# **JUNE 1, 1893**

IL PALLA IN

# THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.

# GREAT LEGAL

## [Continued from Second Page.]

nosing that negligence does not constitute az impeachable offense. The prosecution sa an impeachable offense need not necessarily be a misclemeanor.

be a misdemeanor. No offense is impeachable unless it is in direct violation of a known law, and the act must be committed wilfully and knowingly. In the Andrew Johnson case his public speeches were not crimes and did not con-stitute offenses punisheble under the laws of the United States.

the United States. Will any man say the respondents are not fit to fill the offices to which they were elected? If so, so be it, but that is not the question put before this court. It is, have they committed any offense? Boutelle as prosecutor in the Johnson case put the proposition straight. He did not ask that the president be impeached from anything less than violation of law. Others of the prosecution in Johnson case were quoted, but not one of the defense were quoted. Impeachment is rarely brought in to remove officers because so few offenses are impeachable. As an eminent authority for the same reason that one does not use a steam hammer to crack nuts.

the same reason that one does not use a steam hammer to crack nuts. In regard to the writings of Judge Law-rence, Mr. Webster said the document was broadened and filed by Benjamin Butler in the Johnson case. The conclusion of the document was read by Mr. Webster to show document was read by Mr. Webster to show that there was an improper motive or intent. True crimes only constitute an impeach-able misdemeanor, but if there be a diversity of opinion or that point the defense stands on the broader principle that there must be improper motive. Judge Curtis and other eminent jurists hold that only indictable crimes constitute an impeachable misdecrimes co stitute an impeachable misde

# Webster's Peroration.

In the last ten minutes of his speech John L. Webster spoke as follows: The members of this court will remember

thein cident of George Washington at Valley Forge. This court will remember that while he lay there with his troops, without arms, without clothing and without food, there were men in the continental congress that were near in the continental congress that were ready to ask to have him removed for incompetency and neglect of duty. This court will remember that it is recorded historically that a committee was appointed to see whether he could not be removed from

to see whether he could not be removed from his responsible trust. To go further, when the time came when it was proposed in the congress to appropri-ate \$2,000 for a bust to the memory of Chief Justice Taney, great senators arose in their places and charged him with all sorts of henious offenses. Why, it was said in that case by Charles Summer that Taney would be handed down in the pages of history of an emancipated country, and time would fix upon his name the stigma he deserved; he had administered justice scandalously, had degraded the judiciary and disgraced the age. Senator Wilson denounced the Dred Scott decision as the greatest crime in the the age. Senator Wilson denounced the Dred Scott decision as the greatest crime in the judicial annals of the republic and declared it to be the abhorrence and scoff and jeer of the patriotic hearts of America. Senator Hale of New Hampshire in opposition said a monument to Taney would give a lie to all that has been said by the friends of justice, liberty and downtrodden humanity. Then the sterling Ben Wade of Ohio rose in his place and proclaimed that the people of his state would rather give \$2,000 to burn Chief Justice Taney in effigy than to erect a mon-ument to his memory. Then came the calm thinking judgment of the great Senator Reverdy Johnson who said to the great sen-ator of Massachusetta, 'you will be happy if your name will stand as high upon the historical page as that of the learned judge who is now no more.'

who is now no more.' Then came Lyman Trumbull, who said he

had added to the reputation of the judiciary of the United States throughout the world suppose he did make a wrong decision. No

suppose he had make a wrong decision. No one is infallible; he was a great, learned and able judge. Mark your honors, what Lyman Trumbull said came to be true. Nine years afterward Salmon Chase lay dead. He had been the chief justice of the United States; the time came to put a mon-ument to bis memory discident the redentals

that election these men user "Kine back to that election these men were re-elected to these offices. The people said, 'Notwith-standing all you preclaimed from your the-ter Mr. Results sufficient your the ater, Mr. Rewick; notwithstanding all the public press has said about these men; if there is any wrong about it we do not ha neve; if there 3 any wrong about it we con-done it. We endorse your conduct, and we put you back in these public places."

