

at reference to persons called contraband... The plan consisting of these articles is recommended, not but the restoration of the national authority would be accepted without its adoption.

Not will the war. At proceedings under the proclamation of September 22, 1862, it was stated because of the recommendation of this plan, its timely adoption, I doubt not, would bring restoration, and thereby stay the war.

And notwithstanding this plan, the recommendation that Congress provide by law for compensating any State which may adopt emancipation, before this plan shall have been acted upon is earnestly repeated. Such would be an advance part of the plan, and the same arguments apply to both.

This plan is recommended as a means, not in exclusion of, but additional to all others, for restoring and preserving the national authority throughout the Union. The subject is presented exclusively in its economic aspect. The question is not, I am confident, secure peace more speedily, and maintain it more permanently, than can be done by foreign loans.

The plan is proposed as permanent constitutional law. It cannot become such without the concurrence of first two-thirds of Congress, and afterwards, three-fourths of the States. The requirement of the States will necessarily include seven of the Slave States. Their concurrence, if obtained, will give assurance of their severally adopting consideration, as no very distant day, upon the constitutional terms. This assurance would end the struggle now, and save the Union forever.

I do not forget the gravity which should characterize a paper addressed to the Congress of the nation, by the Chief Magistrate of the nation. No do I forget that some of you are my seniors; nor that many of you have more experience than I, in the conduct of public affairs. Yet I trust that in view of the great reversibility resting upon me, you will receive no want of respect to yourselves, in any undue earnestness I may seem to display.

It is doubtful, then, that the plan I propose, if adopted, would shorten the war, and thus lessen its expenditures of money and blood. It is doubtful, that it would restore the national authority and national prosperity, and perpetuate both indefinitely. It is doubtful that we here—Congress and Executive—can do anything to save the Union, if we do not first save ourselves, and then we will save our country.

Follows citizens, we cannot escape history. We, of this Congress and this Executive, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal self-interest, or insignificant, can spare one or another of us. The only way to save ourselves, and to save the Union, is to save the nation. The world knows we do know how to save it. We even are here—hold the power and bear the responsibility. We are going forward to the future, we assure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall wholly save, and we shall wholly lose, the world, the way is plain, peaceful, generous, just—a way which, if followed, the world will never applaud, and God must forever bless.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.  
December 1, 1862.



P. GRAY MEEK, Editor.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

Friday Morning, Dec. 12, 1862.

THE PRINTER.—We have received this elegant publication for the month of November. It contains much of general interest to the craft, amongst which is a republication of the Constitution of the National Typographical Union. Also, an interesting descriptive article from the pen of T. O. Hansard, upon Dr. William Church and his printing inventions. Every member of the fraternity should have a copy of 'The Printer' if he wishes to keep 'booked up' in all the improvements of the 'noble art,' in the hands of John Gresson & Co., Publishers, No. 21, South Street, N. Y.

THE EDITOR OF A 'PAPER'.—The editor has gone to Philadelphia, leaving the paper in the hands of the *debt*. The young imp, of promotion, and, as he is a chap of more than ordinary smartness, the readers of the *Watchman* need not be surprised should the paper prove more interesting than usual.

As for the editor, we presume he will come home with the headache 'or something else.' He left in company with a lawyer—a 'Notary Public,' by the way, a fact which has given us some uneasiness, and which, we fear, is but a poor guarantee for his good behavior while abroad. However, we hope for the best and earnestly pray that he be 'led not into temptation, but delivered from evil.'

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—We publish this document on the outside of to-day's paper. The editor being absent, however, we do not feel authorized to spend an opinion upon it in the columns of the *Watchman*, preferring, rather, to leave that for him to do when he again returns to his post. In the meantime, we advise all the readers of this paper to give it an attentive perusal so that they may be able to digest, understandingly and intelligently, its contents and whatever remarks the now absent editor may feel disposed to make upon them.

THE MESSAGE is, probably, as brief as any document of that kind could be made at this perilous and most important crisis in the affairs of our country. This is not a commendation. It is true, my friends, our readers will, doubtless, find them out by the time they finish its perusal.

