SOME POLITICAL REMINISCENCES.

In my boyhood and early manhood days there was no law against the sale of intoxicating liquors, by licensed barkeepers, on election day, and in the village of Creagerstown, where the polls of that district were held there were two barrooms, one of which was in the same building as the polling place and the other not over 150 feet therefrom. The consequence of this was that fights between individuals and rioting by masses of them were of common occurrence. No election day, in that village at least, ever passed during that period, when violence of that sort did not repeatedly occur. Catoctin Furnace, at which 100 hands were then employed, was located in the district and the men came to the village in a body to cast their ballots. Most of them drank freely on those occasions, and as the district was a very large one, covering not less than 80 square miles, there were many others who did likewise. Usually the personal encounters and the more serious rioting grew out of political quarrels. The furnace men were Whigs, and the antagonism between them and many of the Democrats in the district was violent when they were under the influence of liquor. There were bullies on both sides who fought desperate battles, fortunately confining themselves to nature's weapons, raining blows upon each other, without regard to the science of pugilism, and generally both combatants suffered severe punishment. When masses of the men joined issues of this character the struggle would sometimes become terrific. I have seen as many as two hundred pummeling each other indiscriminately, pushing, trampling over such as happened to fall in the melee and acting more like savages than civilized beings, except that they did not use deadly weapons. I never knew but one instance when anything but the fists were used in any of these outbreaks. In that case a furnace man cut his opponent in the neck with a knife. Strange as it may seem, as far as my knowledge goes, no arrests of the participants in single combat or of the more numerous rioters were ever made. An amusing incident connected with a riot occurred on one of these occasions. During the melee a professional gentleman, who had gotten rather the worse for liquor, circled around the outskirts of the crowd and, watching his opportunity, stuck his finger in the eye of a stalwart laborer who belonged to the opposing crowd. The eye was not seriously injured and the man was told who it was that had gouged his optic. He hunted him up and found him in a barroom. Without further ceremony, except to say, "You stuck your finger in my eye," he struck the gentleman a telling blow and felled him to the floor. Without attempting to rise the fallen man said: "Be Gad sir, you knocked me down." "Yes, I did," was the reply, "get up and I'll knock you down again."

"Then, Be Gad sir, I'll lie still," was the rejoinder.

Amused at this his assailant relented, agreed to desist from striking a further blow and a minute later they were standing at the bar together taking a bumper as a sign of peace between them.

A marvelous change in the conditions I have described was wrought by the passage of the law prohibiting the sale of liquor on election day. Those occasions soon became so quiet and peaceful that except for the presence of a few more people than usual the days passed as quietly in the village as any others. The law prohibiting the sale and giving away of liquor on these occasions is one of the most beneficent ever passed by the Legislature of Maryland.

As heretofore stated, the American ticket was successful in 1857 and I was elected Commissioner of the Land Office along with the candidates on the ticket for other State offices. I was re-elected without opposition in 1863 and held the office from January 1, 1858 till March, 1868, when I retired under the provisions of the Constitution, adopted in 1867. The eventful years of the Civil War occurred during that period, and as I had become closely associated with Governor Hicks and familiar with his purposes in relation to the efforts then made to drag the State into secession, I have written a story in that connection, which I have had published in book form, relating facts which came under my personal knowledge to prove the loyalty of the Governor and of a majority of the people of the State. For that reason incidents of interest bearing on that question, which then occurred, are omitted from these recollections.

I, however, had some other experiences which may not be devoid of interest. During my residence in Annapolis few conventions were held by the Unionists of Anne Arundel county, and of the State, also, to which I was not a delegate. Through my influence and efforts in the county nominating convention of 1861, Mr. George W. Nutwell, a country storekeeper in the Southern part of the county was made a candidate for the House of Delegates, and at the succeeding election had a detachment of Union soldiers at the polls in his district to terrorize and overawe voters with Southern sympathies. The county was carried by the Unionists by nearly 200 majority, of which Annapolis was credited with 163, so that federal interference in Mr. Nutwell's district did not secure that result. The polls of Mr. Nutwell's district were the only ones, and the election of 1861 the only time, where and when there was any interference in Anne Arundel county, whatever, by the military, with the free right of suffrage by Southern sympathizers, during the war. The county became Democratic at the next election and so remained. Mr. Nutwell, who was the only Unionist to invoke military interference in behalf of his own election, deserted the Union cause after the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln and became a bitter secessionist. His love for slavery was stronger that that for the Union. It has always been a pleasant reflection with me that I never, throughout the war, made any attempt to abridge the right of suffrage of any Southern sympathizer, nor caused the arrest of any man by the military authorities, but lived on terms of peace with my neighbors and fellow-citizens of the ancient city generally. In the early days of 1861 I did have violent quarrels with two gentlemen with whom I had been on friendly terms and was closely intimate with one of them. In both instances they were responsible for the trouble and one of them frankly acknowledged and apologized for his conduct. I had so soundly berated the other that mutual friends thought I owed him an apology. I thought otherwise and declined to make it. Our friendly relations however, were renewed and maintained as long as he lived.

