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PLATTSMOUTH, APRIL 14, 1888.

As compared with other years, the much advertised Iroquois banquet and supper given in the city of Chicago on last Friday evening by the democratic seekers for fame, was a flat failure. The most remarkable feature of the entertainment was the conspicuous absence of every prominent democrat in the country; especially was the absence of these national characters marked, after the extensive advertising the democratic managers and journals had given of this gathering of the clans, for the purpose of announcing to the rank and file of the faithful, the new revelations that were to be "the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night" to guide the democratic hosts through the Red Sea of doubt and the Great Desert of distrust, safe to the land of corn and wine—fat jobs and public plunder. Save and except the Hon. Thos. F. Bayard, of Delaware, they were all absent; although the country will remember how punctual these patriotic gentlemen, —those who are not too old — have been heretofore to attend these banquets, and commiserate the tolling millions of their oppressed and down-trodden fellow countrymen? True, it was honorously announced that "three hundred plates would be laid," and that all the democratic elect would be present, each with his little cut and dried "issue" under his arm, for the democratic matron to raise on the bottle; yet they came not nor any one for them.

Take the chevalier Bayard of Delaware from the gathering, and as a meeting of the leaders of the party it presented a sorry sight. The men of prominence and mark in the democratic party, who are to shape its policy, and guide the ship of party through the tempest of 1888, were not present; although the report was unquestionably spread for their entertainment. The heirs apparent of Indiana McDonald, Hendricks, and Voorhes, were at home; Pennsylvania's Hancock, Randall, and Pettison were not there; New York's sage of Gramermyer, her Cox, and Hewitt, and Kelley, and Cleveland and others were absent; even the Ohio man was not at the front; nor McClellan nor Hotelgranz. For sensible people who regard the United States as well governed, happy, prosperous country, there is something painfully idiotic in men of intellectual force and culture; claiming to be leaders and teachers of the people; gathering upon an occasion, such as this Iroquois banquet furnished, to say to the children of this day, that this country is deteriorating in its government, that the patriotism of the people is fast dying out, and that they—these silk stocking leaders—would lead them back to the days of the republican simplicity of Thomas Jefferson; when it was in order to "ride horseback (as some of those Iroquois heroes vauntingly called it), to the national capital, like Jefferson did," not on free passes, and in private palaces like these savans did when they attended this banquet in Chicago.

There is something absolutely humiliating to the citizen, who takes an honest pride in the greatness of his country, listening to the wine bibbling blatherskite (as happened at this banquet) tauntingly sneer at the chief executive of the nation. Because in addition to the registration navy colors upon the war vessel in which he recently made an excursion he caused to be unfurled the stars and stripes in their true and simple form. These gentlemen were honoring Jefferson, a patriot, statesman and politician, who in our infancy made a war upon the inherited customs of the mother country, which lingered with and clung to our forefathers during George Washington's presidential career; and who in doing so took extreme grounds upon many questions which experience has since taught, were not either tenable nor wise.

The HERALD has great respect for Thomas Jefferson and George Washington and Mr. Monroe and Adams and the men of their day, but at the same time the HERALD knows this nation has made wonderful advances in its practices and theory of government as well as in its letters, its morals and its arts since the days of Jefferson, and the HERALD believes its statesmen have kept pace with the growth of the country, and the spirit of the age, and that there is no occasion for the American people to feel either dependent upon our present and future; or to long for the days of ox carts and wooden plowshares.

JOSEPH BRADY, one of the individuals charged with the murder of Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke, was found guilty by the jury. After a very short consultation yesterday a motion for a new trial was immediately interposed, promptly overruled, and the prisoner sentenced to be hanged by the neck until dead, on the 14th day of May next.

We notice by the Chicago journals that our Sterling Morton was last upon the great left wing of the Iroquois programme for the guests. Mr. Morton has a fashion of getting left. However, it appears he goes in on this democratic clam bake so far as the invitations were concerned, and that he covered one of the three hundred plates.

