

THE BLAIR MISSION.

It appears certain that FRANCIS P. BLAIR, Senior, the old Editor of the Globe newspaper, has finally succeeded in procuring permission to visit Richmond, and we learn that he has even arrived safely at the Rebel Capital, and "proceeded quietly to the Spotswood House." What influences secured him the favor of the visit, after his first refusal, we are not informed; but probably it was the pertinacity of GREELEY, who has been importuning the President to allow this mission. The natural presumption would be that after GREELEY'S miserable and laughable Clifton House adventures of last summer, he would rest content upon the laurels he has already won as a Great Pacificator—and that the President would be satisfied that however honest he may be in his endeavors to promote an adjustment of our National difficulties, he is anything but a safe counsellor.

But it seems otherwise. BLAIR has departed upon his errand, whatever it may be, and forthwith the very atmosphere is charged with rumors of peace. The most unreliable and extraordinary canards are circulated—and believed—and the public expectation is wrought up to the highest pitch of anxiety.

It seems to us that nothing can be more unwise and unfortunate than a mission of this kind to the rebels, at this time. It may be, that those who are in the secret, are possessed of information which makes such a mission proper and timely. But we do not believe it; and we know that the country looks on with regret at actions which appear peevish and vascillating. It is true, that the Rebellion is in great extremities, and gloom and despondency prevail throughout the Confederacy. There are occasionally croppings out of a disposition in Rebel- dom to rebel against Jeff. Davis' arbitrary rule, and a desire to come back under the old flag. But we fail to see, nor do we believe the shrewdest and best-informed can perceive any indications that the leaders of the rebellion, are ready to lay down their arms and cease their unnatural and unholly warfare.

Until such a spirit is manifested—until the leaders of the rebellion, show some manifestations of a desire to cease their wicked strife, and seek the clemency and pardon of the Government—until they make overtures—we conceive that all such missions as Mr. BLAIR'S—whether authorized or unauthorized—are fraught with incalculable mischief to the Union cause, and calculated to retard rather than promote the advent of peace.

The Rebel leaders know the road to peace, as well as any Union man. They went off on their own accord, and let them come back in the same way. Besides, such a mission will only tend to remove peace further into the future. If it does any thing, it will only revive new hopes among the rebels. They may conclude that we need a peace more than they do, else why make overtures.— They may conclude that it is as humiliating for us to sue for peace as for them, and that inasmuch as we do, there must be something more to cause this, than what is manifest on the face. But, it is alleged that Mr. BLAIR has no authority from the President to propose terms of peace, that as the personal friend of the Executive, with whose views he is familiar, he only goes to ascertain whether a peace is feasible. The rebel leaders understand this game of feeling them, and allow themselves to be felt accordingly. Moreover, what does Mr. BLAIR know of the opinion of the President on the subject of peace, that is not known to every intelligent man in the Union, and to the rebel leaders themselves? They know that all that is asked of them is to lay down their arms, and submit to the laws; and they know too, that they can come back in no other way. The people of the free States, who have thus far borne up against their hellish work, are not willing that they should be taken back on any other terms, and the President knows this. What need then of overtures? If these are made, the presumption at once will be, that there are conditions different from those which we have named, and which have stood out so prominent among the friends of the government, yet all must know there are no conditions for the rebels, except submission to the laws. We hope therefore, that no such error as is indicated in the report of Mr. B's mission, has been committed.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The House of Representatives at Washington is engaged in discussing the Constitutional Amendment providing for the extinction of Slavery. The probabilities of its passage by the present Congress, are not flattering, as the Democrats oppose it. We notice some noble exceptions, such as O'NEIL, of New York, Mr. CREWELL, of Maryland, and two other border states men, Messrs. YEAMAS, of Kentucky, and KING, of Missouri, who have spoken in favor of the proposed amendment.

The opponents of the measure, seem to admit that slavery is dead; that it has strangled itself by bringing about and prosecuting the Rebellion—and yet they are not ready to provide legal enactments for its extinction, which shall put out of the way forever, this great cause of all our national troubles. It is assumed that should the measure fail in the present Congress, President LINCOLN, will immediately after the Fourth of March, call together the next Congress, which will without delay, pass the amendment.

A bill has passed both houses of Congress increasing the duty on Whisky to two dollars per gallon. The law went into effect on the 1st inst. It does not apply to the stock on hand, but only to liquor manufactured after that time.

ARMY CONTRACTORS—SPECULATIONS.