The question now comes to the court simply, is it not time to pause before the court shall undertake to remove them from that trust to which they have been elected. You have the power to remove, but you have not the power to re-elect. With one thought more I am done with

With one thought more I am done with my remarks. I can not quite close this dis-cussion without thinking just for a moment of the sore affliction to be given to these peo-ple if they should suffer under the ban of a conviction. It is not a simple punishment; it is not a simple removal from office that I speak about. That of itself may be unim-portant, but your honors should remember an-other thing, that in the history of a human life, there is little about it that is of value when you strip it of ambition. The child when you strip it of ambition. The child thinks of it when it is but able to walk. No pedagogue ever taught a common school but

he undertook to tell the smallest child. The pathway of fame is open to you in this great free country of ours.' Ambition has a wide scope; it is the great prompting machinery that stands back of man, that leads him forward to education, to power and to place; the incentive that makes him a man instead of a mere machine. When, by the judgment of the court, you stamp out the right to exercise the thought of fame, am-bition and hope, you blast the character just as much as Dante when standing at the gates of hell would have wiped out the last word printed by God on the face of man, 'Hope.' You might just as well bury him in the sea, which is described as the inex-orable night into which the criminal laws of our country cast its victims. As there are he undertook to tell the smallest child, 'The our country cast its victims. As there are birds in the clouds, so there are angels of distress. And to such sentiments do l appeal in behalf of these people, for justice and charity, nothing more and nothing less."

# THE PROSECUTION CLOSES.

#### G. M. Lambertson Particularly Harsh With the Defendants.

G. M. Lambertson opened the closing ar gument for the state at 3 o'clock. On behalf of the management appointed by the joint convention and on behalf of attorneys he thanked the court for the broad and liberal lines followed out.

lines followed out. It is a case of interest where the three co-ordinate branches of government are repre-sented, where the action of the executive is challenged by the legislative before the judicial branch. The whole legislature is here questioning the alleged misconduct of the respondents. It is well that the trial comes before the supreme court. It is said that this branch is far removed from the strife of politics. However, there is no doubt that behind the gown hearts are stirred by politi-cal feeling as well as elsewhere, but in view of the high standing of the court, their re-puted integrity and long public service, it would not be doubted that respondents would have a far trial have a fair trial.

Referring to the point made by Joseph R. Webster that no evidence was before the joint convention, Mr. Lambertson told of the letter written by respondents asking that articles of impeachment be adopted. The point raised was made to trick the court.

Results Ridiculed.

Results Ridiculed. The awful results of conviction portrayed by the defense were ridiculed, and the assor-tion made that the object was to remove from office and divest of political capacity. Mr. Lambertson submitted his brief on the subject of misdemeanor in office, citing au-thorities to show that misdemeanor did not mean a statutory offense, but any offense prejudicial to the state. Framers of the state constitution knew the meaning of this word, which is not only common in the com-mon law of England, but the common law of this country.

mon law of England, of this country. Edmunds was quoted by Mr. Lambertson to show that John L, Webster had picked out one sentence and based an argument on the thought thus culled out. This court, he said was not bound by any law or prece-