FIRE IN LOCK HAVEN.—A tremendous fire broke out in Lock Haven on Saturday morning last, about 4 o'clock. The flames raged with uncontrollable fury and in a few hours two entire squares in the business part of the town, were laid in ashes. The fire originated in a furniture shop in the rear of a Bank and spread from building to building with the most frightful rapidity. Two fire companies were telegraphed for from Williamsport, but, owing to the occurrence of a fire there near about the same time, they did not arrive till late in the forenoon. Scott's Hall, the Bank, the 'Clinton House' and the Post Office are among the most prominent buildings destroyed. The wind blew a perfect hurricane all the time, thus neutralizing all the efforts of the citizens and lending a most appalling grandeur to the scene. The loss is estimated at from three to four hundred thousand dollars, a considerable portion of which was covered by insurance. The burnt district now presents a most sorrowful appearance.

The fire in Williamsport on the same night, consumed a large soap and candle manufactory belonging to Taylor & Co. We believe no other damage was done.

'The Army of the Potomac' since the removal of its great leader, Gen. McClellan, has done little or nothing. Gen. Burnside, though an accomplished and gallant officer, finds it not possible to accomplish impossibilities, and ere long, we presume, he, too, will share the fate of McClellan and Buell. The great hue and cry against McClellan was raised by the radicals, ostensibly on account of his slowness, though we have the privilege of attributing it to an entirely different motive. We ask our Abolition friends now, in all candor, to tell us what has been accomplished by and since that removal? From the tone of the radical press, we were left to infer that it was McClellan alone who stood in the way of a triumphant entry into Richmond, yet almost two months have rolled away since his displacement and the army is still stationary. There is a great loss of time and the conviction involuntarily forces itself upon the mind, that the Administration has made a great mistake. McClellan's removal was only another of that series of egregious blunders which have rendered this Administration ridiculous in the eyes of the world, which have proven it notoriously incompetent to manage the affairs of the country in this trying time and which have paralyzed all the bravest efforts of the immense armies under its control. We believe General Burnside is doing all in his power to arrive at great results, but the very fact that he has, as yet, been unable to do anything, proves, beyond all doubt, the utter inefficiency of McClellan's removal. We see no hope of anything better, until the Administration adopts the policy of allowing his Generals to work out their own plans, without any official interference. But we have no idea that their line of policy will be adopted as long as the present incompetents in power remain at Washington. In the meantime, we expect soon to hear of another change in the command of the 'Army of the Potomac.'

A DUN and its Answer.—Sometime since, the former editors of this paper sent a bill of subscription to Major Jones' of West Union, Iowa. To the amount of two dollars and a half. The following is the Major's answer. It is so full of humor that we think he ought to be forgiven the doubt, especially as the poor fellow was wounded at the battle of Shiloh, and is now, as he says, unable to do anything. The positions marked with quotations will be recognized as extracts from the letter of our predecessors to the Major. But here is the letter: (For the Watchman.)

West Union, Iowa, November 15, 1862.

To the Editors of the Democratic Watchman.—My Dear Books.—Not my Books exactly, but the Books of those into whose hands they have fell.

I would say that I have been a reader of the *Watchman* from Vol. 6, No. 16 to Vol. 7, No. 17, and most assuredly can't find fault with it; although at times, it has been a 'little' more 'Democratic' than I have been accustomed to. But I can't say that I have disliked it for any extent for 'a' that.

I don't blame you for wishing to be 'set up' for 'who, in the devil's name, would wish to be, these war times, and that as 'soon as possible'.

'There isn't a particle of doubt but what you've been at great 'indebtedness' for 'paper, ink, &c.', a part of which I have been the recipient of, and the amount is certainly due you from me, as it is from you to somebody else. You ought to have your pay in order, that you can pay somebody else. That is, that, in the devil's name, of course, you don't wish to 'face' the matter, at all, but 'as 'tis and it can't be an 'is-er.' The 'law' prescribes the remedy, but I don't believe there is a big enough fool in Bellefonte to undertake to enforce the civil law at this stage of the game.

I met you with a hearty response, but I can't be for the life of me, see where the \$2.50 is coming from. I haven't got it to my name and what makes it worse, neither has any acquaintance of mine got it—that will tend it.