The Copperhead papers have much to say about speculations, and peculations, in the Army and Navy contracts of the government; and endeavor to throw the blame for all losses sustained in this way, on the Administration. This is very unreasonable. Every sensible man knows that it is literally impossible to prevent these things, where such heavy expenditures occur daily, as has been the case under the government since the war against the rebels began.— And that which adds very much to the injustice of the charges preferred against the administration on this ground, is the fact, that many of the worst wrongs, and greatest frauds, inflicted on the government through contracts, were perpetrated by copperheads. But, aside from this, in all the wars in which this country has been engaged, persons have taken advantage of the government, and speculated on its necessities. During the Revolutionary war, Washington wrote a number of letters to the Congress of the United Colonies, complaining of the frauds of those who were authorized to furnish army supplies; and during the Seminole (Indian) war, fifty dollars per cord was paid for wood, when an abundance could be had, at the same time and place, at ten dollars per cord! Three dollars per bushel was paid for corn, when it could have been had at one-third that sum; and the effort to drive from Florida five hundred Indian warriors—part of the time less than two hundred—cost the government twenty millions of dollars!! This took place under Mr. Van Buren's administration; and we dare copperhead croakers to point to an expedition, or any military enterprise which the present administration has projected against five hundred, or against five times five hundred rebels, that cost the government in any proportion to this vast sum.

In the Mexican war large sums were realized by speculators under the commissary department. Col. Kinney, of this county, is said to have made over a million of dollars by supplying Gen. Scott's army with beef. Bonrienne, who was Napoleon's commissary of Cavalry, during some of his campaigns, accumulated large fortunes in the business. After B. had closed his account with his government, the emperor drew on him for a million of francs, and compelled him to pay it; and, the ungrateful dog, who afterwards became his benefactor's bitterest enemy, boasted, after he had been compelled to disgorge the million francs, "that he had millions left." The Rothschilds, made one account says, the enormous sum of seven millions pounds sterling, on the job of procuring, and conveying in coin, to Spain, the money that was necessary to pay the subsidies of England, and keep Wellington's army in supplies during the memorable Peninsular campaign. This is an infinitely greater sum than any contractor has yet realized under our government. These latter are remarkable cases, and are only cited to show the impossibility of carrying on any war, under any government, much less such a stupendous one as ours, and avoid speculations, and even peculations, in supplies. Many smaller cases might be adduced to illustrate this further, but this is needless, not only because practical people do not need them to prove the truth of this, but for the reason, that notwithstanding the persistent and noisy efforts made by the copperheads, to injure the administration by means of this charge, the people did not believe them before the election, and do not now.

FREE MISSOURI.—Missouri has wheeled into the ranks of freedom at last. The Constitutional Convention have passed an ordinance to abolish slavery henceforth and forever, the law to take effect at once. The vote stood, 60 for Freedom and 4 for Slavery. Soon, one by one, we hope to know that the remaining States that have given their support to this heinous rebellion, have returned to their first love with not a stain of degrading and defacing slavery on their garments. This great result will complete the hope and realization of the Union. Maryland and Missouri hereafter will be twin sisters, going hand in hand, living examples to their sister erring States, and by their self devoted acts elevating themselves to eminent positions among the free States of our glorious old Confederacy.

Thus, one by one the props are falling, the arguments of the opposition are being flung back into their own faces—the world moves and freedom reigns.

Simultaneously with this action in Missouri, we find two other States moving.— The Kentucky Legislature has passed resolutions in favor of emancipation, thus committing that State in favor of freedom, and initiating a new regime in the home of Henry Clay. A State Convention has also met in Tennessee, and adopted measures for reorganizing the civil government of that State on a free and loyal basis.— Emancipation, although it may be delayed in these two States, is now rendered certain, and thus we have two more free States assured to us making the number twenty-five. Louisiana and Colorado will give us twenty-seven. Delaware, Arkansas and Nebraska would raise the number to thirty, which we shall reach before the rebel States resume their allegiance, unless they hurry about it.

Fort Fisher Taken!

The Telegraph to-day (Tuesday) announces officially the capture of Fort Fisher and the adjacent forts, with 2500 prisoners and 72 guns. They were carried by assault on Sunday, by a portion of the 24th Corps, under command of Gen. Terry. Union loss heavy, particularly in officers.

Richmond papers say that Mosby is now at his father's house in Amherst; his wound is doing well, and he hopes soon to be again in the saddle.

Ohio has furnished 211,500 men to the army and navy, of whom 16,500 have died in service and about 8,000 have been disabled.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE REBELLION.

