

Bedford Inquirer.

BEDFORD PA., FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1865. GLIMPSES AT THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE.

Four years of bloody fratricidal war are about drawing to a close. During that long night of terror, devastation and bloodshed we have not, indeed, seen the invader within our own immediate vicinity, but we have seen our own brave soldiers march through our streets to meet him on the border; we have also seen the scattered fragments of Milroy's gallant little army, foot-sore and disheartened, enter our streets and claim our sympathy and assistance.

Our lady friends have labored continually since the war began for the comfort of our gallant soldiers in field, camp and hospital. Thousands at their country's call have gone forth from our midst to do battle for the preservation of our national integrity. Disaster after disaster befell our armies, and at one time the army of the rebellion even threatened our State Capital, but it was soon followed by the ever memorable victory of Gettysburg.

When the tide of war set in our favor, victory followed victory as our conquering hosts advanced, and now we rejoice over the capture of the last rebel army. To-day when the white-winged angel of Peace is hovering over our land, and about to take up her abode with us once more, the overflowing gratitude of our hearts may be excused if it find expression in highly colored, or even extravagant language.

But from such sorrowful memories let us turn to the contemplation of brighter scenes and happier prospects. It is true that in the beginning we aimed not at abolition, but there is a divinity that shapes our end.

There are those among us no doubt, who will now that they can no longer frighten timid ones with the gloomy side of war, endeavor to prove that what did not come of war will not come of peace, that ruin, financial or national, is now immediately threatening us.

bl Grant, the dashing Sheridan, and the dashing Sherman, let us not forget to send our tribute of thanksgiving and praise to the Great Ruler of Nations, who has vouchsafed unto us so great a deliverance and the prospect of so glorious a heritage.

RICHARD COBDEN. The English Liberals bewail in the death of Richard Cobden one of the great Englishmen; even the London Times confesses that his eminence must remain unquestionable.

Richard Cobden was what is called a self-made man, which means simply that he used his opportunities, and had the happy gift of knowing when and how to use them. In this he was like Mr. Lincoln. There are plenty of poor boys, sons of small farmers in England, like Richard Cobden, or of poor Western settlers in America, like Abraham Lincoln, who are thrown upon the world, but after a desperate struggle succeed in living respectable lives.

It is the good fortune of England at this time that she never had an abler group of liberal leaders. They are a distinct body from the Whig chiefs. In the days of Sir Francis Burtet the folly of the radical party defeated its best purposes.

Mr. Cobden's signal and most illustrious service was his advocacy of free trade. In 1839 he led the movement for establishing the Anti-Corn-Law League, and after a tremendous and incessant agitation, which exasperated the agricultural, as the anti-slavery agitation had exasperated the commercial, interest in England.

Like all the English liberals, Mr. Cobden has been one of our firmest and truest friends during the rebellion. He had been twice in this country and understood our politics. Still better, he understood the eternal law that prevents injustice in an enlightened people from being permanently profitable.

Mr. Lincoln's LAST INAUGURAL.—The last inaugural address by President Lincoln made a strong impression in England. The Atlantic to the Pacific, from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf, our debt will not only sit lightly upon us, but by many will be regarded as a blessing, inasmuch as it has given us a safe and substantial national currency.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

Another Speech by President Johnson—His Response to the Loyal Southerners.—The following is President Johnson's reply to the loyal Southerners who waited upon him on Monday, April 24th.

It is hardly necessary for me on this occasion to say that my sympathies and aims are in connection with this glorious and patriotic war in union with yours. Those who have passed through this bitter ordeal, and who participated in it to a great extent, are more competent, as I think, to judge and determine the true policy which should be pursued.

That the Quartermaster General discharge all ocean transports not required to bring home troops in remote departments. All river and inland transportation will be discharged except that required for necessary supplies to troops in the field.

That the Chief of Ordnance stop all purchases of arms and ammunition, and that the proper officers of the Ordnance stop the manufacture of arms and ordnance stores in the Government arsenals as rapidly as can be done without injury to the service.

That the Chief of the respective bureaus will immediately cause proper returns to be made in respect to the public property in their charge, and statements of the property in each that may be sold up for advertisement and publication, without prejudice to the service.

