

CIVIL BELLUM.

In this fearful struggle between North and South, there are hundreds of cases in which fathers are opposed against sons, and brothers against brothers.

AN IMPORTANT PAPER.

Protest of leading Republicans against Dictatorial Usurpations.—A caustic Rebuke.

Senator Wade of Ohio, and Representative Davis of Maryland, have signed a protest of power to the Republic and scorn of the Freedom of the United States.

TO THE SUPPORTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

We have read without surprise, but not without indignation, the proclamation of the President of the 8th of July, 1864.

The supporters of the Administration are responsible to the country for its conduct; and it is their right and duty to check the encroachments of the Executive on the authority of Congress and to require it to conform itself to its proper sphere.

It is impossible to pass in silence this proclamation without neglecting that duty; and having taken as much responsibility as any others in supporting the Administration, we are not disposed to fall in the other duty of asserting the rights of Congress.

The President did not sign the bill to guarantee to certain States whose Governments have been usurped a republican form of Government, passed by the supporters of the Administration in both Houses of Congress after mature deliberation.

The bill did not, therefore, become a law, and it is, therefore, nothing.

The proclamation is neither an approval nor a veto of the bill; it is, therefore a document unknown to the laws and Constitution of the United States.

So far as it contains an apology for not signing the bill, it is a political manifesto against the friends of the Government.

So far as it proposes to execute the bill which it is not a law, it is a grave Executive usurpation.

It is fitting that the facts necessary to enable the friends of the Administration to appreciate the apology and the usurpation before them.

The proclamation says: And whereas the said bill was presented to the President of the United States for his approval less than one hour before the sine die adjournment of said session and was not signed by him.

If that be accurate, still this bill was presented with other bills which were signed.

Within that hour, the time for the sine die adjournment was three times postponed by the vote of both Houses; and the least intimation of a desire for more time by the President to consider the bill would have secured a further postponement.

Yet the Committee sent to ascertain if the President had any further communication for the House of Representatives reported that he had none; and the friends of the bill, who had anxiously watched him, to ascertain if he had already been informed that the President had resolved not to sign it.

The time of presentation, therefore, had nothing to do with his failure to approve it.

The bill had been discussed and considered for more than a month in the House of Representatives, which it passed on the 4th of May; it was reported to the Senate on the 27th of May without material amendment, and passed the Senate absolutely as it came from the House on the 2nd of July.

Ignorance of its contents is out of the question. Indeed, at his request, a draft of a bill substantially the same in all material points and identical in the points objected to by the proclamation, had been laid before him for his consideration in the winter of 1862-1863.

There is, therefore no reason to suppose the provisions of the bill took the President by surprise.

On the contrary, we have reason to believe that he has been well known that this method of preventing the bill from becoming a law without the constitutional responsibility of a veto, had been resolved on long before the bill had passed the Senate.

We are informed by a gentleman entitled to entire confidence, that before the 22nd of June in New Orleans it was stated by a member of Gen. Banks' staff, in the presence of other gentlemen in official position, that Senator Doolittle had written a letter to the department that the House reconstruction bill would be stayed in the Senate to a period too late in the session to require the President to veto it in order to defeat it, and that Mr. Lincoln would retain the bill if necessary, and thereby defeat it.

The Democratic Watchman.

Vol. 9. BELLEFONTE, PA., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1864. No. 35.

It is to be a law by the approval of the people without the approval of Congress at the will of the President, on his opinion of the popular approval, execute it as law?

Or is this merely a device to avoid the serious responsibility of defeating a law on which so many hearts reposed for security?

The President proceeds: "The President proceeds to express his unwillingness to declare a constitutional competency in Congress to abolish slavery in States," as another reason for not signing the bill.

And while I am so unprepared to declare that the free State Constitutions and Governments already adopted and installed in Arkansas and Louisiana shall be set aside and held for naught, thereby annulling and annulling the rights which have set up the same as to further effect.

That is to say the President persists in recognizing those shadows of Governments in Arkansas and Louisiana, which Congress formally declared and not recognized.

They are the mere creatures of his will. They can not live a day without his support. They were oligarchies, imposed on the people by military orders under the forms of election, at which generals, provincial-marshal, soldiers and camp followers were the chief actors, assisted by a handful of resident citizens and urged on to premature action by private letters from the President.

