

## THE "CRUTCHY" CLUB.

"Let the Galled Jade Wince, our Withers are Unrung."

The following anonymous letter was received at the LEDGER office yesterday:

AGENTS FOR THE NAT. STEAMSHIP LINE,  
MEMPHIS, TENN., July 20, 1876.

In conversation with a very decent white Radical yesterday he mentioned the names of two prominent business men in this city who had changed from Tilden and Hendricks to Hayes and Wheeler, and gave as their reasons that the LEDGER had too much of "Crutchy" in it to suit their stomachs. Of course we look upon such an excuse as a mere subterfuge; but don't you think the LEDGER does get off too many squibs on the wretch? Think of it.

Your friends, TWO DEMOCRATS.

The above is an unique and adroit political document resembling the bird known as the ostrich, which when pursued by hunters sticks its head in the sand and foolishly forgets that the more prominent parts of its body remain exposed.

"Two Democrats" heard one decent white Radical say that two prominent business men (Democrats professedly), because the LEDGER connected the Radical party with the infamous wretch, "Crutchy" Thompson (Washburne's Congressional investigating committee witness on the Memphis riots), that they intend to vote for Hayes and Wheeler. The testimony of a decent or indecent Radical as to the matter is but poor evidence of the fact alleged; but should it be true, it will only result in polling two more votes in Tennessee for the Radical party against the fifty thousand majority which the State will give to Tilden and Hendricks. The Radicals used the "Crutchy" business in 1866 as a campaign argument all over the North, and no wonder it feels sore at having to repudiate one of its most ardent admirers and supporters. The name will stick to the Rads during the campaign of 1876 like the fabled shirt of Nessus. The closing paragraph of the letter is adroitly written and displays the cloven foot of Radicalism: "But don't you think the LEDGER does get off too many little squibs on the wretch?" We do not. Not half so many squibs have been published as will be gotten off on the "Crutchy" club during the progress of the contest. We expect to publish the testimony of Radicals (now members of the Hayes and Wheeler club), as given during that infamous investigation, occasionally during the summer months. It will furnish lively reading, at least to those implicated with the Madam Frances, fortune-teller, who claimed to be a Union woman and a female Radical who was outraged by the Democratic party in 1866. The "two business men" must be twins, *Arcades ambo*, who are suffering from "Crutchyism" or Radicalism just as are the Northern Republicans over the exposure of the monster in this city, as appears from the following, culled from the Cincinnati Enquirer, of late date:

It will be remembered that a few years ago a Congressional Committee sent to Memphis, Tennessee, to investigate the riots that had occurred in that place. The attracted national attention, else, of course, no Congressional Committee would have been sent to investigate them. It was necessary to fire the Northern heart. The most harrowing tale elicited in this national investigation was that of a melancholy, aged colored woman, Mrs. or Miss Thompson. She told the Congressional Committee that she was a respectable lady of color, and that in the madness and lawlessness of that unhappy time—the testimony was given in 1867—she was ruthlessly ravished eighteen times by Democrats. It was a pitiful tale, and it went the customary rounds. The Congressional Committee reported the horrible story among others; the Republican newspapers took it up and scattered it abroad with alacrity. It was clearly shown in 1866 that the Democratic party was unfit to be intrusted with power because Miss or Mrs. Thompson had been devilishly dowered by unprincipled, lascivious Democrats, and because the Democratic party was that kind of a party and was in the habit of doing such things. It was clearly shown that the Democratic party was lawless, and that it should be kept out of place, and chiefly, or largely, because Mrs. or Miss Thompson had been ravished eighteen times in a heart-rending manner by the Democratic party. This was a tale as well accredited as any that were circulated at that time, or at any other, concerning Democratic violence in the South. It did excellent service. It might have been used in this canvass but for a little disclosure. Mrs. or Miss Thompson had dwelt in Memphis twenty-seven years. She had not moved in the highest circles, but some of the "highest circles" had moved in her house, which was a house of assignation. No witness could have apparently been more valuable than Miss or Mrs. Thompson in 1867. But it turned out on the 11th day of July, 1876, that Mrs. or Miss Thompson who had been ravished eighteen times by the Democratic party was a Mr. Francis Thompson, an examination by competent medical practitioners leaving no doubt upon that point. Four physicians, one of them recently from Cincinnati, conducted the exploration, and were unanimously of the opinion that this injured woman who had been so foully and numerously outraged by the Democratic party years ago was indisputably a man, a big, black man. In 1868 it was deemed necessary to summon more troops to the South to protect such innocent women as Mrs. Thompson from the Democratic party. Possibly, since it is discovered that she is a man, it will be necessary to find another pretext for sending the army down South. If the next pretext isn't built upon a more honest groundwork than that in the case of Mrs. or Miss Thompson, Tilden's prospects are not hazy.