantism," which is held to include third-termism and the policy, which has made such prodigious strides under the regime of Grant and the republican party, of federal centralization, and the interference of the federal power with the internal concerns of the various States, to which many people believe the present discordant and miserable situation of the Southern States, as well as the depressed condition of all the States during the present year, a prolonged depression which has beggared thousands of citizens and soured the minds of a large proportion of the people at large towards the administration, the present Congress, and the republican leaders and party generally, is due.

President Grant himself, according to the newspapers, disclaims all responsibility for the causes of the change in the public mind. He assumes perfect innocence, and throws the blame upon Congress and the party. There is nothing very magnanimous in this. It is certainly not so self-denying, not so generous, as the action of the Liverpool woman who to save her husband from blame and punishment asserted that she had bitten her own nose off. Of course this was a physical impossibility, but men morally, according to the proverb, can accomplish that extraordinary and foolish feat.

Whether or not Grant is blamable for the republican defeats is not our particular business to determine. It must be left to the public. This thing may be surmised—judging from late developments, the public verdict may not be altogether so flattering to the self-love of the President as his own opinion is reported to be.

Whether or not any of the responsibility for the late issue, upon all the counts mentioned, can be fairly laid upon President Grant, is a matter of discussion, but there is one point to which he will be held, and from which he cannot possibly get away, and that is, he was the first, of the whole line of eighteen presidents of the United States, who coolly and deliberately, or in any way whatever, signed his name to a bill doubling his own salary at the expense of the people, who were already heavily tax-ridden and groaning under the burden of a public debt, grievous to be borne, and exceeding two thousand millions of dollars, which was heaped up in between four and five years by the party now in power, and whom the President represents.

Here was poor Lincoln, who literally gave his life to the Union. He was President when greenbacks were worth about two-fifths of their face in gold, yet he received his yearly salary of only \$25,000, while Grant, when greenbacks had approached par, readily appended his sign-manual to what is vulgarly known as the back-pay and salary-grab bill, giving the President not one \$25,000 a year only but two \$25,000. Whatever the President may think of this act of his, posterity will be very likely to discuss it as a not very powerful evidence of disinterestedness or unselfish desire for the public weal.

JURIES AND LAW.

A RULE of law is that petit juries must not pay any attention to any evidence not lawfully before them, and it is commonly understood that they must not go beyond the evidence, and inquire into the law, as that is held to be the exclusive province of the court. Says an au-

thority, "In civil cases, no one has ever doubted this; that is, no one has ever doubted that in civil cases it was the duty of the court to state the law to the jury, and the duty of the jury to receive and obey the law thus given to them. But of late, a question has arisen in regard to criminal trials, which has assumed, at least in many of the United States, an aspect of much importance. There are those who insist that in all criminal cases the juries shall be judges of the law as well as of the fact."

Some years ago a law was enacted by the legislature of Massachusetts, which was intended to give positive effect to this claim. It may be also stated that the verdicts of many juries in various States and Territories, in important criminal cases, would lead one to the conclusion that they have acted upon this broader theory of the scope of their duties.

THIRD TERM.

THE third term business seems to be considered entirely "knocked in the head." President Grant himself is reported to have regarded the agitation on that question as a very good joke, to have laughed at it as the best joke of the season. The New York Tribune, however, does not consider the President's levity in good taste, but says, "We cannot imagine his supporters joining in his hilarity. It was no joke to them."

The President is reported to have spoken freely about the third term since the elections, in contrast with his previous and characteristic reticence upon the subject. But notwithstanding his virtual jocular disclaimer, many people are still firmly convinced that he would have no insuperable objections to a third term, no serious objection if any at all, or, in political phraseology, he would "leave himself in the hands of his friends."

This, however, it is now generally conceded, he will never have the opportunity to do again, for now that the elections are over, the general belief seems to be that he has fairly passed the summit of his popularity, and is travelling the declivity leading to the humble level on which common citizens stand, and which his friend, the "Christian" Colfax, reached some time ago.

Vice-President Wilson, in contradistinction to the President, is reported to entertain the conviction that the third term agitation had much to do with the recent republican reverses at the polls, the bulk of the more thoughtful portion of the public being opposed to a third term, from tradition and on principle, as an unprecedented and perilous experiment, at the best.

The Vice-President himself is said to have expressed his most emphatic disapprobation of a third term, and that he would oppose with all his strength the election of any man to a third term, though he were the best man who ever lived in the country. He believes the third term idea originated with those who were in power, and who wished to perpetuate their power. He considers that the elections have settled the third term business for the next hundred years.

But, notwithstanding all this, the Vice-President would consent to a third term as a last resort, and in one contingency—the face of a peril to the country so great and threatening as to cause him to be willing, in order to avert that peril, to advocate a plain and direct violation of the constitution, a violation that should not be denied nor justified, but acknowledged and condoned.