In neither Louisiana nor Arkansas, before Bank's defeat, did the United States control half the territory or half the population. In Louisiana, General Banks' proclamation of the 12th of July, 1862, "The fundamental law of the State is martial law."

On that foundation of freedom, he erected what the President calls "the free Constitution and government of Louisiana."

But of this State, whose fundamental law was martial law, only sixteen parishes were held by the United States; and in five of the sixteen we held only our camps.

The eleven parishes were substantially held at 238,165 inhabitants; the residue of the State not held by us 575,917.

At the farce called an election, the officers of Gen. Banks returned that 11,346 ballots were cast; but whether any or by whom the people of the United States have no legal assurance; but it is probable that 4,000 were cast by soldiers or employees of the United States, military or municipal.

Such is the free Constitution and Government of Louisiana; and like it that of Arkansas.

And whereas the said bill was presented to the President of the United States for his approval less than one hour before the sine die adjournment of said session and was not signed by him.

If that be accurate, still this bill was presented with other bills which were signed.

Within that hour, the time for the sine die adjournment was three times postponed by the vote of both Houses; and the least intimation of a desire for more time by the President to consider the bill would have secured a further postponement.

Yet the Committee sent to ascertain if the President had any further communication for the House of Representatives reported that he had none; and the friends of the bill, who had anxiously watched him, to ascertain if he had already been informed that the President had resolved not to sign it.

The time of presentation, therefore, had nothing to do with his failure to approve it.

The bill had been discussed and considered for more than a month in the House of Representatives, which it passed on the 4th of May; it was reported to the Senate on the 27th of May without material amendment, and passed the Senate absolutely as it came from the House on the 2nd of July.

Ignorance of its contents is out of the question. Indeed, at his request, a draft of a bill substantially the same in all material points and identical in the points objected to by the proclamation, had been laid before him for his consideration in the winter of 1862-1863.

recognition is a nullity if it be not conclusive on Congress. Under the Constitution, the right to Senators and Representatives inseparable from a State Government.

If there be a State Government the right is absolute. If there be no State Government, there can be no Senators or Representatives chosen.

The two Houses of Congress are expressly declared to be the sole judges of their own members.

When, therefore, Senators and Representatives are admitted, the State Government, under whose authority they were chosen is conclusively established, when they are rejected, its existence is as conclusively rejected and denied; and to this judgment committed any single legislative restoration.

The President proceeds to express his unwillingness to declare a constitutional competency in Congress to abolish slavery in States," as another reason for not signing the bill.

But as the President had already signed three bills annulling several classes of slaves in States, it is not conceived possible that he entertained any scruples touching the provision of the bill respecting which he is silent.

He had already himself assumed a right by proclamation to free much the larger number of slaves in the rebel States, under the authority given him by Congress to use military power to suppress the rebellion; and it is quite inconceivable that the President should think Congress should vest in him a discretion which could not exercise itself.

It is the more intelligible from the fact that, except in respect to a small part of Virginia and Louisiana, the bill covered only what the President declared "the rebel States," and the prohibition of slavery, forever, so that the suppression of the rebellion will double our resources to bear or pay the national debt, free the masses from the old domination of the rebel leaders, and eradicate the cause of the war: the proclamation secures no other advantage.

It is silent respecting the rebel debt and the political exclusion of rebel leaders; leaving slavery exactly where it was by law at the outbreak of the rebellion, and adds no guarantee even of the freedom of the slaves he undertook to manumit.

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Every Constitution of the rebel States at the outbreak of the rebellion may be adopted without the change of a letter; for none of them contravene that proclamation; none of them establish slavery.

It adds no security to the freedom of the slaves.

For their title is the proclamation of freedom. If it be unconstitutional, an oath to support it is void. Whether Constitutional or not, the oath is without authority of law, and therefore void.

If it be valid and observed, it exacts no enforcement by the State, either in law or Constitution, to add a State guaranty to the proclamation title; and the right of a slave to freedom is an open question before the State courts on the relative authority of the State law and the proclamation.