The fact is, Mr. 'Books,' you must discontinue with me till the 'three-years-or-during-the-war-or-some-discharge' is up.—You see, I've been soldiering for a little more than a year and a-half and consequently, ain't very 'flash.' I got my 'kit' stove up at the little 'squirmish' at Shiloh and can't do much any more, which makes me 'very bad about soldiering' just about this time, for it lays me on the shelf 'forever hereafter.' I feel very bad about it, but can't cry for laughing. (Between you and me, I wonder if that is 'discouraging enlistment'?)

I would say, just to fill out this sheet, my dear 'Books,' that nearly everybody has left here for the war, but the Bellefontaine, and if one mother's son of them goes, I hope to get out. 'Pigeon' 'Nary' of them, except Jimmy McMaisters talked about going, but you know, if you do know him (and you must know him if you know anybody) that his 'kit' is a good deal of it.

O Man, Who Art Thou?—(Prepared expressly for the Watchman.)

What is war, but the expression of the moral and physical evil on the family of man. Strip the custom of war of its false covering, and forms of devotion, which traditional religions have shown around it—take away the veil of false glory which deluded mortals have attached to it, and these are its realities. It is safe to say, that unless Divine Goodness approves of these things, he does not approve of war.

What is war, but the legal mode of death, destruction, bloodshed and murder, and homicide legal? By inquiry. Who are its instruments? Men filling high places. 'Study, O man, who thou art.' Remember that thy destination. Do not down to the grave with the blood of thousands fastened to your garments, though you give no filling the office of President or Governor, placed in the Congress Hall or Senate Chamber, you are still but man, and soon to be 'dead as a doornail.'

Of course, you don't wish to 'face' the matter, at all, but 'as 'tis and it can't be an 'is-er.' The 'law' prescribes the remedy, but I don't believe there is a big enough fool in Bellefonte to undertake to enforce the civil law at this stage of the game.

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impossibility of fulfilling the first command, and the certainty of violating the second, even if he indulge those passions where war and fighting proceed.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.—There never was a war, but what has been accompanied with the crime of stealing; robbery and plunder form a part of the system, and are acknowledged to be consistent with the rules of war by all the nations of the earth, who actually grant licenses to men to commit robbery and piracy at pleasure; in the shape of letters of marque and reprisal.

THOU SHALT NOT KILL.—War is a system of killing and 'butchering' human beings, which the nations of the earth have sanctioned, and by which they aim to do each other the greatest possible injury. The chief business of war is to kill men, women and children. It is a low estimate to say that two millions of human beings have been on an annual average, killed by war during the last five thousand years.

It is unreasonable and absurd to believe, that the commandments are to be violated with impunity by Divine authority, which would be the case if war was commanded by the Deity, or consistent with his will. 'God is love, and they that dwell in love dwell in God, and God dwelleth in them.' The wisdom that cometh down from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy; and by the teaching thereof, mankind never has been, and never can be, instructed in the art of war, or led to practice it in any of its features. 'God hath called us to peace.' The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

'Live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you.' Whosoever hath his brother, is a murderer, and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. I might go on to fill pages with similar passages taken from almost every scripture writer, and thus bring forward a 'cloud of witnesses,' whose testimony should tend to one point, proving that these writers believed the Deity to be a God of love and of peace, and not a God of hatred and of war, and that it is only every 'good and perfect gift,' that 'cometh down from the Father of lights, in whom there is neither variableness nor shadow, of turning.' It is impossible for any one carefully to study eternal nature without perceiving that the benevolence of the Creator is manifest in every part of his widely extended dominions. The Universe with all its multitudinous races of beings with which it is peopled, is manifestly under the care of one common Father, who openeth his hand to all things, and giveth life unto every creature. He 'maketh his sun to shine on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the unjust, as well as on the just.'

As far as the intentions and purposes of the Deity are unfolded to our finite understandings, they reveal a work of benevolence and love. All things are made subservient to a universal principle of order, by which his purposes and enjoyment are intended to be realized by every gradation of living existence. God has assigned to every creature its sphere in the creation, and within the boundaries fixed for its development, he has placed the means of success. As one star differeth from another star in glory, so do these his creatures excel each other in the scale of intelligence and being. Man was made for society, not to do injury, but to do good. He was not to live in continual hostility to his own flesh, and regard his fellow-man as his enemy. Such an intention on the part of the Creator, would be destitute of benevolent design. 'God hath made of one blood, all the nations of men that dwell upon the earth,' he hath sown in the heart of man the seeds of every virtuous affection. These he intended should produce those acts of reciprocal kindness and friendship which so abundantly vindicate the honor of human enjoyments. The gift of reason, and that still higher gift, emanation from the Divine mind with which man is endowed, furnishes a sufficient proof of his elevation above the beasts that perish, and his creation for nobler pursuits, than to be the enemy and destroyer of his fellow man.

