

THE WAR IN ARKANSAS.

BOTH PARTIES RESTING ON THEIR ARMS.

FEDERAL INTERFERENCE—BAXTER HINDERED FROM OBTAINING BROTHERS—PRESIDENT GRANT ORDERS THE SEIZURE OF THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE—PROCLAMATIONS FROM BOTH CLAIMANTS.

The troubles upon which hinge the present threatened bloodshed in Arkansas are of the most complicated character, and they present a record of corruption, a confounding of parties, and a blending of diverse political elements the like of which has rarely been seen in our history. Of the two individuals—Brooks and Baxter—who figure as the rival claimants for the Governorship, Brooks was formerly the candidate for Governor of the party among which are the supporters of Baxter, while Baxter was at the same time candidate of the party that supports Brooks. When the election in Arkansas was held, Brooks had quarreled with his partners, Clayton, McClure, and the others, over the division of the spoils of office and because of his failure to succeed Clayton—who had been elected to the United States Senate—as Governor. He made cause with the Liberal Republicans, the candidate for Governor against the Grant Republicans, led by Clayton and McClure. Brooks' following was so strong a one and there seemed so good a chance of his election—and he was elected in the end—that they resolved to bring out a strong and popular man—popular because he was believed to be honest—in the person of Judge Elisha Baxter as the Republican candidate for Governor. Baxter is by birth a Southern man and was a slaveholder. While the war was in progress he was employed in the civil service of the Confederate States, but later, adopting Union principles he took service in the Union army. He has this decided advantage over Brooks that he had nothing to do, like that Radical and fanatic, with forming the present constitution of Arkansas, which piece of political mechanism is due to Clayton, McClure, and Brooks and their associates. The election came with the parties distributed as has been described. Brooks, the Liberal Republican candidate, was undoubtedly elected by a large majority of over 3,000. But Baxter, the Grant-Republican candidate, was put into the chair by a process well understood. A provision of the constitution of Arkansas declares that the election returns of State officers shall be sent to the Secretary of State in sealed envelopes, which shall be opened and the votes counted by the President of the Senate in the presence of both Houses of the General Assembly. This duty was duly performed and the election of Baxter was declared, notwithstanding the majority given for Brooks, and this is how Baxter became Governor, without any action of his own and simply by the processes of his friends.

Brooks thereupon brought a suit in the United States District Court against Baxter, but Judge Caldwell declined to take jurisdiction. He made no effort to get a hearing before the Legislature, for the reason that a Radical majority had also been obtained in that body by the "counting in" method. In the lower house of the Legislature were thirty-four Democrats and in the Senate six. The Secretary of State counted in "seventeen" members of Brooks' former supporters, Democrats and Liberal Republicans, partly by sympathy with the honest administration of affairs and partly by a judicious use of patronage. Then it was that Brooks, seeing his opportunity, drifted back to communion with his old associates, who, disgusted and amazed at Baxter's recalcitrance, had betrayed themselves against their own Governor and took up Brooks' cause. Baxter was then, as he is now, in full sympathy with the opposition to Radicalism of the State, giving Arkansas a better government than had been hoped for, and Brooks was the man put forward, under the fostering care of Clayton and McClure, as the Radical champion.

Brooks' next venture was to revive his claims, this time before the Legislature. He sent a petition to that body, but a vote not to receive it was passed, sixty-three voting against it and eight for it. Of the affirmative votes six were cast by Democrats who had been Brooks' supporters in the canvass for Governor, all the rest by the Democrats and Liberals having become Baxter men and voting the other way. Governor Baxter did not forget those who had proved themselves his friends in this contest. Thirty-two of those who voted against the petition were given offices at dates subsequent to the vote, the leaders among them receiving appointments as judges or prosecuting attorneys in various counties.

The Legislature adjourned finally, but Brooks still had the Supreme Court to appeal to. In July last the condition of politics in Arkansas became threatening, and affairs were then in almost the same state as they are now. It was rumored and generally believed that Brooks or the Attorney-General of the State for him would apply to the Court for a writ of quo warranto against Baxter, and as there was some likelihood that it would be granted Governor Baxter began to take precautions to fortify his position in more respects than one. The Attorney-General's proceedings looked to a testing of Brooks' right to exercise the authority of Governor. Baxter resorted to a coup d'état which proved successful in this, that it brought over to him the mass of the outlying Democrats. He recognized the militia and ordered it assembled with Democrats, from among whom he selected many popular and well-known men who had generally been his political opponents. At the same time he announced his intention not to submit to the decree of the Court if it should prove adverse to him, and surrounded himself with an armed body-guard who attended upon him in this quasi military condition while the Court was in session. About the same time a suit was brought by Brooks against Baxter in the Circuit Court of Pulaski County.