If the oath binds the one-tenth who take it, it is not exacted of the other nine-tenths who succeed to the control of the State Government, so that it is annulled instantly by the refusal to approve it.

What the State courts would say of the proclamation, who can doubt? But the master would not go into court—he would seize his slave.

What the Supreme Court would say, who can tell? What and how is the question to get there.

No habeas corpus lies for him in a United States court, and the President defied with this bill its extension of that writ to this case.

Such are the fruits of this rash and fatal act of the President—a blow at the friends of his Administration, at the rights of humanity, and at the principles of republican government.

good votes; it will be the force of Louisiana and Arkansas voted over again, under the forms of this bill, but not by authority of law.

But when we come to the guarantee of future peace which Congress meant to enact, the forms, as well as the substance of the bill, must yield to the President's will that now about to be imposed.

It was the solemn resolve of Congress to protect the loyal men of the nation against three great dangers, (1) the return to power of the guilty leaders of the rebellion, (2) the continuance of slavery, and (3) the burden of the rebel debt.

Congress required assent to those provisions by the Convention of the State; and if refused, it was to be dissolved.

The President "holds for naught" that resolve of Congress, because he is unwilling to be indefinitely compelled to any one plan of restoration; and the people of the United States are not to be allowed to protect themselves unless their enemies agree to it.

The order to proceed according to the bill is therefore merely at the will of the rebel States; and they have the option to reject it, to support the proclamation of the 8th of December, and demand the President's recognition.

Mark the contrast! The bill required a majority, the proclamation is satisfied with one-tenth; the bill requires one oath, the proclamation requires another; the bill requires voters by registration, the proclamation by guess, the bill exacts adherence to existing territorial limits, the proclamation admits of others; the bill governs the rebel States by law, equalizing all before it, the proclamation commits them to the lawless discretion of military governors and post-masters; the bill forbids elections for President, the proclamation and defeat of the bill threatens us with civil war for the admission or exclusion of such votes; the bill exacted exclusion of dangerous enemies from power and the prohibition of slavery, forever, so that the suppression of the rebellion will double our resources to bear or pay the national debt, free the masses from the old domination of the rebel leaders, and eradicate the cause of the war: the proclamation secures no other advantage.

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Such are the fruits of this rash and fatal act of the President—a blow at the friends of his Administration, at the rights of humanity, and at the principles of republican government.

The President has greatly presumed on the Executive power which the supporters of his Administration have long practiced, in view of the arduous conflict in which we are engaged, and the reckless ferocity of our political opponents.

THE CONFEDERATE PRISONERS AT ELMIRA.

WILLIAMSPORT, August 30th, 1864.

DEAR WATCHMAN:—On the morning of the 27th I got on board the train for Elmira, at which place I arrived half past one o'clock, P. M., the same day.

It was the solemn resolve of Congress to protect the loyal men of the nation against three great dangers, (1) the return to power of the guilty leaders of the rebellion, (2) the continuance of slavery, and (3) the burden of the rebel debt.

Congress required assent to those provisions by the Convention of the State; and if refused, it was to be dissolved.

The President "holds for naught" that resolve of Congress, because he is unwilling to be indefinitely compelled to any one plan of restoration; and the people of the United States are not to be allowed to protect themselves unless their enemies agree to it.

The order to proceed according to the bill is therefore merely at the will of the rebel States; and they have the option to reject it, to support the proclamation of the 8th of December, and demand the President's recognition.

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REBELS.

BY MISS CAROL WOODLEY.

Rebels! 'tis a holy name! The name our fathers bore, When battling in the cause of right, Against the tyrant in his night.

Rebels! 'tis our family name! Our father, Washington, Was the rebel in the fight, And gave the name to us a right: Of father unto son.

Rebels! 'tis our given name! Our mother, Liberty, Received the title with her fame, To days of grief of fear and shame, —When at her breast were we.

Rebels! 'tis our sealed name! A baptism of blood— The war—'tis, and the din of strife— The fearful contest, life for life, The mingled crimson flood.

Rebels! 'tis our fighting name! For peace rules o'er the land, Until they speak of heaven won— Until our rights receive a blow From foe or brother's hand.

Rebels! 'tis our dying name! For although life is dear, To days of grief of fear and shame, We'd rather live as freemen dead, Than live in slavish fear.

