

The Democratic Watchman.

VOL. 7.

BELLEFONTE, FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 17, 1862.

NO. 40.

Select Poetry.

The Guide-Post.

FROM THE GERMAN OF PETER REBEL.
Do you know the road to the bar of flour?
At break of day lay down the bars.
And slow your wheel and hour by hour,
Till slow you—yes, till shade of stars.
You pig away the fire long day,
No hat about, no gape around,
And that's to the road to the thrashing floor,
And into the kitchen I'll be bound.
Do you know the road where the dollars lay?
You follow the red cents here and there?
For if a man leaves them, I can guess
He would find dollars anywhere.
Do you know the road to Sunday's rest?
Just don't on week days be afeared:
In field and workshop do your best,
And Sunday comes itself, I've heard.
On Saturday it's not far off,
And brings a basketful of cheer—
A feast, and lots of garden stuff,
And like a not a thing of fear.
Do you know the road to poverty?
Turn in at any tavern sign;
Turn in—'tis tempting as can be;
There's bran new calico and liquor din.
In the last tavern there's a mark:
'Tis when the cash your pocket quits,
Just hang the wallet on your hook,
You vagabond, see how it fits!
Do you know what road to honor leads?
And good old age? A lovely right!
By way of temperance, honest deeds,
And trying to do your duty.
And when the road forks your side,
And you're in doubt which one to take,
Stand still, and let your conscience guide,
Thank God, 't won't lead you wrong a mile.
And now the road to church-yard gate?
You needn't ask, 'tis anywhere:
For whether round about or straight,
The road at last'll bring you there.
Go, finding food, but loving more—
I've tried to be a honest guide—
You'll find the grave has got a door,
And something for you 'neath the stile.

Miscellaneous.

SPEECH

OF
JOHN H. ORVIS, Esq.,
At a Democratic Meeting at Logansville,
Pa., October 2d, 1862.

I have felt it my duty, fellow citizens, to address the people of this valley, at different times during the last fifteen months, upon subjects of a military character, at such times striving to impress upon them the absolute necessity of promptly responding to the various calls of the Federal and State Administrations for troops. Upon these occasions I stated it to be the imperative duty of all good citizens to assist in maintaining the Government, restoring the Union, and re-establishing the supremacy of the Constitution and laws over all the territories of the United States. That although there has been, still, a and always will be, great differences of opinion as to the manner in which the Government should be administered, there can be no diversity of sentiment among honest and intelligent men, as to whether the Government shall be preserved or not. Yet I have never been with those who wish the people to be oblivious to all that is being done by those who direct the affairs of the nation, and waiting to correct the evils of misgovernment and maladministration after the restoration of peace. It is true that by the Constitution and the laws, a time is fixed beyond which no administration, however weak or corrupt, can legally exist. It is also true that law-abiding men will prefer to submit to any administration for that limited time, rather than resort to violence for the purpose of overturning it. But he is not a good citizen, he is not an honest supporter of our free institutions, who will not at all times, openly and boldly, protest against any usurpation of undelimited power, any infringement upon the rights of the people, or any corrupt squandering of the people's money. It is our duty to assist in compelling our servants, by the force of public opinion, to be honest and to respect the rights of each and every individual or State. And should the time ever come when the people are announced that any administration has determined to perpetuate itself by fraud or open violence, they will doubtless be prepared to meet the emergency with the spirit becoming freemen.

We meet this evening, fellow citizens, for the ordinary purposes of a political meeting; to investigate the character and aims of the different political parties, and to inquire into the propriety of the course pursued by our public servants. Ever since the establishment of our government has this been the custom of the people; and yet we are now told that this meeting is evidence of our disloyalty, as it tends to weaken the administration. It is because the administration has proved itself too weak to properly direct the Government, or restore the Union, without invading the rights of the people that we complain, and demand a change in its policy, and a change of administration itself as soon as it can legally be made.

