

his veto and became a law notwithstanding. This was the turning point in the fight; the President began to lose heavily in public support, and Congress began to gain. In a short time a new Freedmen's Bureau Bill was matured and passed, which was again vetoed, but was passed over the President's veto at once. Considerable angry discussion was kept up in the newspapers, of which one or two of the leading ones on the Republican side supported the President for awhile, and one till near the time the elections came off in the Autumn. But the country was with Congress. The President's plan or policy was to let the seceded States send representatives to Congress at once, leaving it for Congress to accept or reject these sent, thus giving those States a voice in their own punishment, as rational a plan as it would be to let the criminal sit on the jury that should try him for murder. His policy overlooked all the social evils that grew out of the rebellion; ignored the promises made by the government to the freedmen, and released the rebels from all questions as to the extent of their wickedness, and virtually put the government right into their hands by giving them the chance to block any legislation not acceptable to them. The South was exultant. The rebels were pardoned by thousands, and fees charged for the business that were disgraceful to the country. Their papers opened on the North in the old style, and one could hardly distinguish the difference between the talk before the war and since. The Congress was black-guarded in good round style; the North was twitted of her inferiority as of old. Slurs were thrown out about the war in every conceivable way. Covert threats were uttered that the war would yet be renewed, and so on, while some Northern Democratic papers echoed the vilest stuff ever put in print, and actually tasked a patient people to bear it. In the meantime Congress kept at work and brought forth its own plan of reconstruction, which was embodied in several proposed amendments of the constitution, which are now before the different States for adoption or rejection. These the President was not obliged to sign or veto and he could not prevent their going out to the States if he wanted to. The Southern States, with the exception of Tennessee, have rejected them with disdain, for they disfranchise

the leaders of the rebellion. That is a hard pill, but they will have to swallow it. The country will never allow the men who led the South into rebellion to do it again by having the power in their hands.

The President during the summer, and while Congress was perfecting all these bills and amendments, growing more and more determined to rule or ruin, caused several members of the Cabinet to resign and got friends and supporters into their place. As soon as Congress adjourned he began to turn out the office-holders who did not echo his sentiments, in some cases removing men he had commissioned a little while before. No inconsistency seemed to trouble him. In many cases he appointed men that the Senate had rejected previously. In the early autumn he took a trip from Washington via Philadelphia, New York, Albany, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati, stopping at many other cities and towns on the route, and addressed the people at every opportunity, giving Congress hard raps, and boasting of his great services to the country. It was as fine a burlesque as ever was got up to please a crowd. Nero fiddling while Rome was burning was a little ahead of it, perhaps; but the people of the country felt aggrieved, disgraced, insulted and ashamed in consequence of the President acting the mountebank all over the country. At several places he received insults in return for the abuse he heaped upon the Republican party, that elected him, and he banded slang epithets like the roughest of them. On his return to Washington he made the heads of officials fly off faster than ever; but in October last a half dozen large States voted for Congressmen and State officers, and to his immense surprise not a member was gained to his side but one or two were lost. Out of about seventy members elected his friends retained some ten or twelve. This was a damper to his policy. He experienced a conviction that he could not rule the country, that took away his impudence and caused him to pause in decapitating office-holders.

The final elections of November finished the category of misfortunes to the advocates of the Presidential policy. The result showed that about five-sixths of the new representatives in Congress were opposed to it, and that a majority