

THE MEMPHIS APPEAL

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THE DAILY APPEAL

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MEMPHIS APPEAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 18, 1870

AN editor who fearlessly discharges his duty as a faithful sentinel upon the watch-tower, is often brought in collision with valued friends. But if he be true to himself, his party and the public good, he must not, he will not, permit personal considerations to bias his judgment, to seal his lips, or to guide his pen. On the present occasion we are called upon to perform a duty, or to yield to the wooing of friendship. We prefer the former. Treadwell S. Ayres has announced himself as a candidate for the First Chancery Court Judgeship. No one questions his competency for the position to which he aspires. He is an old citizen, esteemed for his high social qualities, and his character is above reproach. But now that he has turned his back upon his old friends, and struck hands with Hudson and his own confederates in apostasy, he must expect to be treated as a traitor to his party. We understand that Mr. Ayres relies upon the foreign vote to elect him! After reading the exposure we are about to make, the foreigners of Memphis will turn up their proud lips in scorn at the insult which the charge of supporting such a man naturally inspires. The people of Memphis, remember, with sad and vivid distinctness, the riots of 1866. They originated in Irishmen being shot down like dogs, while at their post, in the faithful discharge of their duty. A partisan committee was sent from Washington for the purpose of investigating these riots. Hudson and Lewis, and the whole gang of Radicals, took sides with the guilty negroes, and labored to cast the blame upon the provoked foreigners. Rev. Tade Shaw, Rebecca Ann Bloom, Lucy Ann Tibbs, Barbour Lewis, Frances Thompson, and many others of the same sort, appeared before the Investigating Committee, and while they were rivaling each other as to who could compress the greater amount of falsehood in the smallest space, T. S. Ayres rushed upon the stand, which was reeking with perjury, and swore as follows:

470. Did you see the crowds passing through the streets? Occasionally, as they would move up town, I saw the character of the men that seemed to be the most violent and excited; I did not know them personally, I do not think I saw a single man I knew; they were mostly Irishmen.

471. Of what nationality are the policemen? UNFORTUNATELY FOR US, GENTLEMEN, WE ARE UNDER A SORT OF IRISH RULE; I BELIEVE THEY ARE IRISHMEN, AND NOT VERY REPUTABLE.

472. I will ask you whether, under the operation of the franchise law of the State of Tennessee, the election, and the control of the election, of city officers has not been taken almost entirely out of the hands of the better class of society and placed in the hands of the lower orders? THAT IS TRUE; THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT. OF THESE WHO HAVE BEEN WILLING TO TAKE THE REQUIRED OATH, AND CONFORM TO THE LAW IN THAT RESPECT, NINE OUT OF TEN ARE OF THAT LOW CLASS—MOSTLY GERMAN AND IRISH; there are but very few of the old citizens of Memphis who are qualified voters under the franchise law.

473. What proportion of the citizens of Memphis over twenty-one years of age do you think had the right under that law to vote in your last election of city officers? I do not remember distinctly the number of votes polled, but I think I would not be mistaken in saying that not more than one out of three or four had the right to vote under that law. The registry shows, I believe, some 2500 to 3000 voters altogether, but, according to our present population, we would be entitled to some 7000 or 8000 voters—perhaps more; it is said we have a population of 60,000.

474. Are you a qualified voter under the franchise law? I got a certificate, but did not vote.

475. That class which is excluded from the right of suffrage under the franchise law embraces within it a large portion of the more peaceable and orderly portion of the citizens of Memphis? I am satisfied it embraces much the larger portion of the persons who represent the property, and who feel an interest in the welfare of the city—the prominent business men of the town.

Irishmen! Germans! Italians! do you hear that? A vile slander, a more atrocious calumny was never uttered against your nationalities. Mr. Ayres tells the world that there were twenty-five hundred or three thousand voters in Memphis, and that "these are of that low class, mostly German and Irish." With a heaving sigh, and in lugubrious tones, he says: "Unfortunately for us, gentlemen, we are under a sort of Irish rule;" our policemen "are Irishmen, and not very respectable at that." Did he allude to poor Stephens, who was foully butchered in the discharge of his duty? Was the murdered Dunn a "low Irishman" because he was an honest fireman? We design publishing a list of the police force of 1866, and shall request Mr. Ayres to point out the individuals that he dubs "low Irishmen." It is not true, as Mr. Ayres said in his strange testimony before the Investigating Committee sent here to sustain the negro and to degrade the Irish that the ballot box was mostly in the hands of low foreigners. Many of our most respectable citizens were then enfranchised, and they voted with Ayres' "low German and Irish," against the Radicals and for the enfranchisement of the rich, aristocratic property-holder, "excluded from the right of suffrage." Three thousand voters in Memphis, and most of them "low Germans and Irish"! We shall leave to the foreigners the task of rebuking this insult. Mr. Ayres considers it "unfortunate" that Memphis should be under "Irish rule;" and the Irish will consider it equally as "unfortunate" for themselves and the community for Treadwell S. Ayres to be elected as Judge of the First Chancery Court; and they will march up to the polls and cast their votes for R. J. Morgan, who joins all true men in wishing that there had been thousands of other foreigners here to vote with their countrymen in crushing out Radicalism and in giving to dis-