The following extracts from the Abolition journal edited by men of brain and spirit—not mere toolies, like Forney and his class—give a good idea of the opinion entertained of the message by the moral independent and independent portion of the Administration party.

From the N. Y. Evening Post.

Mr. Lincoln is not a rhetorician of the Machiavelli school, who writes polished British-made sentences. Neither is he a formal logician, whose premises and conclusions carry conviction with them as irresistibly as a cannon ball carries death. His reasonings are not always rigid nor his illustrations happy, and his methods are any thing but graceful. It will be a disappointment to the public that the President tells us nothing of the progress of the war; that something should have been said, if not for the information of our own people, for that of people abroad.

talience, without a word of commiseration for the brave wounded and dead, or a general paragraph for the living. Except that reference is made to the departments of war and navy, the reader of the message would think that we had an army in the field and an army on the ocean. It is strangely barren of every word or idea that could lead one to suppose that war had slain thousands and disease its tens of thousands since the preceding message was penned, or that the insurgents had exhausted their resources of blood and treasure to overthrow the federal government, and that the loyal States had poured forth their lives and their money in noble, self-sacrificing efforts to sustain the government under the shock. No word of sympathy with the past, or of cheer for the future. \* \* \* We

The Springfield Republican says: Not a few will say that the President seems almost wholly oblivious to the great crisis that is upon the country, and the momentous necessity that rests upon the government, while he is absorbed in his scheme of compensated emancipation, the realization of which must be far off future, if it is to come at all. Others still will scout his plan altogether and declare it a waste of time and energy to consider it at all, while it is so palpable to every one that earnest war is the business of the hour, and that it is by war to the utter subjugation of the slaveholders, that slavery is to be abolished, and not by the consent of the slaveholders themselves.

The *Orange Commercial Times*, forgetting that Lincoln's stump speeches were not written by him, and that his messages were said: We confess we are disappointed in the message. Since he became President, Abraham Lincoln seems to have abandoned altogether that forcible and eloquent style which rendered his speeches famous. We look in vain for any such ringing sentences as those contained in his impromptu speech at the Cooper Institute, prior to his nomination for the Presidency. The message is plain, straight forward and rather heavy. It makes no appeal to the feelings, he touches none of the finer emotions of the human heart, he makes no effort to stir up the patriotism of the people to high and lofty deeds for Union and Liberty. Does the elevation of a man to the Presidency blot out of his mind all the eloquence and poetry it may have previously contained?

The Albany Statesman frankly condemns the message as wholly unworthy the Executive who writes it, and the Congress to whom it is addressed. 'We confess to a sad disappointment in the perusal of the President's annual message. We looked to it with profound interest for a full and fair presentation of the state of the country in view of its pending troubles and impending perils, yet when we are looking for bread, we are given a stone. It is a great pity that Mr. Lincoln could not discern the calls of his bleeding country for plain, straightforward, energetic action in expressing the slaveholders' rebellion—alike to the Constitution as it is, and simply availing himself of his determination to employ the slave in the service, if his owner shall continue in revolt at the end of the prescribed period. He is honest enough in all he says and purposes, but the country is heavily sick of hearing of nothing but his honesty.'

We hope now that the message is delivered, that Congress will treat it with all proper consideration, but go to work to strengthen the army of the Union, for its preservation, and to lighten the burdens of the nation, by preserving it from any further impositions either in civil or military life. The whole loyal population are crying for a termination of the war, by its suppression, without compromise or temporization. The President and his Cabinet do not yet seem to be fully sensible of this cry. Will the present Congress prove itself sufficiently intelligent and disinterested to prompt the Executive to a discharge of his duty? If it does not, there is a 'manifest destiny' for this nation that only God can avert.