Thus, according to report, both the President and the Vice-President, notwithstanding the adverse sentiments of the latter, could accept a third term in certain contingencies—the President, when he found it convenient to "leave himself in the hands of his friends;" and the Vice-President, when he believed the safety of the country required it, or required a plain violation of the constitution, to be acknowledged and afterwards condoned. The Vice-President, therefore, evidently considers a third term a violation of the political traditions, precedents, and principles of the American people tanta-

mount to a plain violation of the constitution, and the former only to be accepted when the latter might be, and then acknowledgedly as a necessary evil, the necessity to be seriously regretted. Holding these views, he may well rejoice that the disturbing question is settled for the next century. But these indications of the views of the two persons of the most exalted authority in the Union, under certain circumstances, showed that a third term reality was a possibility with them, and perhaps with the President more than a possibility, a decided probability. Therefore the people whose votes were affected by the third term talk will consider themselves justified in having let that talk influence their action at the polls as, it is held by many, it did.

But about this violation of the Constitution in a certain extreme contingency. This idea is apt to be a very delusive one. If it be allowed to have weight, even as an exception to an otherwise rigid rule, there is more or less danger in it. Such an allowed motive for extraordinary action would not be a healthy precedent, and it would be a precedent that would be seized upon and quoted as authority, and relied upon for justification by lesser authorities, as well as by the chief in the Union. Many of the Republicans have the idea that they are the salt of the Union, and that it would certainly go rapidly to decay if the insignia of power were in other hands than theirs. This of course will be acknowledged to be a most absurd idea when one recollects that the republic existed for nearly three-quarters of a century before the Republicans came into power, that the best days of the Union were previous to the advent of the Republicans to power, that previous to their accession to power there was no public debt and the taxes were light, that as soon as they came into power the Union split into two parts, that the split has never been thoroughly repaired and the two parts have never become thoroughly united again as they were before, and that the country now is in a worse condition than ever before since the formation of the Union. Perhaps the Union never would have been split, if the republican party, or a similar party, had not come to hold the supreme power.

As to the precedent of violating the Constitution, to save the country being used by lesser authorities and to subserve their own ends, we need only refer to Utah and the policy and course of action of certain Federal officials here, appointed to office under the regime of Grant and the republican party. We need not recapitulate nor refer to details, as everybody knows too well the readiness of some of those officials to violate the constitution and to administer unconstitutionally and illegally for the accomplishment of their own partisan purposes. The constitution, and the laws made pursuant thereto, are the supreme law of the land. Let them so remain. Then the country will be safe enough. At least, it will need neither Grant, third term, the republican party, nor any other party, nor any violation of the constitution, to save it. Some characters are a little too eager to save the country. The ark of the republic will do very well if it is let alone. The danger is in so much meddling. So many officious people are so very eager to help themselves by steady-ing the ark, that they would think nothing of violating the constitution if they could thereby be excused for putting their hands on the ark. Neither is it any great feat of statesmanship for a party to create a national difficulty, or be largely instrumental therein, then, at an enormous expense of life and property, to half settle the difficulty, and then for the party to call itself the savior of the Union. It is better statesmanship to keep the country in such a condition that it needs no saving, and never will need any. That is true statesmanship. Does the republican party show statesmanship of that genuine kind?

WHAT CONGRESS MAY DO.

PRESIDENT GRANT thinks that the republican party can recover its lost position in the esteem of the people at large by a judicious course during the three months of the ensuing session by Congress. Vice-President Wilson does not,

like Grant, think the whole blame of the republican disasters should be laid upon Congress, but thinks that if Congress and the republican party will put their best men foremost and act in a prudent and statesmanlike manner, during the coming Winter especially, 1876 will prove favorable to the party, and its lost good name be in large part recovered.

Senator Cameron is afraid Congress may, the coming session, commit worse errors than ever before.

Whatever shall prove to be the fact, for the present the proverb comes to the recollection, that, "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad," and everybody knows that there are in Utah men who would urge Congress to the maddest kind of legislation if they could, and they will probably try to do so this approaching winter, as they have done in many winters past.

STUBBORN AS EVER.

MRS. GRANT, the mistress of the White House in Washington, is credited with declaring that her husband is "a stubborn man." She certainly ought to know. The Sacramento Union seems to think that Mrs. G. spoke the truth when she rendered the above verdict, if she really did so. That paper, recounting the reported interviews of the Virginia guerilla, Mosby and Senator Morrill of Vermont with the President, concerning the republican defeat, the refusal of the latter to recognize that the third term "had anything to do with it," and his reputed expressed opinion that the "third term was only a newspaper sensation," and amounted to nothing, concludes that the President is still a candidate for the third term, that he still wants and hopes for it, and is getting to be incorrigible, absolutely beyond redemption in that particular. Says the Union, "Surely, if these reports be true, this is the most intractable and stubborn man who ever took a hand in the politics of any country not absolute in its form of government."

