

Clearfield



Republican.

BY G. B. GOODLANDER & CO.

VOL. XXXI.—WHOLE NO. 1652.

PRINCIPLES, not MEN.

CLEARFIELD, PA. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1861.

TERMS—\$1 25 per Annum, if paid in advance

NEW SERIES—VOL. I.—NO. 40.

GOOD MORNING.

"Oh, I am so happy!" a little girl said.
As she sprang like a lark, from a low trundle bed;
"Tis morning—bright morning! Good morning,
papa!"

Give me one kiss for good morning, mamma?
Only just look at my pretty canopy;
Chirping his sweet "Good morning to Mary!"
The sun is peeping straight into my eyes—
Good morning to you, Mr. Sun, for you rise
Early to wake my birds and me,
And make us happy as happy can be...

"Happy you may be my dear little girl."
As the mother struck softly a clustering curtain,
"Happy you can be—but think of the One
Who wakened this morning, both you and the sun.
The girl turned her bright eyes with a nod:
"Yes, I may, I say, then, good morning to God!"

"Yes, little darling one, surely you may;
Kneel as you know every morning to pray."
Mary knelt solemnly down, with her eyes
Looking up—eagerly—into the skies.

And two little hands, that were folded together,
Softly she laid on the lap of her mother,
"Good morning, dear Father in Heaven," she said,
"I thank thee for watching my young little bed!"
For taking good care of me all the dark night!
And waking me up with the beautiful light.
O, keep me from naughtiness all the long day.
Dear father, who taught children to pray."
An angel looked down in the sunshine and smiled,
But she saw not the angel, that beautiful child!

[From the Dauphin Quarterly Review.]

OUR COUNTRY: ITS PERIL: ITS DELIVERANCE.

By Rev. ROBERT J. BRECKENRIDGE, D. D.,
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1. What we propose is, *first*, to make such a statement of the condition of affairs as may be of use to upright men, in enabling them to determine what ought to be attempted, and what can be accomplished, in the way of preventing the ruin of their country; and, *secondly*, to make clear to all men, the position of a vast party in this country, who desire and who deserve, in all possible events, to be understood by posterity—and who, even if their principles are overborne and their counsels are now rejected, may, if they are faithful to themselves, retrieve from the wreck of their country, whatever survives when the period of exhaustion shall come upon its destructive madness.

2. There is no lesson which the universal course of human affairs teaches so thoroughly, at their own instability. And yet there is no lesson so hard for men to learn: no lesson so pregnant of results, and so little heed. How faithful ought men to be when overtaken by defeat and adversity—if they would consider that defeat and adversity, with courage and wisdom, are a preparation for triumph!—How just and forbearing ought men to be in the midst of power and prosperity, if they would consider that power and prosperity, in the degree that they are corrupt, make the road to destruction broad and sure? And how immense, how unexpected, how effectual are the resources of God in the accomplishment of what he ordains to be results of human conduct?

3. Look at the actual condition of public affairs throughout this great nation—consider whether they are tending—consider where that tendency has arisen—consider by what means it is propagating itself; and then reflect upon the unexpected and extraordinary means by which ruin is overtaking every interest and hope of the country—and upon the absolute completeness of the ruin, when these means shall have worked their full effect, in a state of security apparently perfect, and of prosperity apparently complete—small and fierce party scattered through some of the Northern States, commenced a systematic and persistent agitation connected with the Black race on this continent; and in the heat of their system lay this idea, that laws and institutions and rights and duties and interest of every description ought to give way, if there was need of it, to the accomplishment of their designs. In the progress of time and events, and the ruin of political parties, this fundamental idea—which is the essence of lawlessness and anarchy—attaches itself in the public mind of some of the Northern States, to that particular aspect of the question of the Black Race which relates to the obligation, under the Federal Constitution, of delivering fugitive slaves; and laws of various kinds are passed, throwing the weight of State authority against the obligation of the very highest national law. And so the idea and process of disintegration, as the tendency to lawlessness and anarchy strengthens, has thus risen from the condition of a fanaticism, to the dignity of a principle recognized by States and asserted in laws. As if to warn men of the breadth of the ruin involved in this tendency, and to mark the extremity of the peril arising from its connection with the question of the Black Race, one of the slave States had already, under a similar, but directly opposite tendency, formally asserted its right, not only to obstruct the execution of the laws of the United States, but to nullify them absolutely, and upon its own sole and sovereign discretion: so that the spirit of lawlessness and anarchy, in its absolute and universal tendency to disintegrate all things—moved, though not first, yet more rapidly, and by more decisive acts, at the South and at the North.