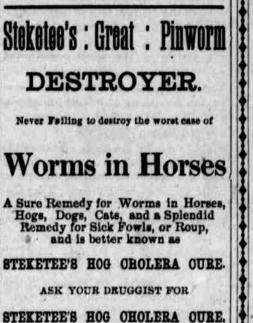
amperson that he did not know anything

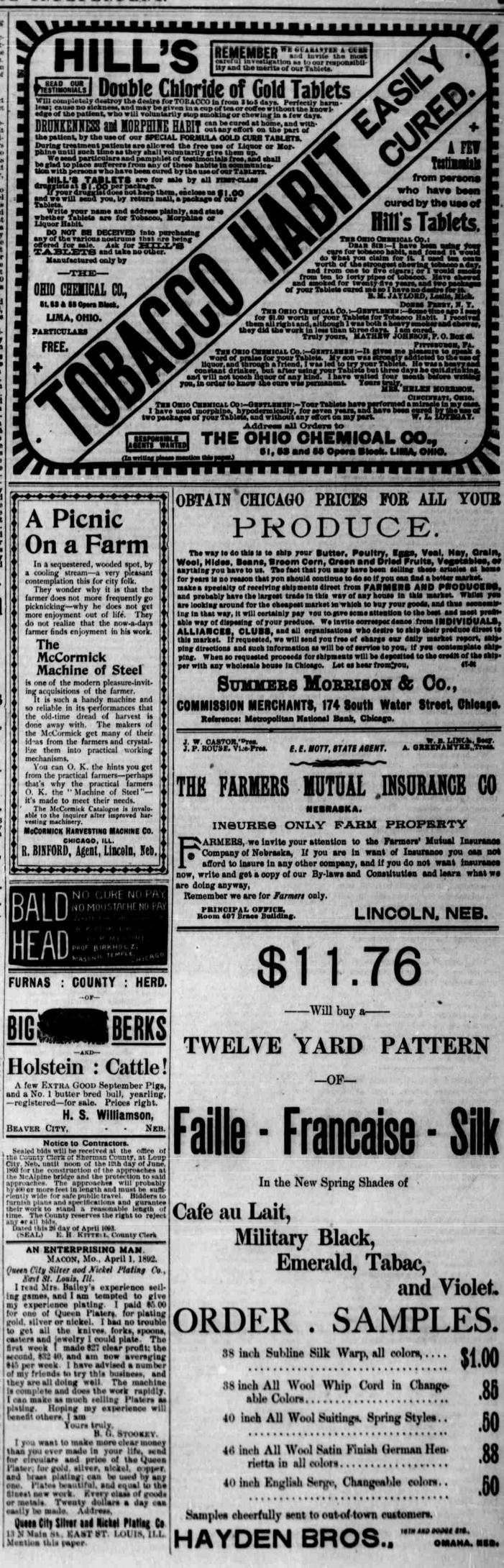
about architecture. The drawing of \$500 for a trip of inspec-tion on which the board visited cities and examined prison cells was not drawn for the purpose ascribed through Mr. Lambertson. He believed the board made that inspection a pretext for a trip to all the large cities of the northwest

### Corrupt Intent.

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cated by reelection was denied and in reply it was said they pulled through by the skin of their teeth, and moreover the charges were not fully or fairly discussed in the campaign. Everyone knew the republican party succeeded only by superhuman effort. "If they can get a nomination let them run again," said Mr. Lambertson. The evidence has been read at large and they need not think that the people are with them. The people have considered the evi-dence and condemned them. The court can approve that decision but it cannot uproot it. In closing Mr. Lambertson said if the court shall decide "that respondents were in all matters under consideration guiltless of intentional misconduct, that none of the charges under the evidence rise to the gravity of an official misde-meanor, that respondents be therefore re-stored to their offices, commended by the verdict of the court as good and faithful public servants, then will the court throughout the borders of the commonwealth pronounce for the first time as a tribunal of impeachment a judg-ment that will not only produce a profound sensation but one that will seriously impair the respect and veneration in which it is held and lessen that high sense of public duty in officers which is at once the safety and protection of the state."





it to his memory placed on the pe that decorate the supreme court room of the United States. Then the great concourse of senators, and all without a single dissenting vote, united their public sentiment that Chief Justice Taney was entitled to that monument. Time has revolutionized public sentiment. No matter if he did make a mis-

sentiment. No matter if he had rendered a wrong decision; all things considered, he was a great lawyer and a great judge. Come down a little later, and I will refer to but one more. Most people about this court room will remember that in the dark days of the reballion when Thomas was at days of the rebellion when Thomas was at Nashville, when he had been in camp about that city month after month, the country became impatient, the rebel hosts were gathered about and danger seemed imminent; even sturdy old General Grant became impatient. He had issued an order to General Logan to proceed to relieve General Thomas from command on the charge of inactivity and neglect of duty. General Logan proceeded as far as Cincinnatti. He felt Thomas was being wronged; he stopped there over night; he gathered information that General he gathered information that General Thomas was exerting every power be had to get ready to assail the enemy. He telegraphed back to Grant: "I am un-well; can I wait a day or two?" Grant answered: "Yes," Logan went to the hotel and went to bed to wait for Thomas to the mot ready for his movement. get ready for his movements. Low and be-hold, within two days Thomas had achieved that great victory which went thrilling through the hearts of the whole country and echoed through the mountains of Ten-nessee, and the southern confederacy be-came shattered into pieces. Time rights these wrongs; time demonstrates that people are mistaken. We have no right to fathom the mind or the knowledge or judgment of another. We have got to weigh the con-duct of our fellowman by a higher standard then thet than that.

I stand here drawing near a conclusion of what I have to say, pleading for these men, not because I think they have been guilty of any neglect of duty. I do not appeal for them upon the proposition that I think they have been guilty of any misconduct. But I am standing here urging this case upon the broad proposition that this court now for the first time in the history of the world has to establish by words which come from a judicial tribunal—not from a political senate—what it is that shall constitute an im-peachable midemeanor. It shall then go down in the future as a procedent to which all lawyers and judges that shall come after

us may refer. These people whom I represent have been elected to this trust after it became known to the people at large substantially all that has been said here.

