

THE AMERICAN QUESTION IN ENGLAND.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN A LOYAL PHILADELPHIAN AND AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN.

The following correspondence, which has been handed to us for publication, will be read with interest:

To the Rev. Mr. York, Yorkshire, England:-- DEAR SIR: I have your pleasant letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to see that you have good feeling towards us and that the speech of Sir B. Palmer displays and hope that it will not be long before our discussions are settled. The foundation of all the trouble between us is the fact that England, sympathizing as she is with the South, acknowledges the rebels as belligerents before they have done so in our eyes. The United States, with whom she can easily impute terms of perfect equality, she does not do so. You will think that your own feelings would have been in the rebellion in India, we had acknowledged the Sepoys as belligerents upon the outbreak of the war, and permitted some American Mr. Laird to furnish them with steamers, to prey upon our commerce. I say it kindly, Sir, but believe me when I tell you, that this kind of trading with the rebels is a blot upon the honor of our nation, and that future generations, unbiassed by the passions of the day, look back at the events of this war, your last acknowledgment of these scoundrels as belligerents will stand out in relief, a blot upon the otherwise unimpaired reign of your good Queen. Notwithstanding all that has happened, however, the hostile feeling here towards England has much abated, and I hope will soon pass away entirely, though, if it does not, it is a blot upon the good principle of "forgiving those who persecute you, praying for those who despitefully use you."

As regards the position of our own affairs in this country, it is strange to see how the public mind in England is misled. If you will permit me, I will tell you in a few words the simple truth.

The North did not bring on this war--the cry of Abolitionists was a falsehood uttered by Southern conspirators to lure their followers to the field.

Before Sumter fell, the great mass or Northerners had no desire to take from the South any right, and "Abolitionists" was then a term of reproach.

But the boom of the first gun leveled at that fort, startled to their feet a million freemen. More than seven hundred thousand volunteers have already gone forth to battle for the simple right, freely conceded, that the South should be allowed to remain in possession of the land. Thousands upon thousands of brave and intelligent men lie buried south of the Potomac, who have, without a murmur, laid down their lives in a gallant cause, and yet before this Government goes down, and the North rises in arms, it is used to save it. This is no fiction, but a fact known to thinking men here.

The recent secessions are but temporary, and arise chiefly from a sense of security and power. It is a mistake to suppose that the sense of security is lost. The traitorous faction at the North, to which Mr. Vallandigham belongs, is not (as you seem to suppose) upheld by "gentlemen" here, but is thoroughly despised by more intelligent classes of the community.

I fear that you have prejudged the matter, and that my answer to your arguments will not convince you, but still will say a few words more, in the hope that their inherent truth will at least modify your views. You say that your recognition of the Sepoys would not have been a parallel case, and that we had acknowledged the Irish as belligerents, in their rebellion, or that Russia had acknowledged the Scotch as Belligerents in '45, our ship-builders being permitted to build vessels after vessels to prey upon your commerce, and your ports attended to the new flag a safe harbor whenever it was too closely parsed.

Would not this have been a case so similar that the only difference would be such as exists between my ox going your bull and your bull going my ox?

Your next proposition, that the "Federal Government practically rules only its foreign policy and has little to do with home subjects," is simply the rebel doctrine of "State Rights." But you must remember that the spirit of the letter of our Constitution, founded upon subterfuge, and only upheld in this country by the dialoy.

London has a separate government from Great Britain in her municipal affairs, and she might as well say England must regulate my foreign policy; she has nothing to do with my citizens!

As regards your Judiciary, it is held in proper esteem here, and as a body its ability and integrity is not doubted, still we are aware that it is human and not infallible. We know that Judges are sometimes biased by the atmosphere in which they live. We know that their decisions are sometimes reversed, and that Jetties has occasionally been invested with your judicial empire.

I fully agree with you in thinking that a nation, as well as an individual, has an undoubted right to resent threats as well as actual injuries. But you must remember that the British quite as often the giver as the receiver in this matter.

The mutual recrimination and threats of newspapers and politicians on both sides of the water are often improper and irritating, but how can they be helped? It would be a difficult matter to suppress a New York Herald or to muzzle a Mr. Roebeck. This paper which I name as being perhaps the most abusive we have, is largely read for its news, but its editorials are not generally respected or heeded, while the London Times, its competitor in scurrility, is simply despised here, for its daily subterfuges and puerile malignity.