There are two great parties in the field in the present campaign, presenting candidates for the suffrages of the people. The one is the old Democratic party, with its well known and time honored creed without disguise or modification; and the other is a more recent organization, known in different places as the "Abolition," the "Republican," the "People's," and the "Union" party. As to the first I shall have little to say; for it is not my purpose to defend its positions, or advocate its claims for confidence and support. The platform of its principles has been before the people of the United States for sixty-four years, and yet remains as pure and unsullied as when it came from the hands of Madison and Jefferson in the form of the immortal Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798. The record of the great success, the mighty achievements and high purposes of this party is spread out before the people for their contemplation. While the great calamity following immediately upon the decision of the people to abandon those principles, and to give to another party to control national affairs, demonstrates that upon Democratic principles, and by Democratic men alone, can our government be safely and successfully administered. What was the character and condition of this nation under the mild and beneficent administration of this party? It was the wonder of the world—the object of admiration among the great and good of all nations—the home of the free—the asylum for the down trodden and oppressed—the land of liberty and law—the hope of mankind—and the object of the envy and hatred of tyrants and despots alone. Then the poor found employment and the laborer received ample compensation for his toil, not in rags and postage stamps, but in gold and silver, then constituting our nation currency. Then the press was free, thought was free, and speech was free. Then the Constitution was venerated and observed—then the laws were respected and enforced. Then our people were industrious, prosperous and happy. Then millions of the poor and oppressed of other lands came here to enjoy with us the privileges and blessings of our free institutions. Then our national progress was upward and onward. Then new territory was acquired, and new States added to the Union. Then the forest and the prairie were subdued by the industry of our people, and reclaimed from the wild and savage. Then the wilderness was made to bloom and blossom like the rose. What yesterday was the site of the hatter's cabin, to-morrow was a village, and to-morrow a city. What yesterday was the abode of the buffalo and deer, to-morrow rich, cultivated fields, the home of industry, peace, plenty and happiness. Then manufactures prospered, commerce flourished, canals and railroads were constructed, schools and colleges were established, churches were erected, libraries were collected, and we enjoyed all the necessities, all the comforts, all the luxuries, that were given to thirty millions of the most free, happy, and prosperous people that the heavens ever shone upon. Then the infidel Abolitionists of the Phillips school had not united with the blaspheming pro-slavery men of the Brownlow order in bringing the curses of the Almighty upon us. Oh! fellow citizens, we have a glorious country, and once had a glorious government, and under Democratic rule, a happy and united people. But, alas! how rapidly, and how terribly has everything changed. The people desired to try an experiment, and we behold the awful consequences.

I say it is not my intention to defend the Democratic party or its principles, for it is now too late to discuss the character of that organization, or doubt for a moment its theories of government. The verdict of neither kind has settled these questions. Neither did I intend to offer arguments in opposition to the principles of the Abolition Republican party. They have been brought to the test of experience, and the handwriting is on the wall. For one I desire that this party shall not pass into oblivion. If it does, in a few years other "designing men" will revive its principles under some new name, and the people again be tempted to try an experiment. I wish to see the consequence resulting from the election of 1860 stand out so prominently on the pages of American history as to serve as a monument to warn all future generations to shun the evils we are now suffering, and compel them to loath and hate this Abolition party and its principles forever as we now loath and hate them. The old Federal party, with the selfsame principles, but sixty years before, ended an administration so odious as to be a stench in the nostrils of the people, and yet, after two generations only, we see its principles and policy attempted to be made the controlling ideas of this government. Let us then not again be repeated. Let the infamy of this party be now made perpetual. For one, as long as heaven gives me power to speak or write, that power shall be used to this end.

Without stopping to comment upon the anti-slavery agitation which this party kept up for many years, and by which it destroyed all feelings of affection and friendship between the people of the North and South before the commencement of this unnatural civil war, and stirred up all the evil passions necessary to precipitate the country into this fratricidal conflict; nor stopping to animadvert upon the course of deliberate falsehood and deception pursued by their leading