Then call us rebels if you will— We glory in the name; For bending under unjust laws, And wearing faith to an unjust cause, We'll rather die as freemen dead, Than live in slavish fear.

There is another pressure on "Old Abe" to reform his cabinet. Too late—nothing will save him.

Mallion, who helped Howard to forge the bogus President's proclamation, is still confined at Fort Lafayette.

A colored man recently auctioned himself off at Cleveland, Ohio, as a substitute, for \$1,200.

The surprise at Memphis is a pretty good illustration of Gen. Washburn's military ability and vigilance.

The Newark, N. J., Advertiser says, the mechanics shops of that city are being literally deserted by men determined to avoid the draft.

At Nassau, Bermuda and Halifax, the arrival and departure of the blockade runners are as regularly reported as the market and wharves at Gloucester and New Bedford.

In dying, Gen. Mulligan left, in black and white, his opinion of General Hunter. "I blush for my country," he wrote, "when it keeps such a fend in service." That's strong language.

Four hundred discharged soldiers passed through Portland recently, one hundred and thirty of them on a single leg coach.

"Old Abe" hasn't had a grin on his face for a month. He would like to change his base, but he knows there is no hope of him anywhere. He says tooth ache would relieve him.

The Lancaster Intelligencer says, "Thaddeus Stevens has lately taken occasion to declare, without disguise, that, if the republican party desire to succeed they must get Lincoln off the track, and nominate a new man." Cold comfort for Old Abe!

Mr. Bates, of the Old Colony Sentinel says, "We speak of our own knowledge, and from our own observation when we there is evidence enough in regard to affairs on the Mississippi to 'damn to eternal infamy' any administration in the world."

The Newburyport Herald says, "It is fine, indeed, for those who went for Mr. Lincoln's inaugural and supported his repudiation of Fremont's and Hunter's proclamations, and now go for his Niagara letter, to talk of consistency and fixedness of purpose!"

A Most Brutal Outrage—Gen. Hunter Downfalls a Wounded Soldier.

Meas. Editors.—I have seen some reference in a Cincinnati paper to some disgraceful and brutal outrage committed by Gen. Hunter on the retreat which terminated his late disastrous and irreparable raid towards Lynchburg; but the matter deserves more public notice than it has yet received, and since I am induced to relate it for your columns, as it was told me by a very respectable gentleman, a soldier whose misfortune it is to belong to the command of Gen. Hunter. The particular incident of brutality is what I refer to, and it is as follows: A wounded soldier by the name of Hoffman, a member of the department of West Virginia, whom I have named. The circumstances of the case as they were told me, and as they are quite publicly related, among Gen. Hunter's men, are as follows: as the brave Hoffman fled from the scene of the retreat, along the road to the retreat, which the incompetency of his commander had rendered necessary, a boy belonging to the 4th West Va. Infantry, who had been wounded in one of the disastrous engagements of the raid, was struggling along on foot almost vainly endeavoring, with the assistance of his companions, to stand up against the faintness produced by a hurried march, excessive heat, and the loss of blood. He had well nigh become clean exhausted, when along came riding, at his leisure, case on horseback, a stout, healthy negro.—Here was an opportunity for relieving the distress, if not of saving the life of the wounded boy. His companions requested the negro to dismount and allow the wounded soldier to ride. The luxurious African refused to do so; and then the humane feelings of the soldiers, prompted them to demand that the blackblinded rider should give place to the weary, wounded, white boy, which demand was speedily and most rigorously enforced. But Cuffee was not tamely to submit to being thus rudely (by misreading the white trash, "fool") ousted of his place, especially as there was one, all powerful in the premises, to whom any one beseeched with a black hide, inch-thick lips, a pressed nose, and wool for hair, might safely present his petition, and come off more than victorious over them. He was the negro, especially as there was one, all powerful in the premises, to whom any one beseeched with a black hide, inch-thick lips, a pressed nose, and wool for hair, might safely present his petition, and come off more than victorious over them. He was the negro, especially as there was one, all powerful in the premises, to whom any one beseeched with a black hide, inch-thick lips, a pressed nose, and wool for hair, might safely present his petition, and come off more than victorious over them. 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