"ILLEGAL VOTING."

THE crusade judicial appears just now to be directed against what is termed "illegal voting," that is, the voting by persons who have received their naturalization certificates from the Probate Courts of this Territory. A number of persons, it appears, have been accustomed to vote upon the strength of these papers, having believed, and many of them still believing, that they are valid, although some of the papers have been thrown out by the Judge of this district, with fines and costs imposed upon the holders and voters.

Of course a judge can do about as he pleases in his own court, though there are resulting consequences which he cannot altogether control. It may be that the Judge honestly entertains the idea that the certificates issued by the Probate Courts are not valid in any wise, and again it may be that this rejection of those certificates by him is a part of the settled programme in his some-time ago announced view of the situation judicial as really a war upon "Mormon" theocracy. Be this as it may, it is rather curious that these fines for "illegal voting" should be laid upon those who are or have been "Mormons," as the most of the time during which the Probate Courts issued naturalization papers there were very few people in Utah except "Mormons," compared even with what there are now, and consequently "Mormons" almost if not quite exclusively they were who obtained these certificates. The judicial rejection, therefore, of these certificates would naturally tend to lessen the vote of the people at large, and correspondingly reduce the disparity between their vote and that of the minority, to which the court is closely allied by partisan ties. We do not say that this is the object in rejecting these naturalization papers, but it can hardly be called a "violent

presumption" to suppose that such a motive had its influence in these prosecutions for "illegal voting."

There are two reasons, at least, why the presumption can not be called violent—one is, that the naturalization catechism of the court was evidently expressly prepared and put into use to reduce the "Mormon" vote, or keep it at as low a figure as possible, by refusing the naturalization of all "Mormons" unless they would deny some of the distinctive principles of their religion; and the other is, that of all the hundreds of votes illegally cast by the partisans of the minority party to which the court is allied, we have heard of no cases in which the persons who voted illegally are being brought to justice and properly punished therefor. The question has been asked, but not answered, to our knowledge, whether the Judge himself, and several other federal officers, were not guilty of illegal voting at the last election. A little light upon that subject would not be amiss just now. Or shall we wait until impeachment times are fully come?

Local and Other Matters.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, NOV. 20.

Infinitesimal Damages.—Yesterday, in the case of Overton vs. Woodman, the jury found a verdict for plaintiff, and awarded a homeopathic dose of damages, being to the amount of one cent.

Unlicensed Dancing Resort.—A couple of men who keep a kind of dancing establishment on First South street were fined in the police court to-day, for running the concern without licence.

Look Out for Them.—A quantity of counterfeit five-dollar bills have been put in circulation hereabout lately. Several of them have been presented at the banks and thrown out. A hint to the wise is sufficient.

Simpson Murder Case.—The examination of "Jack" Smith, accused of the murder of Thomas Simpson, was commenced before Justice Pyper this afternoon. Two of the witnesses at Evanston, who had been subpoenaed by deputy sheriff Florida, have not yet appeared.

Deer.—The late spell of wintry weather has driven the deer out of their mountain fastnesses into the foot hills and valleys, and the adventurous Nimrods may be seen daily sallying forth in quest of the antlered game, and not unfrequently they are rewarded with a few haunches of venison. This is more particularly the case south of here, especially about Springville and regions adjacent.

Street Railroad Extension.—Tracklaying on the South Temple Street extension of the street railroad has had to cease on account of the stock of iron on hand being exhausted. It will be resumed again, however, in a short time, another supply having been sent for from the East ten days ago. Meanwhile the work of grading will continue until the 20th Ward store corner is reached. The construction work is being done in a most credible manner, under the immediate direction of Superintendent O. P. Arnold.

Severe Accident.—We regret to hear of the occurrence of a very bad accident to Mr. John Hill, of Hill's farm, a short distance south of this City. We understand he was thrown out of his wagon, day before yesterday, and was severely crushed between the wheels of it and another one which was travelling in the opposite direction at the time, and collided with it.

It appears that Mr. Hill's body does not bear any remarkable outward appearances of having been badly hurt, his injuries being almost entirely internal.

Painting.—Mr. Alfred Lambourne, a young artist of this City, lately returned from a trip to the East, where he has been studying his adopted profession, of which he is an enthusiastic devotee. While absent he took quite a number of sketches, principally of scenery on the Mississippi. During the latter part of his stay in the East he was attacked with a fever, which made matters rather unpleasant for him a portion of the time. Alfred is industrious and progressive, and will be likely to make his mark as own artist.

Pleasant Gathering.—The members of the 20th Ward Institute had