The candidates for Congress in the Sixth (Southern Maryland) district in 1859 were Col. George W. Hughes, Democrat, and Alexander B. Hagner, Independent American. They arranged to engage in joint discussions which were to begin at Annapolis. The Annapolis agreement was the only one kept. It was held in the Court House and was marked by an occurrence that might have proved a tragedy, but ended in a result savoring something of comedy. Col. Hughes had been an officer in the Mexican war and a story became current that he had had the degrading punishment of whipping inflicted upon one of his soldiers. The venerable Dr. Dennis Claude, then State Treasurer, presided at the meeting held for discussion and occupied the judges seat on the bench. Col. Hughes sat at his right and Mr. Hagner at his left. The Col. had the closing speech and in it alluded to the soldier whipping charge against him and declared he had investigated the source of its origin, which he said he had traced to his opponent, whom he denounced as "a liar and a scoun——." He never ended the last word. Mr. Hagner, (with a quickness of perception for which he was noted,) realized that unless the insult was then and there resented he would be placed under the onus of challenging Col. Hughes to mortal combat, in violation of law, or bear the odium of cowardice, and sprang to his feet, reached over Dr. Claude and, grasping Col. Hughes by the throat, struck him half a dozen or more vigorous blows in the face. Hughes fell forward to the bench, unable to defend himself, several persons rushed up to prevent his further punishment and the meeting broke up in confusion. It was generally believed that Col. Hughes had acted upon the advice of some of his party friends in Annapolis, who desired to place Mr. Hagner in an embarrassing position, as if, had he chosen the other alternative of a challenge he would, under a constitutional provision, have been disfranchised. Instead, however, he gave the Colonel a colored hue around his optics, which eloquently told the story of his punishment and transferred the onus of challenging to deadly combat. The Congressional district was, at that time, heavily Democratic and Hughes was elected, but by a reduced majority.

The evening of election day Col. William A. Spencer, Clerk of the Court of Appeals, invited a number of gentlemen to his residence on Prince George's street (now Carvel Hall) and entertained them in the lavish manner for which he was well noted. Among the company were ex-U. S. Senator and former Governor Thos. G. Pratt; Oliver Miller, afterwards a Judge of the Court of Appeals; Mr. Hagner, since a Judge of one of the Courts in the District of Columbia, and others. During the evening betting on the result of the election throughout the State was proposed and Gov. Pratt challenged me to a wager on Frederick county, of which I had previously been a resident. I informed him that I did not bet and he immediately excused the challenge. Later on another member of the party bantered me to bet on some proposition, when the ex-Governor, turning to him, said almost fiercely: "Didn't you hear Mr. Seabrook say he does not bet? It is highly improper to question his sincerity by such a challenge. Knowing him you should know that he meant what he said."

Governor Pratt, himself, had no scruples on the subject and bet heavily at cards as well as on elections. It is said that he won $80,000 from the Russian Minister, Bodisco, at one sitting, but that on another occasion he was a loser to almost an equal extent. He was a courteous and affable gentleman, however, and only followed a practice which, in his day, was common among the most distinguished statesmen of the country. He won $100 from Mr. Hagner on some feature of the election in 1859. I was made the stakeholder, but felt self-condemned for conceding that much to the practice of betting. I felt, however, that to refuse would cause me to appear a censor of their action and so, I am sorry to say, did not have the moral courage to decline. I was on terms of close friendship with Mr. Hagner and it became my unpleasant duty to turn over his check to Mr. Pratt. Judge Hagner is still living in Washington, and is an octogenarian of several years standing. He and I are the only survivors of the company entertained by Col. Spencer on the occasion referred to.