Late Richmond papers give signs of collapse, and we refer the reader to the following extracts from the Richmond Sentinel, said to be Jefferson Davis' organ, and the Richmond Inquirer. The condition of the rebels must be desperate indeed, to be obliged to give utterance to such words, and adopt such a tone of despondency as characterize the articles in their leading papers. That this is their true condition cannot be doubted, but what is the object in publishing it to the world? There is something else behind these avowals of weakness, and despair, than these mere publications. Would they thus expose their situation, knowing as they do, that it must be a source of satisfaction to us, if they had not a motive, or a point to make? What this we cannot divine. But two things of them we do know. One is, that the desperate scoundrels, who led off, and have since held up the rebellion, will not be taken alive, if they can devise any expedient that will save them. They will, rather than be hung, go into the front and be shot down in a last desperate struggle. The other is, that Lee's veterans are still capable of a bold movement, and a powerful fight; and the confessions of the Richmond papers of defeat, disaster, and ruin, may, in some way, be connected with the last resort of the desperate villains, who are now endeavoring to escape the punishment they have so richly earned. It may be that these publications are only intended for a foreign market, or they may be sent out to test the feelings of our own people; but whatever the object, there is a point to be gained.

It is said that the article from the Sentinel has been deemed by Secretary Seward of such importance, and so truly representing the condition of the South and Jeff. Davis' own intentions, that he has ordered copies of it to be sent to our foreign ministers, to show that the rebel government is admitted by their own leaders to be a failure, and that, already exhausted and worn out, they are seeking for some port of refuge; and this being the case, that they be no longer considered as "belligerents." It is added that "those most familiar with Jeff. Davis and his writings declare this to be from his pen."

The Sentinel says: "It becomes us coolly and calmly to look into the circumstances of our condition, and adopt with firmness and energy such a policy as wisdom may point out and our necessity constrain. It is chiefly to win under misfortune. It is cowardly to sink under it. It is absurd to be encumbered by a brave man struggling with adversity is worthy of special admiration—a spectacle for gods and men."

"We think that our late reverses have done much towards preparing the minds of the people for the necessary sacrifices of our cause. And in truth they are not sacrifices at all when compared with our situation. If subjugated, it is a question of our property, but master of the government, whether the Yankees shall take for theirs. Subjugation means emancipation and confiscation. "All our servants and all our property yielded up to the enemy, but our own souls mean no more, but it would be far more glorious to devote our means to our success than to lose them as spoils to the enemy. Our situation, too, should be a source of pride, for we are fighting for our property, but master of the government, would be infinitely better than if despoiled by the enemy and wearing his bonds."

"These views have long received the theoretical assent of our people. They are now our practical realizing convictions. A thousand prejudices, a thousand preconceived dogmas, are now ready to be yielded at the bidding of necessity. Any sacrifice of opinion, any sacrifice of property, any surrender of prejudice, if necessary to defeat our enemies, is now the watchword and cry. Subjugation is a horror that embraces all other horrors, and adds enormous calamities to its own. The people see this. They have a vivid perception of it. They are ready on their part for the duties which it implies."

"If we have given to our contemporary a broader interpretation than the writer designed, we do not believe we have misrepresented the determination of our people. The consequences of emancipation would fall upon the unfortunate negro, and God would hold responsible those who had forced upon us the act. It is one of necessity, not choice. An act taken against our judgment and our conviction, to save us from the horrors of a prolonged war and the disgrace, ruin and destruction involved in the success of our country. "If France and England will enter into a treaty which shall save us from the horrors of a prolonged war, and guarantee our independence upon the abolition of slavery in all these States, rather than continue the war, we should be prepared to sign the measure upon our readers. We believe such a proposition would be favorably received and acted upon by those nations, and it ought to be made to them."

HANGMAN FOOTE.—This notorious busy-body, has, it appears, got into trouble at Richmond. In fact, getting into difficulties appears to be a chronic complaint with him. The report is, that while making his way North, he was arrested by rebel cavalry, a few miles below Alexandria, and taken back to Richmond. Mrs. Foote was allowed to come North, and was met at Alexandria, and escorted to Washington by Secretary Seward. Also, that the Government, (which we suppose means Secretary Seward) has given notice that it will retaliate upon rebel prisoners of high rank in our hands for any punishment which may be inflicted upon Mr. Foote by the Richmond government.

We have no fault to find with Secretary Seward's gallantry, but we submit that any sympathy extended to Mr. Foote is entirely misplaced. His performances are not of the slightest consequence, and have no political significance whatever. JEFF. DAVIS would undoubtedly be glad to get rid of him, as a disagreeable, uneasy man, who is always "kicking up a fuss" with somebody. Our authorities would do themselves credit, if they would send him back to Dixie, should he ever succeed in getting within the Union lines.

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