4. Once more in the progress of time and events, and the ruin of political parties—the whole nation finds itself arrayed, in the last Presidential election, into two opposite parties, (of which the defeated one is mad enough to subdivide itself into three); and this same question of the Black Race, both in the aspect of the rending of fugitive slaves, and in the aspect of slavery in the Territories—and the same questions of supreme law and lawlessness corrected therewith—ounting to the highest national importance, and apparently swallowing up all

other questions, are resolved, so far as that election could resolve them. But the solution is every way remarkable.—For while Mr. Lincoln is elected President—the majority of the nation is so decidedly against him, that he would have been beaten if the power of Congress to create uniform electoral districts had ever been exercised; nay, would have been beaten under the existing system, if all opposed to him had been allowed by the corruption or folly of parties to unite on one opponent. Moreover the solution is further remarkable, in this, that both Houses of Congress, and, as is alleged, the Supreme Court of the United States, held his most dangerous opinions to be unconstitutional; and it is still further remarkable in this, that Mr. Lincoln himself, while representing the Northern section of the anarchical tendency of the times, is known to repudiate the original principle of that faction concerning the rendition of fugitive slaves—and is by universal consent, even of his candid opponents, an able, honest, and patriotic man. At the end of thirty years of working of the spirit we have been trading, a decisive event had thus put the country in a posture where it would clearly appear whether the hereditary law-abiding spirit of our race remained, the great prop and safeguard of all our institutions; or whether the spirit of anarchy already so signally manifested at both extremes of the nation, had so far poisoned the national life of our race at its fountain, that the time had come for one of those great explosions of human passion which fill so many melancholy pages in the history of our race.

5. It is not easy to conjecture, and it is impossible to say with certainty, what would have occurred if the late Presidential election had terminated differently from what it did,—in any one of the various ways in which a different termination was possible. This far we may now speak with certainty, that in some form or other, the spirit of turbulent fanaticism which had pervaded the States of the extreme North so long and so deeply, would not without a miracle, such as history does not record, have been allayed or composed under any defeat, that was possible, in the state of national parties as they are now known to have existed at that time. For there was this fatal element, long concealed—not generally believed—but openly avowed since the secession of South Carolina—that secession, as the final and deliberate choice of the extreme South, was the point to which political opinion had been long and carefully trained, and political parties, long and singly directed. This fatal training, added to the widely diffused spirit of anarchy, smarting under a defeat equally signal add unnecessary, and stimulated by considerations of the very highest importance connected with the question of the Black Race in every aspect of that question—produced the apparently sudden revolution which has already, when these pages are written, led the six cotton States (South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana) to pass separate acts of secession from the United States of America. Here then is the consummation of this spirit of lawlessness and anarchy, working as we have already said it universally works, unto the disintegration—the inclemency of all things—the consummation of it, so far as to embrace all the States producing cotton, sugar, and rice, as their great staples. What is next to be determined is, the fate of the mixed slave States—these divided between farming and planting (North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Texas); and then the four border slave States, (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri); and then we may confidently add, the fate of the nation. Whatever, in the meantime, it is of the last importance to bear in mind, shall be the conduct of the whole of the free States (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa), may be decisive alike of their own fate, and of that of all the rest of the nation itself for many generations.

6. Is it possible for any thoughtful person to suppose, that this spirit of reckless disregard of all existing institutions, has already accomplished all the results of which it is capable? What shall prevent the swallowing up all the remaining slave States? What shall, after that is accomplished, prevent a counter-revolution in every one of those slave States? What shall prevent its taking some new direction with still more vehement force, throughout the whole of the North? What shall prevent a counter revolution in every Northern State? And who can venture to hope, that everywhere tramples under foot those institutions which everywhere have been esteemed most sacred, and everywhere despises the most venerable and the most cherished traditions of our country, and our race, will finally shake its thirst in anything but human blood, or fail to assuage its insatiable rapacity by universal plunder? Cannot even the blind see, that when laws are violated in the name of morality and order, and constitutions are set at nought in the name of liberty and security, and revolutions are accomplished by terror and banishment that there can be no result to such a career, as long as it has way, but the destruction of everything that human governments are instituted to protect; and that at every step of the career, the overthrow of every salutary power and the disintegration of every healthful force of society, and more confirms the existence and reign of universal anarchy? It is as if God should destroy every principle of cohesion in the physical universe, and leave every separate force in it working to the destruction of all things. It is as if He should destroy every idea of subjection in the moral universe, and leave the passions of men to work out all the horrors of

