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BEAVER ARGUS.

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POETICAL.

The Aged Stranger.

"I was with Grant," the stranger said
Said the farmer: Say no more,
But rest thee here at my cottage gate,
For thy feet are weary and sore.

"I was with Grant," the stranger said
Said the farmer: Nay, no more—
I prithee sit at my frugal board,
And eat of my humble store.

"How fares my boy—my soldier boy
Of the old Ninth Army Corps?—
I warrant he bore him gallantly
'Th the smoke and the battle's roar."

"I know him not," said the aged man,
And, as I remarked before,
I was with Grant"—"Nay, nay, I know,"
Said the farmer, "say no more.

"He fell in the battle—I see, alas!
Thou'dst smoothe these tidings o'er—
Nay, speak the truth, whate'er it be,
Though it rend my bosom's core.

"How fell he—with his face to the foe,
Upholding the flag he bore?
Oh, say not that my boy disgraced
The uniform that he wore!"

"I cannot tell," said the aged man,
And should have remarked before,
That I was with Grant—in Illinois,
Some three years before the war."

Then the farmer spake him never a word,
But beat with his fist full sore
That aged man that had worked for Grant,
Some three years before the war.

Miscellaneous.

THE RECORD OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY: 1860—1865.

SECESSION AND RECONSTRUCTION.

The War against Rebellion has passed into history. Had it proved unsuccessful, the political party which has never ceased to predict its ill success and to obstruct its progress would have claimed and secured, as the reward of its political sagacity, the management of our national affairs for a generation. To oppose a successful war, however, is likely, in a Republic, to prove the destruction of any organization guilty of so unpatriotic a blunder, *and the* Democracy, which *has thus* proved its faithlessness to the great principles on which it was founded, is now seeking to obliterate the damning record of its course since the election of 1860.

For a few months, indeed, after the fall of Sumter, the indignant energy of the people suppressed open manifestations of factious opposition. Since the surrender of the rebels and the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, also, the hopelessness of the cause of slavery and State rights has stilled all rising agitation; and the mourning of a nation has forced those who lately attacked our late Chief Magistrate with ceaseless venom to besline his memory with yet more nauseous praise. These scanty proofs of patriotism are now appealed to in the hope that an easy public may in a few short years forget the consistent policy which lost no opportunity of embarrassing the Government and encouraging the Rebellion during the gloomy period when the national life hung in the balance and destruction seemed only to be averted by unanimous effort. It is not pleasant to reflect that a powerful party, which had for nearly half a century controlled the destinies of the country, has played so base and treasonable a part in the hour of peril; and the people will be ready to banish all memories of so disgraceful and humiliating a fact. It is important, however, that in the future we should know who are to be trusted and who to be shunned. The problems to be solved within the next ten years are too momentous to mankind to be confided to those who have proved themselves recreant alike to republicanism and to true democracy. It may therefore not be amiss to throw together, in a shape for preservation and convenient reference, a few of the innumerable proofs that the great Democratic party has throughout the contest been the consistent and faithful ally of the Rebellion; that, in invited secession, declared that coercion was unconstitutional and war illegal, and that it opposed every measure adopted by the nation to carry on the war—suspension of the *habeas corpus*, conscription, emancipation, loans, legal tender money and taxation—everything, in fact, to which we owe the fortunate result of our unexampled struggle.

HOW THE SOUTH WAS TEMPTED TO SECEDE.

No one imagines that, had the South supposed that its revolt would have been resisted by an united and determined North, it would have plunged into the fiery gulf of rebellion. Its people were misled by their leaders that secession would be peaceful, that it was justifiable, that it was the only remedy for innumerable wrongs, that any attempt by fanatical abolitionists to interfere with the movement would be met and neutralized by their Democratic allies in the North, and that eventually the Union would be reconstructed under a pro-slavery constitution of their own dictation, with New England for ever out of it, and reduced to a consolidated State. How gullible they were, how justified in promulgating these fatal errors can easily be proved by references to the utterances of chosen leaders of the Democracy.

OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO REBELLION.