THE REBEL RAM "WEBB" She Escapes Down the Mississippi. Jeff. Davis Supposed to be on Board. Her Career Ended. She Passes New Orleans. Her Machinery Gives Out. She is Abandoned and Blown Up.

MEMPHIS, April 28, via CAIRO, 29. The Vicksburg Herald Extra of the 25th, has a dispatch dated off the mouth of Red river, April 23d, stating that at nine o'clock that evening the famous rebel ram "Webb" ran out of Red river passing all the gunboats and iron clads there, and descended the Mississippi river with lightning speed.

IMPORTANT MILITARY ORDER.

Army Expenses to be Reduced. Soldiers in Hospitals to be Discharged. Official from Secretary Stanton.

The following important order has just been issued by the War Department: WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, April 28.—General Orders No. 77. For the reducing of the expenses of the military establishment, it is ordered, 1st. That the chief respective bureau officers in this department, proceed immediately to reduce the expenses of their respective departments to what is absolutely necessary in view of the immediate reduction of the forces in the field and in garrison, and that they severally make out statements of the reductions they deem practicable.

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Capture of Rebel Officers and Men. WASHINGTON, May 1. Acting Master Fitzpatrick, commanding the United States steamer Vixen, reports to the Navy Department, under date of April 29, off Randolph, Va., that he had captured a large number of rebel officers and men.

FROM SELMA, ALABAMA. Capture of 150 Officers. Destruction of Jackson's Forces. NEW YORK, April 29.—The Herald's Selma, Alabama, dispatch says: Among Prisoners captured here, are 150 officers. Lieut. General Dick Taylor made his escape on a steamer. N. B. Forrest, Dan Adams, Robert Johnson and McCanless, escaped also.

SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR NATIONAL FLAG.—In the last number of the Lutheran and Missionary, edited by Dr. Krauth, we find this beautiful idea: "Our country's faith has learned a new interpretation of her standard. The white signifies the purity of purpose which belongs to her true ruler; the red, the crimson tide in which life flows forth a willing offering; the blue reminds her of a home in Heaven to which the good are gathered. The stars in her banner tell of light in darkness, and she shall learn to range them in a new and beautiful order, as the Constellation of the Cross."

MOVEMENTS OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

HIS ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE. He is accompanied by other Notables. Object to Escape to Trans-Mississippi. He passed through Charlotte, N. C. April 23 Hampton's Cavalry Escorting Him. Gen. Wilson will probably prevent his Escape.

A dispatch dated New York, April 27—says the Richmond Whig, of the 25th, says: Jeff Davis was at Hillsboro, North Carolina, from the 12th to the 14th instant. He then went by rail to Greensboro, whence with an escort of two thousand picked cavalry, selected from Hampton's and Wheeler's commands, started on horseback due South to Ashboro and Cheraw. By this route he left Salisbury and Stomach about forty miles to his right.

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CONCERNING THE BOOTH AFFAIR.

There will be no Funeral Ceremonies. DETAILS OF THE CONSPIRACY DEVELOPED. SEVERAL STATEMENTS ERRONEOUS. Booth was shot through the Neck. WASHINGTON, April 28.

It is not known what will be done with Booth's body. There will be no funeral ceremonies. A rumor prevails that he was sunk in the Potomac river during the night. Highly important details of the conspiracy are being developed, but no publicity is desired for the present.

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CONSTANT EMPLOYMENT.

The man who is obliged to be constantly employed to earn the necessities of life and support his family, knows not the unhappiness he prays for when he desires wealth and idleness.

Mr. LINCOLN'S SKILL DEVOTION.—The memories of the Confederates who words and deeds of the great President, already begin to flow in thick upon us. We read the glowing words—alas! that they are now made prophetic!—with which he raised the flag over Independence Hall, on Washington's Birthday, four years ago.

Well Said and Trueful.—The New York Times gives utterance to the following concerning Gen. Grant: "The grim patriot and almost sublime self-forgetting hero who has kept him for so many months on a slow wearisome, comparatively unbrilliant task of holding Lee and his army as a viceroy in Virginia, while his subordinates made the brilliant marches and won the easy victories, is something not much admired by the crowd, but which history will never forget or cease to celebrate."

Interesting From Washington. WASHINGTON, May 1.—The Surgeon General reports that Secretary Seward still continues to improve, and that F. W. Seward had a slight hemorrhage from the scalp last night, but is slowly regaining strength.

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