SAMMY COX sent a short letter of regrets to the Iroquois committee on invitations to attend the late banquet in Chicago in honor of Thomas Jefferson, in which Sammy thinks Jonathan Edwards and Thomas Jefferson represented the opposites in American politics, and in which Sammy as a true Jeffersonian disciple declares for state rights. The trouble with Mr. Cox is, he confounds the states rights that Thomas Jefferson espoused and advocated with the states rights that Mr. Jefferson Davis and democratic statesmen like Sammy Cox and that class of men believe in. They are an entirely different kind of states rights.

The eloquent toaster, Col. Vilas, of Wisconsin, who made Bob Ingersoll look out for his laurels upon the occasion that Chicago banqueted and feted General Grant after his return from his journey around the world, in his reported speech at the Iroquois banquet said:

It matters not that this controversy shall divide present houses or break the bonds of past association. Such distresses must not be set in contrast with the welfare of a great nation.

This is the free traders threat at the old Democratic party, and is being made nowadays with great promptness by the free trade orator. Carter Harrison is reported as following Col. Vilas in just about as savage a plea against free trade vagaries.

MR. DRURY GRAVES' death was announced upon last evening. He was one of Plattsmouth's oldest citizens, coming to this place when it was a trading point with the Indians, near thirty years ago. He has been a good citizen during all these years, taking a lively interest in the growth and prosperity of our city. He was an old land mark, so to speak; a reminder of the other days that have given place to the enterprise, push and bustle of the present day and age in Plattsmouth. Gradually these old settlers are dropping out of our ranks, and very soon the pioneer of '54, '55 and '56 will be known no more in our midst. We should not forget these hardy men of early days, who made the early settlement and development of Nebraska a possibility.

Peace be to the ashes of our old fellow citizen and neighbor! His obituary appears elsewhere in this issue of the HERALD.

**THE DEED TO KNEVALS.**  
An instrument of dread import to a number of citizens of this county was entered in the county records here on Wednesday. It was a master's deed from Elmer S. Dandy, Jr., special master in chancery, to Sherman W. Knevals, and co.

The titles to 4,400 acres of lands justly belonging to citizens of this county by virtue of every claim of justice and right—by faithful compliance with the requirements imposed by the government in order to perfect their titles—have been taken away from them, as summarily as if the disposition were the results of a decree from a Russian czar instead of a decree from the district court of the United States. The decree of the court gave the settlers two months in which to make a deed to Knevals in default of which, a special master's deed was to be made, which, as detailed above, has been made and recorded.

The deed not only conveys the land but the buildings and improvements "thereunto appertaining or in anywise belonging."

The decree also provides for possession, and it is probable that the grantee may, at an early date, call to his aid the assistance of a United States marshal to eject the occupants and place himself in possession.

The decree also contains an order for execution to issue for costs, which probably be from \$50 to \$100 in each case, and it would not be an unexpected thing for a marshal, after the taking away by the court of their homes, to levy on their personal property to pay for such taking.

Nearly all of these cases are against actual residents, and their government patents are on record. Senator Van Wycke's land is not included in the deed.

From this time there is nothing to prevent the grantee demanding land-owners' rents.

Not the least of the many unpleasant results to be anticipated will be the demand from the occupants for the county to refund \$15,000 to \$20,000 taxes.

Now, then, these are the statements. There is but one thing to add to complete this tale of injustice—the actual dispossession of these occupants from the homes gained through toil, danger and deprivations, after an unquestioned possession of just thirteen years today, and everything has been done of a preliminary nature, that is necessary in order to dispossess. In view then of the imminent danger, is it not indeed time for our senators and representatives in congress to be almost moving heaven and earth for relief from a government recalcitrant to its solemn pledges, instead of writing to the people here not to feel any anxiety?

If there ever was a case which appealed to the stars and arms of the general government for relief, these Kneval land

cases present one. Just how this litigation was managed the HERALD knows not, yet certainly under the laws of this country they ought to have been an equitable defense for the citizen in these cases, that at least would have saved to him his improvements. A dastardly injustice has been perpetrated somehow in this matter upon the citizens of Thayer county which calls for a full investigation.

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