Ex-President Franklin Pierce, in a letter to Jefferson Davis, as early as Jan. 6, 1860, thus assured him that his Northern allies would be faithful to the last extremity:

"I do not believe that our friends at the South have any just idea of the state of feeling, hurrying at this moment to the pitch of intense exasperation between those who respect their political obligation, and those who have apparently no impelling power but that which fanatical passion on the subject of domestic slavery imparts. Without discussing the question of right—of abstract power to secede, I have never believed that actual disruption of the Union can occur without blood; and if, through the madness of Northern Abolitionists, that dire calamity must come, the fighting will not be along Mason and Dixon's line merely. It will be within our own borders, in our own streets, between the two classes of citizens to whom I have referred. *Those who defy law and scout constitutional obligations will, of ever we reach the arbitrament of arms, find occupation enough at home.*"

SECESSION JUSTIFIED.

Few Democratic statesmen were found bold enough to defend secession as a constitutional right, but the South was assured in the most formal way that the wrongs inflicted on it were ample to justify secession as a revolutionary remedy.

Thus President Buchanan in his Message of December 3, 1860, proclaimed to the world, that

"The long continued and intemperate interference of the Northern people with the question of slavery has at length produced its natural effects. * * * Self-preservation is the first law of nature, and has been implanted in the heart of man by his Creator for the wisest purposes, and no political union, however fraught with blessings and benefits in other respects, can long continue if the necessary consequences be to render the homes and the firesides of nearly half the parties to it habitually and hopelessly insecure. Sooner or later the bonds of such a Union must be severed."

And, though he denied the constitutional right of secession, he told the South, which at that moment was taking the preliminary steps to secede, that, if the "personal liberty bills" of some of the extreme Northern States were not repealed,

"In that event, the injured States, after having first used all peaceful and constitutional means to obtain redress, *would be justified in revolutionary resistance to the Government of the Union.*"

Well might Howell Cobb say, in a confidential letter to a Georgia editor:

"I repent to you that the administration of Mr. Buchanan is the most thoroughly identified with our principles and our rights of any that has ever preceded it, and I am willing to stand or fall upon the issue."

After this hideous invitation to rebellion in the solemn state papers of our National Chief Magistrate, further proof would seem to be superrogatory, but a few utterances by other party leaders may be admitted to show that this doctrine was accepted by the Democracy, and was continually promulgated both before and during the whole course of the war.

Thus, on December 13, 1860, while the secession of South Carolina was rapidly maturing, Judge Woodward, the most prominent and trusted Democrat in Pennsylvania, profaned the sacred precincts of Independence Square with the following:

"We must arouse ourselves and reassert the rights of the slaveholder, and add such guarantees to our Constitution as will protect his property from the spoliation of religious bigotry and persecution, or else we must give up our Constitution and Union. Events are placing the alternative plainly before us—constitutional union and liberty according to American law, or else extinction of slave property, negro freedom, dissolution of the Union, and anarchy and confusion. * * * We hear it said, Let South Carolina go out of the Union peaceably. I say, let her go peaceably if she go at all, but why should South Carolina be DRIVEN OUT of the Union by an irrepressible conflict about slavery?"

And not only was the speaker encouraged by receiving the Democratic nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania in 1863, but this speech was declared in the address of the Democratic State Central Committee in August, 1863, to have "been vindicated by the subsequent events as a signal exhibition of statesmanlike sagacity," and was printed by that Committee and circulated throughout the State by thousands, as the purest embodiment of the Democratic creed, with a preface in which the Chairman of that Committee (Charles J. Biddle, declared his belief that no intelligent man will fail to see in it the wisdom and foresight of a statesman such as the Commonwealth now needs in the direction of its affairs."

In the same spirit, the address of the Democratic State Central Committee in 1863, assures us, that

"The substantial interests of the South, especially the slaveholding interest, were *reluctantly drawn* into secession." On the other hand, the Abolitionists "counted on an easy triumph through the aid of revolted slaves, and, in this reliance, were careless how soon they provoked a collision. * * * To cover up their own track, they invite us to spend all our indignation upon Southern traitors, but truth compels us to add that, in the race of treason, the Northern traitors to the Constitution had the start."