franchised aristocracy the same rights which Ayres' three thousand scum and riff-raff were "unfortunately" enjoying. The "Irish and the Germans" may indeed be lowly. They may not own an "Ayres' Block," and probably dwell in hovels, drive drays and sweat over the spade; but they are still proud enough to resent insult and calumny; and they will march to the ballot-box on the 26th of May, and by their votes say to the world that if in 1866 the voting population of Memphis was composed of three thousand "low Germans and Irish," there are, in 1870, three thousand honest Germans and Irishmen, who will cast their ballots against the man who calls their countrymen "low" because they are guilty of the unpardonable crime of poverty.

As we do not like to call in question the statements of our cotemporaries, we must confess that there are three newspapers printed in Memphis, each of which has the "largest circulation." Of course it must be true that one has more subscribers than either of the others, and that either of the others has more than any one. At least, that is the way it looks to us—though, not being very good at ciphering, our footing up may be slightly inaccurate. But certain it is we are not inclined to get into a dilemma by disputing the statements of great men. It would be very bad taste for the APPEAL to deny that the great Madison street head and front and colossus of Democracy of the great State of Tennessee and the great county of Shelby and the great city of Memphis did not have the "largest circulation." That would be to undervalue the appreciative capacity of our people. And we don't see how much better we can call in question the luminary which shines opposite Broom's Varieties with such lustre as a Democratic leader, especially when we think how its chief was one of the founders of our late form of government, and one of the great men who established the Constitution of 1865, and how he has had an opportunity to learn by experience and by association with Tomeny, Hough, and other giants of ancient days, who still lived with him,

"To mould a mighty State's decrees,
And shape the whisper of the throne."

And, in relation to our larger neighbor, which startles even the Alpine snows, and makes one exclaim in answer:

"Phoebus! what a name!
To fill the future speaking trumpet of sound-
ing fame."

we are in the same strait betwixt three—one greater than the rest, and the rest greater than one—one and all with the "largest circulation." Such big bodies rarely pass common doors, and we suppose that is the reason why we are able to APPEAL to the people outside the houses and the newsstands as for the championship two to one. A year ago the great rusher tore on like the hurricanes and stood almost two to one; half a year ago he got out of breath, and came down to one to one; three months ago he tumbled to three to five, and now it is doubtful whether he gets up to one to three, though the fact is not to be doubted that he has "the largest circulation in West Tennessee." It is a sure sign of the "largest circulation" to see a newspaper put down its prices in order to get advertisements. It is a strange fact that the public is weak enough to go to papers of small circulation to advertise, so that it is always necessary that those which have the "largest circulation" should advertise at very low prices, or get nothing.

A BILL looking to the introduction of capital and labor into the State has been introduced by Mr. Walker into the House of Representatives of Tennessee and referred to the Committee on Immigration. The first section provides for an office at Nashville to be known as the "Immigration State Office," and the second section provides for an officer to fill the same, to serve two years at \$— salary. The third requires such officer to give his time to the collection of statistics for public use, to keep what relates to each county separately, and so that strangers can learn from his records the average value of lands in each, the acres cultivated, the character and value of products with their respective means of access to market, what railroad, turnpike and water facilities exist, what water power for machinery, the quantity and quality of timber, price of lumber and chances for market, the quality and quantity of stone for building and making lime, the material for glass, the marble and slate quarries, beds of copper, iron, coal and other facts, showing the resources of the State. Section fourth provides that this officer shall keep his office open at all hours from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m., and give freely both to citizens and strangers who may apply by letter or otherwise, such information as they may ask as to matters pertaining to his office. Section fifth, that he shall invite co-operation of all the counties through the county officers and others by printed circulars, setting forth the purposes and plans of his office, and invite co-operation of county associations. Section sixth, that such county associations as may co-operate herein and share the rateable proportion of expenses of the office, advertising, printing, etc., is to be entitled to all its benefits. The ratio of expenses for each county to be determined by the amount of unimproved lands; and the appropriations to be made by the immigration officer conjointly with three members of the Legislature.

By quoting the two first sentences of an article of the APPEAL, without the context which qualifies and explains our meaning, the par excellence Democratic penny paper on Jefferson street manages to make an article calculated to show that the APPEAL favors candidates who run independently of the Convention nominations. The article alluded to is emphatic in opposition to all independent candidates, and denies that any satisfactory reason why they should run or be supported can be furnished. We have a right to ask to be quoted and represented fairly or not at all.

SINCE Revels has occupied the seat of Jefferson Davis in the Senate, which Cameron did not predict, a shoddy exquisite correspondent of the Cincinnati Chronicle has discovered a lineal descendant of John C. Calhoun riding through the streets of Knoxville bare back astride of an ox! Alas! what are we coming to?

In the election for Judges of the Court of Appeals, which came off in New York yesterday, the Sun of the 13th (Republican) predicts defeat of the Republican party. The reason assigned by the Sun is that the Republican party "lacks both brains and integrity."