infinite disorder. It is as the steady working of omnipotent force unto the production of universal helplessness. It is, when it shall pervade the earth, the realization of the conjectures of those who expound the divine predictions concerning the condition in which *The Son of Man* will find all nations at his second coming—the universal reign of lawlessness after the universal disintegration of every element capable of restraining it. What we say is—not that these results are inevitable; God forbid! But we say they are natural—they are imminent—they are far more to be apprehended than what has already occurred both in the North and in the South, was to be apprehended thirty years ago. And we may say these things with a greater confidence of an insight of the terrible future, and a more eager beseeching of our generation to beware; since during more than thirty years we have not ceased to lift up an unheeded testimony, both against the principles and the proceedings, both at the North and at the South—whose frightful results the country is now beginning to realize.

H. I. Let us now seek, at least this chaos, for some ground of hope and effort. Throughout the eighteen free States, society is supposed to be under the control of the Republican party. As indicated by the Presidential election in November last, it may be conceded that the majority in all those States, did at that time, believe the election of Mr. Lincoln, to be the best of the alternatives then offered to their choice; and it may be further conceded, though it is not strictly accurate, that, at present, the local, political and military power, in all those States, is in the hands of the Republican party. But it is also true that a minority in those States, numerically almost as large as the entire voting population of the fifteen slave States, voted against Mr. Lincoln—and are thoroughly opposed to the distinctive principles of the Republican party. It is also undeniable that a very large number of those who voted for Mr. Lincoln, are far more Whigs or Americans than they are Republicans; and it is equally certain that a very large number of the Republican party itself, strictly speaking, are patriotic men, who, while they preferred the success of their party to the success of any other party, prefer the peace, the prosperity, and the security of their country above anything that could be obtained by the triumph of their party. If any political result in the future, therefore, can be considered certain, it is certain that a revolution in opinion, more or less decided, will manifest itself throughout the free States, whenever the issue is clearly put to them between their country and any political party. And it is equally certain, that whatever party shall hurry those States, by whatever means, into the horrors of civil war, and the anguish of that impending anarchy of which we have spoken, will perish by a counter-revolution, just as apt to be bloody there as in any portion of the nation.

2. In the position of all the slave States there are peculiar circumstances much overlooked, both among themselves and among others; but nevertheless decisive in the long run. No force, however small, will accomplish its end, if sufficient time be allowed; even that which is infinitely minute, if it operates through an indefinite period. The six cotton States, appear to us to have taken their course in such a temper, with such purposes, upon such principles, and under such foreign conclusions, that they neither desire to return to their former position, nor would at present agree to any thing that they believe would accomplish that result. It is, of course, possible that we are mistaken in this painful conclusion, and we should heartily rejoice to know that we are; but, seeing no ground on which we can doubt that the case stands thus, neither do we see any on which we can avoid stating our belief. It would be gross injustice to many thousands of patriotic men in all the cotton States, to suppose that either of those States would have been allowed to take the course it has pursued, without a desperate political struggle in its own bosom, if the circumstances of those men, in each of those States, had appeared to them to allow of resistance to the organized force which swept society away. There are also thousands of persons in all those States who even now consider it a slander and a reproach, that anterior designs are ascribed to those who direct this secession movement, which it seems apparent to all mankind, except themselves, are not only certain to be realized if the movement is permanently sustained, but which were amongst the earliest and most powerful causes of the long cherished desire to be relieved from the real restraints of the Federal Government, and the imaginary perils and injuries of the Federal Union. In the actual condition of the States which have already seceded, as we understand that condition and the manner in which it has been brought about, we deem it perfectly obvious that a counter-revolution must manifest itself, in every one of them—equally as decided, and perhaps more violent, than the revolution which has already occurred. That counter-revolution may be in a direction more fatal—slipping into uncontrolled power, parties wholly unfit and unworthy to possess it. It may be in a direction eminently favorable to the security and prosperity of those cotton States, and terminating in their restoration to the Union, under the lead of a party whose elements now lie scattered, or even as yet totally undeveloped. But the present revolution, in its very nature, its causes, and its design, must go deeper, in one direction or the other. In which direction, depends in my opinion, in the first instance, in a great degree, upon these contingencies:

1. The conduct of the present ruling faction in those States; its forbearance of the utmost peril of the country; the people

the one hand, or its violence on the other: 2. The conduct of the Federal Government towards those States; as it may be firm and yet temperate, or as it may be vacillating and timid; 3. The conduct of the slave States continuing in the Union, as they may shun the madness of the six seceding States, or as they may arrest the pestilence at the cotton line, and by their wisdom and courage restore the Union; 4. The conduct of the free States, especially those along the slave border; as they shall obstinately persist in fomenting opinions and performing acts, touching the whole question of the black race, which they can now clearly see must involve the country in one common ruin; or as they, by a common consent, or if it becomes necessary, by a counter-revolution in their own bosom, restore public opinion to a condition under which slave States may safely live in peace with them. Under such circumstances it is easy to see, how great and difficult is the task laid on true statesmen everywhere, and how immense and how dubious are the issues submitted to them.

3. The remaining nine Slave States, of which five are border States, and four are mixed slave States, have in each of these classes peculiarities as marked as those which distinguish the cotton States; yet as the whole nine occupy a similar position at the present moment, with regard to the revolution which has swept over the cotton States, they may, for the sake of brevity, be thrown together in developing the great ideas we are endeavoring to disclose. What the exact issue will be in these nine States—or whether it will be similar in them all—or in which direction the prevailing opinion will settle, if different courses are taken—are questions which it is impossible to determine at this time. But it is very obvious, that if the whole nine—or even the greater part of them, embracing the leading and powerful States, refuse to unite in the movement taken by the six cotton States, that movement must necessarily prove a failure, both as to its avowed, and as to any concealed object: a counter-revolution in the cotton States becomes presently inevitable; and those cotton States must ultimately accommodate themselves to the policy, whatever it may be, adopted by the other and leading States instead of being able to force those far more powerful than themselves, to follow blindly and servilely a course disapproved by them, and which rests for its ultimate reason, upon nothing better than the sudden caprice of South Carolina, or her chronic hatred of the National Union.—There are immense considerations, altogether independent of the real merits of the great cause which is under trial—why the decree dictated by South Carolina, and adopted by the other cotton States, should be steadfastly rejected. Amongst these are such as follow: 1. This method by secession annihilates the very idea of all force in permanent constitutional union, or common government over sovereign States, and establishes as inherent in all possible future unions, the idea of anarchy, and deprives liberty forever of the possibility of being either stable or strong: 2. The method of secession by *separate* State action, is founded on illusions utterly fatal and absurd, that the American are not a *nation*—the Federal Constitution not a government—the American people not bound to be loyal except to local authorities, which being assumed, condemns this continent to be the everlasting habitation of every thing feeble factions and extravagance: 3. The adoption of ordinances of secession, by conventions called by ordinary legislatures without allowing the people to determine by a previous sovereign act whether or not its proceedings shall have force—destroys the very idea of the sovereignty of the people, makes constitutional liberty and security impossible, and invites factions, in proportion as they are corrupt or incompetent, to usurp and to abuse sovereign power: 4. The utter refusal to consult with States, all of which were united by the highest human obligations—and many of which were involved in perils the very same in kind and higher in degree—is a line of conduct recklessly in itself, insulting to all others, apparently adopted with the purpose of rendering all peaceful, considerate, or even decorous arrangements impossible, and necessarily jeopardizes, in the result reached, the profitable continuance of slavery, if not its very existence, in the greater part of the slave States, and amongst them the most powerful, the most loyal, and the most enlightened of them all. At the present moment two most important truths are perfectly distinct. The first is, that the action hitherto taken in the States whose positions we are now considering,—no matter what that action may lead to—implies a fundamental dissent from the conduct pursued by these seceding States—and contemplates redress in a different way, and upon opposite principles. The second is, that a very great portion of each of these 9 States probably the majority of the people in most of them—possibly in all of them, are warmly attached to the Union, are resolutely determined to maintain their loyalty, at the same time that they maintain their freedom of action in their nation, at the same time that they are citizens, and are far more inclined to compose existing difficulties, than to drive matters to extremity in any direction.