But these are trifles; we have graver causes of irritation. In addition to the fact that armed vessels--British from royals to keels, are sweeping our commerce from the ocean; scarcely a fort has been taken by Union troops, that has not been found to contain English guns of recent manufacture; the smoke of Anglo-Southern powder is seen rising in clouds from every field of battle, and many a Northern soldier has been killed by England's neuter explosive bolts.

Your Government may consider the permitting this not to be an unfriendly act, your judiciary may pronounce it neutrality, and our people may be going wrong, to complain of such Jetties, but your proceedings, may be pardoned for being restive, in consideration of the vacant places at their fire-sides.

The dead, if they could be called back, would probably tell you that in the eyes of the Yankee threats are considered as much less destructive than English neutrality. Your admiration for the pluck of the South is very natural, but I wonder you do not permit the North to share your esteem. She also has certainly shown pluck. In the beginning of this war these brave Southerners had much the advantage.

And here I wish to guard myself one end against any suspicion of bragging. We do not say we can lick you or you us, we have no wish to ascertain which is the better. We desire to love and amity--but even if we know that we are beaten in a combat with you, I think we should fight rather than submit to have our national honor trampled upon. I am a quiet country parson, and never struck a blow in anger in my life, yet if any one were to be perpetually flourishing his fists in my face, and daring me to come on, varying the proceedings by an occasional kick, I think there would be war, though neither my natural beauty nor clerical character would be improved thereby, even if I escaped the threatened thrashing.

I am writing rather a discursive letter, and as I have not taken a rough copy, it is not as well arranged as it might be, but there is one reason why we have a little sympathy with the South, and I might have added thereto, that is, the disparity of numbers. When a little fellow fights a big one, and shows pluck and science, whatever may be the merits of the contest, every one has a certain amount of sympathy with the little man. If North and South had been equally balanced, I really think there would have not been so much Southern feeling in England. We are often troubled with this sympathy with slaveholders, and it even if I escaped the threatened thrashing.

First the care which your press has taken to alienate our sympathies, and the official recognition of the Trent, with other smaller lights. Secondly, because we cannot withhold our admiration at the pluck and perseverance of the South, and thirdly, because as you have now fought so long, and become so embittered in feelings we think you would prosper more, as independent republics than as the conquering ruler of the conquered. But in any case, I trust we may keep good friends with you both, that we may make those allowances for your present disturbed condition, and not expect that calm judgment on our actions which in the course of time we believe we shall feel, and by which we believe we shall be acquitted of the charges which have been made against us, and that you will not be ready to imagine that we wish you ill, or have any jealousy of your present or future greatness.

I will only add one remark, and that is, that because we are so near loving one another, that we are so near hating one another, and I trust the time may soon come when we shall have done with all these threatenings and recriminations which prevent us from being really brethren.

To the Rev. Mr. York, Yorkshire, England: DEAR SIR: I am obliged to you for your genial and pleasant note, and only regret that so ready a pen should not be used in a better cause. I fear that you have prejudged the matter, and that my answer to your arguments will not convince you, but still will say a few words more, in the hope that their inherent truth will at least modify your views.

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Those of their leaders who were in Congress and in the cabinet, by a systematic betrayal of the Government they had sworn to support, had contrived to remove to the South the much

larger portion of the arms of the United States. One little navy had been judiciously scattered about in distant seas, by the gallant Southerner, to whose honor it had been conferred, while our Presidential chair was disgraced by an apology for a man who was certainly the tool if not the accomplice of traitors.

The rebels were thoroughly organized, well armed, and ably led at the very outset. They had been drilling for many months under pretence of protecting themselves against slave insurrections, while at the North a large majority of the inhabitants had never loaded a gun, and some scarcely knew the barrel from the stock. Nevertheless these peaceful citizens, whose courage seems so little worthy of the admiration of Englishmen as compared with that of the South, blundered up to the cannon's mouth and often died like men, if they did not live the victors.

If you know all the facts, your sympathy for the "little fellow" might be diminished--but perhaps not, as I do not remember that your admiration for him was any less, when with five thousand men he assailed Fort Anderson and his band of seventy, in Fort Sumter. The little fellow, however, was fighting at home on ground of their own choosing, can hardly be considered so weak as to entitle them to the general commendation of mankind. Being inside of the circle, they have needed little fewer men, or less a comparison with the little man, than you nearly every great battle on Southern soil the rebels have fought behind entrenchments, and the numbers of the opposing forces have always been about equal; the little fellow, therefore, has not been fighting at home on ground of their own choosing, can hardly be considered so weak as to entitle them to the general commendation of mankind.