I said during the course of the admission of evidence that I should undertake to show that their re-election to office after this pubhe disclosure acted, as it were, as a condona-tion of their wrongs if they had committed any, but as I watch the hands of that clock I am admonished that I have not the time to I am almonished that I have not the time to do it; but great men have spoken upon that question, and great men have expressed the opinion which I have expressed and if I had the time I should deliver it to the court now, but I forgo that. The fact, however, that is patent to the mind of every listoner is that it is considered a great honor when the people of the state after having lived for two years under the administration of a public officer, re-elect him for a second term to fill that office; it is considered as an endorsement that office; it is considered as an endorsement of his career and of his official conduct. Yet of his career and of his official conduct. Yet a witness who spoke upon this question isld that what he know on this question was preclaimed in the the-ator and published in the newspapers, two of which were admitted in evidence and I would refer to one of them. If it were not that when I come to look about I are the editor of the other, and I might create a riv-alry about which of them has the largest circulation dissigned the state. I will grant it to both, that both had told it to ev-erybody, everyhody had heard of it, republic eans, demograts and independents. But

Counsel for the defense had defied any one,

with assurance born of ignorance, to point out where a person had been impeached as a member of a body or board. An example was close at home in the case of Governor Butler who was impeached also as a member of a board of a board.

## Some Explanations.

The prosecution had labored under the dis-The prosecution had labored under the dis-advantage of being compelled to call wit-nesses who were close to respondents and taunts had come out about "witnesses for the state." W. H. Dorgan was called by the state, but instead of sitting by counsel and giving aid he was cheek by jowl with the de-fense, until he was advised for the good of his friends to leave, and he quietly disap-peared not to return again. peared not to return again. Mr. Lambertson continued to give some

excuses. He declared books were sent for, but the railroad company was not able to ind them, although he ventured to say if the board of transportation had ordered the books they would have been forthcoming. John T. Dorgan was called as a witness but was excused because he declined to testify as he might incriminate himself.

## Dorgan's Appointment.

The appointment of W. H. Dorgan as superintendent, when he was acting for the prison contractor, showed that the respond-ents were utterly unfit to hold their places. Dorgan sold convict labor to himself. As the agent of the state he bought from him. self or his superior, labor amounting to \$12,296. Yet respondents regret it not, but glory in the appointment.

Respondents say they did fear wrong in the keeping of time, but after an investiga-tion they found guards were the time keep-ers, under direction of the warden. Everyone knows that wardens in the past have been not only under the thumb of the prison contractor, but also under his pay.

contractor, but also under his pay. What else could the respondents have done if they had started out to filch from the state? They first appointed a man, whose interest it was to beat the state, and made no inquiry about his purchases. What

whose interest it was to beat the state, and made no inquiry about his purchases. What else could they have done to have stolen \$20,000 more than they did? The high humanitarian impulses which-were beating through their veins perhaps prompted them to take \$700 out of what was Dorgan's money. Why was not other superintendents favored with money in advance? What pull had he? Was it because Mosher stood be-hind and furnished the sinews of war in a political context shortly before? **Price of Stone.** As to the value of stone there ought not to

As to the value of stone there ought not to be any controversy. Dorgan paid thirty-five cents for stone which Zook sold for ten

conts. Taking up figures of witnesses for the de-fense Mr. Lambertson said Dorgan spent mearly \$50,000 for work when the two walls built when he resigned, according to their own witnesses, cost only \$10,500. It would be said, porhaps, that Dorgan had material on hand and had cut stone, but not very much of either would be found. Mr. Lambertson, however, said be did not

Mr. Lambertson, however, said he did not feel competent to discuss architect's figures, and he did not believe it was necessary. It and he did not believe it was necessary. It was noticed that the defense did not call Lincoln architects or a Lincoln man who knew anything about the stone. Lawyers, it is said, are first rothen, next green and then rips, but architects were different. They were first rothen and then never got-any further. Omaha architects are especi-ally that way.

## Bankers After Old Times.

"I wish," said Mr. Lambertson, "that the law was like it used to be in Sugland when a private citizen coust he impeached. I would like to put in a bill against some of

them." This was followed up by a speech ridicul-ing the minute details and descriptions of stone, turrets, towers and other parts of the building given by architects for the defense. This was closed with the statement he Me.

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