men, in and out of office, as to the strength and resources of the South and the magnitude of the contest in which they were involving the country, in order to prevent any reconciliation; let us look at the course pursued since the commencement of actual hostilities, tending directly to aid and strengthen the southern movement, and the same time to involve the white men of the North and trample public liberty into the dust. What was the relative condition of the contending forces at the onset of these troubles? The people of the North were more unanimous and closely united in the determination to crush the "rebellion," after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, than any other people ever were in military undertaking. Without regard to previous political associations, they rushed to arms, and were clamorous to be accepted into the service of the Government. So great was the popular enthusiasm, that the administration said repeatedly that they had more men than they knew what to do with. Companies and regiments, all organized and ready to march, were disbanded while cavalry regiments and auxiliary companies actually in the field were multiplied out of service. What was the condition of the enemy? With a revolutionary Government established against the protest of a large portion of the Southern people without an army, without a navy, without a treasury, it attempted to maintain itself by force against the Government of the United States, under which the people had so long lived in happiness and comparative security. As to the extent of the Union feeling South, and the consequent weakness of the revolutionary party, we have the testimony of President Lincoln, as late as July 4, 1861. In his message of that date he says:

"It may well be questioned whether there is today a majority of the legally qualified voters of any State, except perhaps South Carolina, in favor of disunion. There is much reason to believe that the Union men are the majority in many, if not in every one of the so-called seceded States. The contrary has not been demonstrated in any one of them."

Where now is this vast body of Union men? Tens of thousands of them are gathered around the camp fires of Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Who and what have produced this change? Not Jefferson Davis and his government, for they pursued a course of unrelenting persecution against the Union men of the seceded States. Persecution may make hypocrites of weak men, but it never yet made one convert to any doctrine, religious or political. Persecution would only have made the Union men of the South hate the government of the Confederation, and the wrongs they had suffered under it, while they would have prayed still more fervently that ever for the restoration of the Union, in order again to receive protection under the stars and stripes. Those men had been told by the leaders in the South that their rights were no longer safe under the old government as soon as it should pass into the hands of the Confederation, and that they should obtain power, and restore the rights of the people. They saw Giddings, Burlingame, Carl Shurz and others equally infamous, who had been the enemies, and constant revilers and assailants of the Southern people and their institutions, appointed to the most important positions. They saw a man appointed to the War Department, at a time of all others when ability and integrity were needed there, who was celebrated for nothing but his penultraions and corruptions, and was, in the language of Senator Taggart, "the fit representative of nothing good."

These Union men witnessed with dismay the efforts of the administration to destroy the freedom of speech and of the press, by illegally seizing printing offices, and attempting to confiscate the materials, by closing the mails against all the influential papers, which did not support the political opinions of the President; and by arresting editors and speakers for the same offense, and without a hearing, without a trial, without even informing them of the nature of the accusation, imprisoning them for weeks and months in military fortresses.

They saw the executive usurp both legislative and judicial authority upon the tyrannical plea of necessity. All this made the secessionists exultant, and the Union men fearful and disponding. Their hopes faded away, one by one, like the feverish visions of a dream.

In this work of alienating the affections of the Southern people from our government, the President was ably seconded by Congress. All measures that would outrage the feelings of the loyal men of the South,

and tend to drive them into the ranks of secession's were introduced, debated and passed at the last session of that body. Senators, as honest and true as ever lived, were expelled for differing in opinion from the majority, while Abolition Republicans were allowed to remain there after being proved guilty of selling their official influence for money. Corruption in its most hideous form stalked unblushingly through every department of the Government. The negro question was opened up in every conceivable form for renewed agitation. The negro island of Hayti, and the negro settlement of Liberia, were recognized as independent nations, and money appropriated for sending to, and receiving from them diplomatic agents. Negro slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia, although Republicans had everywhere asserted that they never would interfere with slavery where it then existed. All the territories were closed against slaveholders, and threats made to overturn the whole fabric of Southern society by means of executive proclamations. Both the President and Congress attempted, by impecunies and bribes, to compel the border States to abolish negro slavery, thereby separating their future destiny from that of the Gulf States, whatever it might be. This project the people of the States received with the scorn and contempt which officers meddling in other people's business, whenever and wherever attempted, deserve. But the greatest legislative attack upon the rights of the States was made under the "Confiscation act." By this law it is proposed to forfeit all the real estate for life, and all the personal property including slaves, absolutely, of all persons who are, or have been engaged in the rebellion, and to enforce the provisions of the law by means of the military arm of the government, without the persons who are to suffer thereby having any trial, or being judicially found guilty of any crime. This entire scheme of wholesale confiscation is pronounced unconstitutional, injudicious, and inhuman; by many of the ablest men in the Republican party, and yet it passed both Houses of Congress and received the executive sanction. However much our sense of humanity might be shocked by the attempt to forfeit nearly all the property in one half the country, thereby involving thousands of innocent women and children in endless poverty and untold misery, yet the abolition scheme involved in the law is still more at war with the rights of the States. For in the contract of the law it is not proposed to forfeit title to the government, but to enforce it, sold by it as property, but to enforce it, thereby giving to negro slaves all the rights of freemen contrary to the Constitution and laws of the several slave holding States. This attempt to change the status of the negro population of a State by federal legislation is a direct attack upon the rights of self government; and in that respect is equally inimical to the loyal and to the rebellious citizens. And all this done under the pretext of weakening the rebellion and strengthening the Government! That it has, and must have, directly the opposite tendency, all experience demonstrates.