So, on the 16th of January, 1861, the Democratic Party of Philadelphia, assembled at a great meeting in National Hall, while State after State was defiantly passing ordinances of secession, and seizing forts, arsenals, dockyards and custom-houses. They had no word of reprobation for Southern treason, but, in the series of resolutions adopted, they declared their party faith to be that the citizens of Pennsylvania should

"Determine with whom their lot shall be cast, whether with the North and East whose fanaticism has precipitated this misery upon us, or with our brethren of the South, *whose wrongs we feel as our own.*"

So, the Detroit *Free Press*, a Democratic organ, April 16, 1862:

"History will relate that we," (the North), "manufactured the conflict, forced it to bothed precocity, nourished and invited it."

So, too, Edward Logersoll, in an address to the Democratic Central Club of Philadelphia, delivered June 13, 1863, when Lee was on the borders of Pennsylvania:

"Until the spirit of disunion and hatred, which is Abolitionism, is put down in our midst, government, which alone can give us peace, is impossible. Don't trouble yourselves about the disunion spirit in the South, don't trouble yourselves about the Southern Confederacy; take the beam out of your own eye, we will find political occupation enough at home for some time to come. When the Federal Administration ceases to be a government, and represents nothing but the instinct of hatred and destruction against one section of our country, *that section wisely and naturally concentrates the whole vigor of its nature in resistance.*"

Political Parties.

In every country in which any expression of popular opinion is allowed there are at least two parties, one sustaining the men who have control of the government, and the other opposing them. The measures adopted by those in power are usually assailed by the opposing party, and the people range themselves on one or the other side in accordance with their notions of what is right and for the public good. This is what may be called the normal condition of parties, which will universally be found to exist unless undue influences are made use of to deceive the people or to prevent a fair expression of their views.

In a republic ambitious and mercenary demagogues will strive to gain the favor of the people by professing great devotion to their interests and welfare, and exhibiting a jealous care of their rights; and inasmuch as it is a much easier matter to assail than to defend the acts of political leaders, those who want offices generally denounce those who hold them as enemies of the people's rights and freedom, and the measures of the latter are criticised with much bitterness.

In this country, since the party which now holds the reins of government came into power, things have been in an abnormal condition for the opposition to the administration, while assailing those who control public affairs with much vehemence, has not had the courage to oppose its chief measures, and the party which delights in calling itself *Democratic* stands in the ridiculous attitude of an opponent of men who are carrying out measures which it acknowledges to be right, and professes itself ready to support. * * * When the Southern States enacted ordinances of secession the leaders of the Democratic party urged on to promise, and denied the right of the Federal Government to compel reluctant States to remain in the Union. [illegible] forts; but when our arsenals, navy-yards, custom-houses and mints were seized, and the flag of the Union was insulted and dragged in the dust, they were ready to acknowledge the Confederacy, and to arm and assist in its subjugation. * * * They claim it as a great merit that their party has furnished more men to destroy the Southern Confederacy than the one supporting the administration has done. They have all the time declared the war to be wrong and impolitic, but at the same time they tell us that they deserve much credit for giving it efficient support. Unjust war is murder and robbery, and if they were honest in believing what they asserted of the injustice of coercing States, they were but cut-throats and robbers when they took part in it. When the conscription was ordered they denounced it as a gross violation of the rights of individual States and of those of the people; but instead of maintaining their rights as brave men do, they went diligently to work to raise money to pay substitutes, and keep their own precious persons out of danger. Whenever a disloyal paper was silenced, they declared the act a violation of the Constitution; when men were punished without a jury trial, they asserted that a fundamental principle of our free government was destroyed; and when the writ of *habeas corpus* was refused, they asserted that the chief corner-stone of our republic was crushed, and many of them have repeatedly said that all the rights of the people have been taken from them and despotism planted upon the ruins of the republic, and yet not a man among them has dared to urge actual resistance to these measures. If the assertions of these demagogues be true, if they have been deprived of the rights of citizens, and reduced to the condition of slaves of a despotism, why do they quietly submit to the oppression? They say too that by military force, and by frauds superinduced by greenbacks, elections have been carried, and that they have been practically deprived of the elective franchise, and consequently that the people have no more freedom than the subjects of an Austrian or Turkish despotism.