In 1864 I was a delegate to the county, State and National Union Convention and have been for some years the only survivor of the 14 delegates who represented Maryland in the last named body. The State convention was held early in the winter and elected all 14 of the delegates to the National convention. No congressional district conventions were held, but those submitted by the delegates from the several districts were elected by the State convention, from which they received their credentials. As the renomination of President Taft, in 1912, was opposed by many Republicans so were many Unionists in Maryland, in 1864, opposed to the renomination of Mr. Lincoln, and for about the same reason. The moderation and kindness of heart of that great man, Mr. Lincoln, was not shared by men of radical temperament. It was feared that one or two of those named as delegates to the National convention would not be true to him if an opportunity to defeat his renomination should occur, and to obviate all danger of hostile action the State convention passed a brief resolution unanimously, instructing the delegation to vote for him, "first, last, and all the time."

The National convention was held in the old Front Street Theatre, Baltimore, in June, 1864, and was a practical unit for the renomination of Mr. Lincoln. The only opposition was from Missouri, which had contesting delegations, both of which were seated and the vote of the State divided between Mr. Lincoln and Gen. Grant. The convention was only in session one day. Rev. Dr. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, was temporary chairman and Gov. Dennison, of Ohio, the permanent presiding officer. Many distinguished men participated in its deliberations. Resolutions commending the administration of Mr. Lincoln, demanding the abolition of slavery, the prosecution of the war to its final triumph, and complimenting Gen. Grant and the armies under his command, &c., were adopted almost without discussion. It was understood that Mr. Lincoln desired the nomination of Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, as his running mate, but I had heard so much concerning his habits and his boorishness in the treatment of some of the women of Nashville, when he was acting Provisional Governor of Tennessee, that I could not bring myself to vote for him in the convention. I voted for Daniel S. Dickinson, a war Democrat, of New York. Mr. Isaac Nesbit, of Washington county, voted for Hannibal Hamlin, and the other fourteen votes from the State went to Mr. Johnson. His nomination and election I believe, was a national calamity and was particularly disastrous upon the people of the South.

(To be continued.)

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NOTICE OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF REGISTRATION AND REVISION THEREOF, IN CARROLL COUNTY, MD.

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Supervisors of Election of Carroll county, pursuant to and in accordance with the directions contained in Section 14 of Article 33 of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, that the Board of Registry for the several election districts and precincts of Carroll county, Md., will sit for the purpose of registering qualified voters and erasing the names of those disqualified, between the hours of 8 o'clock, a. m., and 7 o'clock p. m., on

Tuesday, September 30th, and on Tuesday, October 7th, 1913,

and for the purpose of revision only (on which day no names can be registered) on

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1913,

At the following places in the several precincts and districts, to-wit:

District No. 1, Precinct No. 1.—In Firemen's Building on Baltimore street, in Taneytown.

District No. 1, Precinct No. 2.—In Eckenrode's shop, on Church street, in Taneytown.

District No. 2, Precinct No. 1.—In the I. O. M. Building, in Uniontown.

District No. 2, Precinct No. 2.—In the residence of Luther O. Eckard, in Tyrone.

District No. 3.—At the Mystic Chain Hall, in Silver Run.

District No. 4, Precinct No. 1.—In the property occupied by Denton Leister, near Sandyville, known as the Babylon's Hotel, same as last year.

District No. 4, Precinct No. 2.—In the residence of Harry C. Shipley, in Bird Hill.

District No. 5.—In the building of Selby and Frizzell, in Eldersburg.

District No. 6, Precinct No. 1.—In the Firemen's Building, Manchester.

District No. 6, Precinct No. 2.—In the vacant room adjoining the residence of Miss Sarah C. Trump, in Manchester.

District No. 7, Precinct No. 1.—In James Boylan's Barber Shop, on Court street, in Westminster.

District No. 7, Precinct No. 2.—In the store room next to corner of Main and John streets, on West Main street, in Westminster.

District No. 7, Precinct No. 3.—In the office of Joseph L. Mathias, on East Main street, in Westminster.

District No. 7, Precinct No. 4.—At the Westminster Fertilizer Co. Building, near corner Green and Liberty streets, at the R. R. Bridge, in Westminster.

District No. 8.---At Firemen's Building, Hampstead.

District No. 9.---At the residence of Mrs. Malinda Smith, Taylorsville.

District No. 10.---At the Hotel of Mrs. Lynn, Middleburg.

District No. 11.---At Firemen's Hall, in New Windsor.

District No. 12.---At the Firemen's Building, Union Bridge.

District No. 13.---In storeroom of W. R. Rudy, opposite the First National Bank, in Mt. Airy.

District No. 14.---In the residence of Wm. F. Jordan, in Berrett.

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