These quotations are exclusively from administration papers, and we regret that we cannot add an extract similar in spirit and honesty from a single administration paper in Pennsylvania. The Abolition press of this State seems to be cursed with truculent editors who seem to glory in nothing more than their contemptible servility.—Patriot and Union.

A clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Church, writes to the *Lincoln Enquirer*, as follows: If the Lord requires a man to be an Abolitionist, he can be a minister, I am certainly mistaken. I cannot preach a sincere gospel and at the same time advocate a false philanthropy.

GEN. BURNSIDE.—A correspondent of the *National Intelligencer* states that Gen. Burnside was born in Liberty, Indiana, of Scottish parents, his father being something of the Davie Deans school, but wanting its moroseness and sectarian bitterness. He inherits much of the deep rooted religious conviction, caution and determination so eminently peculiar to the 'sons of Scotia.'

THE OLD FLAG FOREVER.—Every American loves and venerates the Stars and Stripes, and is ready to defend it against all foes, be they foreign or domestic. This is his pride and he does not wish to see a negro painted on its field.—Holmes County Farmer.

The Organizing Talent of McClellan.—The Albany Evening Journal Edited by Thurlow Weed, the confidential friend of Secretary Seward, says:

'He was called to Washington. He called at the urgent request of Gen. Scott. He was called by the unanimous voice of the loyal people. He found the Army of Potomac, a hideous mob.—He found mutiny rife in the camp, and insubordination the prevailing genius of the field. He found Washington filled with drunken soldiers; Colonels and Brigadiers leaving 'dead drunk' at mid-day in hotel bar-rooms; regiment whose commanders had not visited them for days; discipline laughed to scorn; riot and lawlessness rampant all a long our lines. He changed all this. He brought order out of chaos. He reinstated discipline. He cleaned Washington of uniformed sots that had so long infested it. He compelled incompetent officers to resign. He compelled Captains and Colonels and Brigadiers to make their headquarters with their commands, instead of at Willard's and the National. He checked the mutinies that threatened to destroy our army. He checked the disorganizing and demoralizing tendency that had caused such profound and general alarm through the country. He converted a mob of worse than undisciplined soldiers—a rabble degrade by defeat and unmanned by panic—into what even Mr. Russell, of the *London Times*, is compelled to call 'one of the finest armies in the world.'

'Without the organizing genius of General McClellan, where would we be to-day? What has been the reward of General McClellan for this great service to the United States? His retirement at Trenton answers.

GEN. HALLECK AND A DICTATOR.—His recent removal of General McClellan following so soon after that of Buell, gives interest and importance to the views of Major General Nelson freely expressed at Louisville a few days before his death. Buell had not then arrived from Nashville, but it was known that secret negotiations were on foot for his removal.—These movements Nelson denounced with his usual energy. In one of his conversations with a number of leading gentlemen, he uttered the following remarkable production:

'Mark my words, gentlemen; I know Gen. Halleck thoroughly. He is unquestionably a man of great intellect, but heartless and utterly unscrupulous. He will tolerate no man in the army who usurps the affections of his soldiers. His whole energy is bent upon making himself dictator. McClellan and Buell are in his way, and he is looking for an opportunity, and will seize it when it comes, to remove and, if possible, to disgrace them both.

In these views Brigadier General Jackson expressed his entire concurrence. Ten days afterwards Nelson was assassinated. Within three weeks Jackson was killed at Chaplin Hills, and within six weeks of the time of making the prediction, McClellan and Buell were dismissed with contumely. Time will show whether the dictatorship is to be attempted, and thus perfect the prophecy.

They are telling a good story in Troy, New York as follows: 'It was rumored that a gentleman known to be a loyal citizen had a secession flag flying from his house. Of course there was a tremendous uproar, and an excited party started for the premises. On reaching the house it was found to be a lady's balmal that had been washed and hung from a back window dry. The husband avowed his determination to stand by that flag as long as he lived, and the effervescent crowd exploded and disappeared.

NEW YORK ELECTION.—For City Comptroller, Corporation Counsel, and for Alderman in nine wards took place on Tuesday, and resulted as anticipated, in a complete Democratic triumph.

VARIEITY OF COLOR.—Republicans are usually black; but Democrats, wherever you find them, are 'true blue.'