Now, if the leaders of the Democratic party and the editors of Democratic papers believe what they tell the people, what are we to think of them? Why have they not resisted the tyranny of which they complain? Are their lives so valuable to them that they are willing to be deprived of all that makes life dear to free-born men? We would be glad if some of our Democratic contemporaries would enlighten us. They have by their own assertions placed themselves in such an attitude that they must be regarded as the greatest hypocrites or the greatest cowards living. Our fathers of the revolution took up arms against their government to resist an unjust tax upon "tea and paper, and painters' colors;" but the *Democracy* of our day yield their necks quietly to the yoke of despotism, and go on trying to make money and live comfortably as if nothing had happened. If *Democracy* can swallow despotism so easily, and submit to the utter destruction of the rights of freemen for nearly five years, *where is there any use for such a party?*

One of the southern refugees in Canada recently declared that he preferred to have the Republican party in power in this country, because the Democrats are "traitors and cowards." They led the men of the South to believe that they would contend vigorously for their rights and freedom; but when the secessionists had risked everything, and lost all, they found that Democratic demagogues were *making money out of the war* wherever it was practicable to turn it to account in that way.

Is it possible that men with eyes and ears and brains can be deluded by the vaporings of leaders who by their own showing are either great knaves or the merest poltroons?—*Phil. News.*

☞ An old gentleman, on retiring from business, gave the following sage advice to his son and successor: "Common sense, my son, is valuable in all kinds of business—except in love-making."

The Bedford Murder.

The following from the Bedford *Inquirer*, gives the particulars of the murder of Jacob Crouse by John P. Reed, which occurred in that town on the 1st inst. A one-sided article from the Bedford *Gazette* having gone the rounds of the press, we deem it proper to publish the following statement of the facts in the case. The *Inquirer* says:

John P. Reed, Jr. and Mengel Reed, sons of John P. Reed, Esq., an old citizen of this borough, and formerly prothonotary of this county, are charged with the commission of this heinous crime. John P. Reed, Jr. directly after the breaking out of the rebellion, visited Canada, and studied law in the office of a Canadian barrister. While there he was drafted.—The general impression among all classes in this community was that he had gone to Canada to avoid the military service of the United States.

Immediately after President Lincoln issued his proclamation giving delinquents until a certain date to report, his friends got permission to pay commutation for him, and in a short time thereafter he returned to his place. Mengel Reed, in the latter part of June, 1863, in company with Brinton Lyon, went to McConnellsburg, Fulton county, in time to join, or as his friends allege, to be pressed into the rebel service. He was captured by our men at the battle of Gettysburg, and confined at Fort Delaware, where he was found by his friends, and efforts made to secure his release, which were successful.

The evidences in favor of his having gone into the rebel service voluntarily was so strong that few persons, if any, doubted it. This being the case he was generally regarded as a traitor, and treated as such by Union men. For the last two years he has spent the greater part of his time in Philadelphia studying medicine, only returning here at intervals of several months to spend a few days. He returned here on the 3d of July last, and he was notified by some of the returned soldiers to leave in a few hours. The soldiers were, however, prevailed upon not to molest him, and he has remained from that time until the present.

On Saturday afternoon, as Jacob Crouse passed the Mengel House, Mengel Reed was standing in front of it on the sidewalk. Mr. Crouse remarked "How are you, Johnny?" and passed on. As he crossed the alley north of the hotel he heard Reed call to him to stop and he would cane him. Crouse halted and told him that he would not need to go any further than just there. At this point John P. Reed, Jr. ran in and struck Crouse. A scuffle ensued, in which Crouse and Reed were precipitated to the ground with the advantage in favor of Reed. The friends of Reed rallied to the spot to the number of ten to one, and readily assisted him to maintain any advantage that he might have acquired, but the moment Crouse began to recover then they were separated.