On June 2 the Supreme Court was applied to for the writ, and on the same day Baxter delivered to one of the newly appointed militia officers his proclamation declaring martial law and ordering the Court to be dissolved, by force if necessary. This proclamation was to be read, however, only in case the writ should be issued, and in that contingency the officer was to proclaim it in the court room. On the 4th of June the majority of the judges, Chief Justice McClure dissenting, rendered their decision, which was that they had no jurisdiction in the matter, owing to the fact that the Legislature had already adjudged the suit to Baxter. From that time until a few days ago Governor Baxter had remained in quietude.

On Tuesday, the 16th inst., when neither Governor Baxter nor his counsel expected the entrance of men a gun, Brooks' attor-

ney suddenly sprang the old canon of Brooks v. Baxter in the Circuit Court of Pulaski County in such a way and under such circumstances, during the absence from the court-room of Governor Baxter's counsel, as to obtain from Judge Whylock a judgment of ouster against Baxter. According to the tenor of the decision everything had been prepared beforehand for the entrance of less than ten minutes after the writ of execution was placed in the hands of the Sheriff, Brooks had invaded the Governor's office with an armed force and had ejected Baxter, and had taken possession of the State-house.

BAXTER EXPLAINS.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., April 17.—During the warlike movements of last night Colonel Rose, commander of the United States Arsenal, brought a company down, stationing them at the corner of Main and Fourth streets, and sent word to each side that while he had no orders to interfere in behalf of either party he was directed to prevent bloodshed. The company returned to the arsenal at daylight this morning, there appearing to be no immediate prospect of Governor Baxter having contracted his lines to the vicinity of the Anthony House, and now proceeding as before to exercise the duties of Governor, making the Anthony House the capital for the time being. This morning both the private secretaries of Governor Brooks and of Governor Baxter, Post-office for mail matter directed to the Governor of Arkansas. The postmaster declined to deliver to either party, and telegraphed to Washington for instructions.

Governor Baxter has issued the following proclamation:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, LITTLE ROCK, Ark., April 18, 1874.

To the People of Arkansas: An insurrection organized in the interest of certain parties disappointed in an attempt to secure the influence of the Executive for proposed frauds in the approaching election has effected the seizure of the Capitol and now attempts to usurp the functions of government. The insurrection has had momentary success in its attempt to seize the Capitol and now attempts to usurp the functions of government. The insurrection has had momentary success in its attempt to seize the Capitol and now attempts to usurp the functions of government.

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L'AMERIQUE SAVED.

THE STEAMER TOWED INTO PLYMOUTH HARBOR BY THE SPRAY.

REPORT OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE SPRAY—PROBABLE PRESERVATION OF THE PASSENGERS' BAGGAGE AND CARGO—CAPTAIN ROUSSEAU'S STATEMENT—THE WAR IN SPAIN—SOUTH AMERICAN TOPICS—A BIRD OF PREY.

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The weather continued fine until the morning of April 13, when a strong westerly breeze sprang up, and veered at two o'clock to the northwest, finally blowing a gale from west-northwest.

A heavy roller struck the roof of the wheelhouse when about 100 miles from Brest. The captain ordered the ship's head to be turned to the wind.

The gale increased, and at seven p. m. it was blowing a hurricane, filling the engine-room with water. During the night the weather thickened, and the vessel rapidly filled with water, putting out the fires three times. The engineers succeeded, nevertheless, in keeping up steam.

On the morning of the 14th the sea went down for a short period, and everybody worked at the pumps until ten o'clock. The engines finally stopped working. The heavy seas ripped at various times could not have filled the holds with the large quantities of water in them, and it became evident that the vessel was sprung a leak.

The carpenter vainly endeavored to discover its whereabouts. The donkey engine was set to work, but the efforts to lessen the water were in vain.

The vessel became unmanageable at half-past four p. m., and the captain was compelled to inform the passengers of his hopeless condition. He proposed to signal an Italian ship, which had been standing by gallantly. This information created surprise, because until then the officers of the steamer had succeeded in concealing its condition.

In a few words the captain reassured the passengers, recommending them to remain calm and take their life-preservers. The transfer to the ship during the furious sea was accomplished with the greatest order. It commenced at five o'clock, and was completed at seven. It was a miraculous escape considering the weather.

The sole accident was to First Officer Garay, who was drowned in the transfer. The English vessel Michigan took several boarders. The Italian ship landed thirty-nine of the passengers and 143 of the crew.

There are various surmises as to the origin of the disaster. The leaking is not attributed to the heavy seas shipped. It is probable that the cargo of wheat while wet swelled and started the rivets, or possibly the ship touched during low tide. The roof, being of the engine-room started at the commencement of the gale, allowing the water to enter freely.

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Carrying the flag of Rear Admiral Cochrane, the Canoe, Captain A. J. Kennedy, the Reindeer, Captain W. R. Kennedy, and the French war steamship L'Hermite are at present at anchor in this harbor.

The London Sun Fire Insurance Company called the Atlantic City of Panama, in which case adjoining houses will be limited to £2,000.

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