4. These facts and considerations taken in detail and taken altogether, are worthy of the highest consideration: and whatever the issue of events may be, they refer to the people and to those to whom they trust, the grounds on which, and the manner in which, the country may be saved: and they disclose to posterity the pregnant and enduring truth, that at the utmost peril of the country the people

[From the Harrisburg Patriot & Union]
Events Preceding the Assault upon Fort Sumter

The real destination and object of the fleet sent by the Government to the South, as well as the nature of the negotiations which preceded the attack of the Confederate batteries upon Fort Sumter, is still involved in doubt and uncertainty. All we know is that several vessels crossed the bar and entered the harbor of Charleston, while the battle was progressing, without striking a blow or attempting to afford assistance to the beleaguered garrison. Their instructions may have prevented them from taking any part in the conflict. The following narrative, published in the *Baltimore American* before the assault upon Sumter, gives the most straightforward and plausible account of the events preceding that transaction:

Nearly four weeks since the President and Cabinet, on the representation of Gen. Scott, decided to evacuate Fort Sumter as a military necessity—that is to say, the reinforcing and provisioning of it was not deemed essential, in view of the cost of blood and treasure it would require to accomplish the purpose. This decision of the President was communicated to Major Anderson by a special messenger, with instructions to open negotiations with the military authorities at Charleston to carry the project into execution.

These negotiations have been progressing ever since, and the numerous messengers that have been passing between Charleston and Washington have communicated to Major Anderson the instructions of the Government and to the President the demands of the authorities of the Southern Confederacy. It is understood that Major Anderson refused, under instructions, an unconditional surrender of the fortress to the Confederacy, but proposed to abandon it with his garrison, leaving the fort in possession of a corporal and two privates, to protect the property of the Government, and leave it thus to await future events. He is also understood to have demanded of General Beauregard that a pledge should be given him that no attempt should be made to take possession of it after the evacuation of the garrison, and that the officer left in charge should not be molested, or his possession as the nominal representative of the Government interfered with.

This proposition did not meet the views of General Beauregard, who demanded that the flag of the United States should be saluted and lowered, as was done at the Pensacola Navy Yard, and that a formal surrender of the fort should be made by the Government of the United States to the Government of the Southern Confederacy, and the Confederate flag of seven stars raised on the flag staff and saluted.

This demand, which would be a virtual recognition by the President and Major Anderson of the existence of the Southern Confederacy, was firmly refused, and the decision of Maj. Anderson was subsequently sustained and approved by the President and his Cabinet. This matters stood up to the commencement of last week, when Gen. Beauregard intimated to Major Anderson that, if the demand of the Confederacy was not complied with, an order would be immediately issued to cut off all further communication between the fort and Charleston, and that his regular supplies of marketing would be stopped. This fact was brought to Washington by Colonel Lamont, as the ultimatum of the Confederacy. A Cabinet meeting was then called, and it is said that the refusal to make a formal surrender of the fort and the lowering of the flag was unanimously re-affirmed.

Immediately after this decision orders were given for the military and naval preparations that have since occasioned so much excitement, the object being to use them if necessary in relieving the garrison of Major Anderson from threatened starvation, and maintaining the dignity of the Government and the honor of the flag in Charleston harbor; or, if not required there, to dispatch the expedition to Texas to maintain the treaty stipulations of the Government on the frontier, and drive back the Indians and Mexicans who are threatening to invade the State.

In the meantime Lieut. Talbot was dispatched by Major Anderson to Washington with further information as to the condition of affairs, in which, rumor says that Major Anderson urged the Government not to allow the flag, which he had so long maintained in the face of his besiegers to be humbled as they required—and to compel the gallant men who had stood so nobly by him, including the mechanics who could have left him if they had desired, to witness the humiliating sight of any flag but that of their country flying from its battlements.

This account further states that as soon as information was received at Washington that Gen. Beauregard had cut off the supplies from Fort Sumter, the President dispatched a messenger to Charleston, with instructions to Major Anderson to notify the Confederate authorities that the Government proposed immediately to dispatch an unarmed vessel with food for the garrison at Fort Sumter; and that he was instructed, if the vessel should be fired upon, to return the fire from the fort. The messenger arrived at Charleston, but was denied the opportunity of communicating with Fort Sumter. We know what he owned. The expedition started from New York, and immediately the secession batteries opened upon Fort Sumter, which in its almost defenseless condition, was compelled to surrender.

This account, which is certainly plausible and consistent, will, if it turns out to be correct, serve to explain the apparent change of policy on the part of the Administration with reference to the enemy.