Crouse told the writer of this article that he was kicked a number of times by Reed's friends, and that he was under the impression that he had been hit once with a cane. While the affair was in progress, cries appeared to come from all sides, "Now you've got him, kill him!" "Kill the —— son of a ——!" The result was heralded as a triumph for the Reeds.—About nine o'clock the same evening, as Schell Reed was passing the Western Union Telegraph Office, Crouse mistook him for his brother, John P. Reed, Jr., and attacked him. The latter came to the assistance of his brother, but finding the quarters decidedly too hot, he beat a hasty retreat, while the other was let off with very little injury.

Here the matter rested until Tuesday morning, the 1st of August. Crouse, it appears, had given over all idea of any further difficulty. In conversation that morning, with his wife he expressed his regrets at what had passed, stating that if he had it to do over again he would not do it. He expressed himself as being very sorry that he had taken Schell Reed for his brother, but said he, it is all over now, there will be no more of it. He came down the street, and as he passed Mann's corner he met his murderer. We present the facts elicited before the Coroner's inquest.

A few words passed between them. Crouse took off his coat and threw it on a post near by. Reed reached to his side and presented a pistol. Crouse reached for and obtained two stones, and for a moment regarded the movements of his antagonist. In the meantime Reed had cocked his pistol. Crouse hesitating no longer, threw a stone, striking Reed on the hip, and in a moment more Reed aimed and discharged his pistol, and Crouse sank to the earth and expired in a few minutes. Mengel Reed appears to have been on the alert and hurried to the scene of action with a stone in his hand, which he poised to throw in case Crouse should attempt to rise.

Holding it in this position several seconds and finding that Crouse could not recover, he hurried away. A large crowd assembled at once and demanded the surrender of the perpetrators of this horrible crime, and they were promptly surrendered to the authorities, and lodged in jail to await their trial, or to escape, as we learn they have not been put in irons. One half the culprits confined in the jail for the last three years have escaped, and we cannot expect a greater effort to retain these criminals than usual.

Thus ended this horrible tragedy. It was shown that Reed had told a number of persons that he would shoot him, and that he had been practising on Monday during a good part of the day.

The finding of the Coroner's inquest is in accordance with the above facts.

Jacob Crouse was in the fifty-eighth year of his age at the time of his death. He was honest, sober and industrious, a man who molested no one, and he despised the mean and contemptible, and if ever a patriot lived, we claim that honor for him who was foully murdered on last Tuesday morning. He hated, with all the intense ardor of his soul, those foul-mouthed traitors who attempted to trail the flag of our country in the dust.

As an officer he was vigilant, wary and brave, even to rashness, and for this he was foully murdered. He leaves a large family to mourn his loss and without the means of support. He was followed to his last resting place in the public cemetery on Wednesday by a vast concourse of sympathizing people. A large amount of money has been collected in behalf of the bereaved family.

A MODEL OLD MAN.—Samuel Caswell, of Barnstead, New Hampshire, is one hundred and six years of age, and has never drank intoxicating liquors nor used tobacco in his life. He has never worn spectacles, and his eyesight has been perfectly good till within a year. He has mowed grass every summer since he was twelve years old till the present, and has never had a physician but three times. His wife is living in good health, at the age of ninety-six.

TIME'S WRECKING.—The *Louisville Journal* says: "Jeff. Davis and his followers got up the rebellion for the pretended purpose of rendering their property in slaves secure. And now Jeff. Davis is in prison awaiting trial for his life, and his ex-slaves are cultivating his fine plantation of two thousand acres in Mississippi for their own benefit.

NOT SO SIMPLE.—As Professor H. was taking a walk one day in the beautiful and picturesque environs of Edinburg, he met one of those beings usually termed fools, and the professor accosted him thus:

"How long can a person live without wit?"

"Odd, I dinna weet ken, sir, but (scratching his head) how lang have ye lived yersel', sir?"

☞ Our Consul General at Alexandria, Egypt, reports that between June 27th and July 17th there had been seventeen hundred and eighty-five deaths from cholera at that place. Thirty thousand people had left the city.

☞ Gov. Buckingham, of Connecticut, who has filled the executive chair by annual elections since 1858, took the occasion of his final message to the legislature, upon its adjournment, last week to decline a renomination.

☞ Austria is almost in a state of bankruptcy caused by her obstinacy in supporting a vast and useless army of 700,000 men, when nobody is going to attack her.