A few days ago, I conversed with an intelligent gentleman, who for several years previous to the commencement of the war, was a wealthy cotton merchant of New Orleans. Having then an opportunity of knowing the feelings and sentiments of the Southern people, he spoke from personal knowledge of the actual condition of things in the South from the commencement of the war. At first, he said, the secession movement was not participated in by the masses, and the politicians were compelled to make to every kind of fraudulent device to make it appear that the people sustained them. When the Confederation was enacted by the Confederate Congress, and attempted to be enforced, the opposition of the people was great, and they would have overturned the Confederate Government and reinstated all the plans and hopes of the secessionist leaders, had not been done by our government to change their feelings. The emancipation scheme and confiscation act following so soon, made an entire revolution in the sentiments of the whole Southern population, and they not only submitted quietly to the confiscation act, but enthusiastically responded to every call of the Confederate authorities. So well known is it in the South that their success depends upon the unconstitutional and abolition practices of our administration, that it has become a popular saying, that President Davis has two Congresses, one at Richmond, the other at Washington; and that he depends much more upon the latter than the former for his success.

Now, fellow citizens, you might well suppose that what has already been enumerated constitutes the sum total of the objectionable acts of the administration. But the President seems determined to continue in the reckless and unconstitutional course in which he started. On the 22d of Sept. he issued a proclamation providing, among many other things, as follow:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated parts of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval au-

thority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do so or act to repress such persons or any of them in any efforts they shall make for actual freedom."

To say that this act of the Federal Executive is unprecedented in our national history, is but stating a truth admitted by all. Unlike the previous edicts of Lincoln, this document appears to have been well studied and each word and expression carefully selected. He has intentionally made use of several expressions hitherto unknown in the nomenclature of American politics; and he evidently desires the public to entertain the ideas corresponding with such expressions. In the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof? We were always taught that the Government of the United States consisted of the legislative, Executive and Judicial Department combined, each acting in the sphere of its appropriate duties as marked out by the Constitution. But the President having usurped both legislative and Judicial powers, now makes his language conform to his practice, and speaks of himself as the government. Having committed a war without the consent of Congress, it is unnatural that he should suddenly assume that the power is to declare war; to raise and support armies; and to provide and maintain a navy; are parts of the Executive prerogative instead of being powers which Congress alone can exercise. But what does he mean when he promises the slave that the Federal Government will do so or act to repress any efforts he may make for actual freedom? If the Southern owners should decline to let their slaves be freed, and in order to gain their masters, violate the persons of their mistresses, burn their dwellings, and steal whatever can be carried away, does this mean that the Christian President propose to grant to these black monsters who may come into his presence with their hands reeking with the blood of innocent and even loyal citizens full pardon for the past, and unbounded license for the future? It would seem so, for he admits freedom to the persons of their mistresses, burn their dwellings, and steal whatever can be carried away, does this mean that the Christian President propose to grant to these black monsters who may come into his presence with their hands reeking with the blood of innocent and even loyal citizens full pardon for the past, and unbounded license for the future? It would seem so, for he admits freedom to the persons of their mistresses, burn their dwellings, and steal whatever can be carried away, does this mean that the Christian President propose to grant to these black monsters who may come into his presence with their hands reeking with the blood of innocent and even loyal citizens full pardon for the past, and unbounded license for the future? 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