☞ At a meeting of the State Sovereignty Democracy in Cincinnati, recently, over which Aleck Long presided, President Johnson was denounced as a criminal, and the Republican party as cut-throats.

Lawyer.—A learned gentleman, who rescues your estate from your enemies and keeps it himself.

Doctor.—A man who kills you today, to save you from dying to-morrow.

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Religious.

——In the letter of Dr. Stevens, Episcopal Bishop, of Pennsylvania, to the clergy and laity of the diocese, he thus speaks of Bishop Potter, lately deceased in California: As a preacher, he was forcible, clear and eloquent; as a legislator, he was sagacious and far-sighted; as an executive officer, he was prompt, active and unfaltering; as a bishop, he was eminently wise, conservative and efficient; as a man, he was noble in mind and body; as a citizen, loyal and patriotic; as a christian, humble godly, in conversation spotless in life, resting alone on Christ for pardon and peace.

——In the circular issued by the "Committee on Freedmen," appointed by the last U. S. General Assembly, headquarters in Pittsburg, by the pastors and people of the Presbyterian Church, it is stated there are now more than forty missionaries and teachers in the field. The expense of maintaining this force is a little more than $2,000 per month. There is in the treasury now about $4,000—of this sum but $300 came in to the treasury during the month of June.—An urgent appeal is made by the committee for liberal distribution.

——Dr. Jacobus, (of Allegeny) now on the Continent, while in London heard "Father Ignatius" preach.—During the service this would-be monk wore all the dress of a Benedictine Monk with shaved head and bare feet, and though the service was intoned with none of the pomp of the English Church, yet he preached a very plain, practical sermon from the text, "We spend our years as a tale that is told." The doctor says he urged his hearers to seek Jesus as the only hope, and whether in pretence or in truth, Christ was preached.

——The Rev. Dr. Nicholson, who was in Mexico last year, on a tour of observation, under the appointment of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Protestant Episcopal Church, has returned. He reports quite favorably in regard to missionary work in that country, and has inaugurated a mission station already, without waiting for the usual formalities in such matters. In Hayti, it is represented, the Protestant Episcopal Church is likewise making considerable progress.

——From recent intelligence received from Denmark we learn the Methodist Episcopal church at Copenhagen, which is the admiration of all beholders, will be ready for dedication some time the coming fall or winter. Consul Dolner is doing all he can to further the object.

Agricultural.

Treatment of Horses' Feet.

Mr. Gamgee, in the Edinburgh Veterinary Review for August says:

"The day will, I believe, soon come when the people will not allow cutting instruments to touch the soles of their horses' feet. I have said, in former papers that the wall, sole and frog are so constructed that they mutually co-operate, and that the intermediate horn, which I have shown is secreted between the wall and sole of their union, is also required to be left entire; but by the prevailing custom of cutting the hoof, these substances, which, in their nature are rebounding springs, are destroyed or greatly impaired. The custom of thinning the sole, and likewise of keeping that part always in cow dung or other wet sodden material, under the name of stoppings, was brought into vogue after the establishment of our first veterinary schools."

Onions for Poultry.

Scarcely too much can be said in praise of onions for fowls. They seem to be a preventive and remedy for the various diseases to which domestic fowls are liable. Having frequently tested their excellencies, we can speak understandingly. For gapes and inflamation of the throat, eyes and head, onions are almost a specific. We would, therefore, recommend giving fowls, and especially the young chicks, as many as they will eat, as often as two or three times a week. They should be finely chopped. A small addition of corn meal is an improvement.

Collect Muck.

None of the old agricultural axioms has more in it than the one that declares "Muck is the mother of the meal chest." Many poor farms have been brought into a state of high fertility mainly through the use of meadow muck. August usually offers the most favorable time for getting it out to high and dry land. Do not let the opportunity pass this month. A bank of good muck to go to, summer and winter, when the farmer pleases, is worth more to the world than a bank of discount of paper or gold.

Hens Eating Eggs.

Hens may be cured of eating their eggs by blowing out the contents of an egg, and filling it with mustard made into a paste. Make a hole in each end, blow the contents out, and when filled, paste paper over the hole.—One taste of the mustard effects a cure.