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children have in time become the mistresses of their own father? Slaves have often been known to expire under the lash, and occasionally to have been deliberately burned to death at the stake; and although the acts have been witnessed by a white plantation, the masters have escaped punishment because no white man was present; a negro's oath not being taken as evidence in Southern Courts of Justice! In a principal street of Charleston, South Carolina, there stands a large yellow house, a sort of slave-trading exchange, where male and female slaves of all shades of color, from nearly pure white to black, are offered for sale. It is the usual custom of purchasers to strip them stark naked and examine their parts, as a jockey would a horse, the dumb beast having the advantage, however, in being exempted from the indecent questions to which the slave is subjected. Nearly opposite to this building there is a slave auction block, where I once saw a good-looking mulatto woman, with two little children, sold under the hammer, and warranted sound. The children were sold to some resident of Charleston, and the mother to a trader from Texas--the poor woman, with tears streaming from her eyes, begged her "Massa George" who stood by, "for do good Lord's sake, to sell her only do children." The murder of a slave is a crime by the laws of the South, and fortunately, therefore, that does not often happen; it is also true that there are many kind masters to whom few or none of these charges can be laid; but they are the exceptions to the general rule, and the other facts stated apply to a very large proportion of slaveholders.

There would long since have been opened to these things had it not been for the injudicious conduct of the earlier Abolitionists here, who were formerly an inconsiderable body, mixed up with other isms that deprived them of their respect, they were exempted to grasp a subject which had been suffered to lie dormant because of the momentous consequences involved in its agitation. Now, however, it is different. The war has brought the truth of the matter before the eyes of all, and the North now insist upon the extinction of slavery so far as a rebel is concerned, and only yield a reluctant permission to its continuance in the non-seceding Southern State, because they have no legal power to abolish it there, and because they see the shadow of its approaching doom. There is authority for all that I have stated, and of many of these facts you must yourselves be cognizant; and now, therefore, I appeal to you, Sir, and to other gentlemen in England, conscious of the humanity of your motives, for a portion of that British justice of which you are so proud. Throw aside your irritation regarding the Trent--we had cause for irritation there--banish from your minds the attacks of politicians and newspapers--remember that our Government has always acted honorably by you, and that she has gone forward, foremost with you, in the great march of Christianity and civilization, and that she stands up and says before God and man whether you are not doing wrong to sympathize with a causeless rebellion, led by unworthy men, and founded upon a system that brings a blush to woman's cheek and makes man shudder. I ask you as honest men, whether this rebellion is not founded on Slavery and assisted by it, and whether you do not know the fate of the slave is involved in that of the rebellion; and then, further to say, whether you have not, by recognizing the South as belligerents, by the overt acts of many of your citizens, and by your acknowledged sympathy with the rebels, given them aid and comfort, and thereby helped to prolong this iniquitous institution of Slavery.

I honor your land much, Sir, to believe that when you have learned and considered the truth of this matter, you will forget your history, forsake those principles which have made you great, and suffer posterity to say that England, the boast of civilization for a thousand years, in the nineteenth century, stilled her sense of right and wrong and gave her sympathy and aid to a horde of slave-owners who were steeping a grand Christian Nation in blood that they might perpetrate their dominion over the poor slave.

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Prepared to execute all orders for their celebrated make of Shirts on short notice in the most satisfactory manner. These Shirts are cut by measurement on scientific principles, and surpass any other Shirt for neatness and comfort in the neck and shoulders. 800 HATS LADIES' HATS OFFER, NOW HANGING from bark Thomas Dallett. For sale by DALLETT & SON, 129 South FRONT street.

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MR. CHARLES PAGE, Favorably known for the last twenty years as Principal Designer of FIXTURES FOR MESSRS CORNELIUS & BAKER, in this day admitted a partner in our firm. We will continue the sale and manufacture of GAS FIXTURES.

Under the firm name of VAN KIRK & CO. MANUFACTORY AT FRANKFORD. SALESROOMS, 912 ARCH STREET. Have You Provided for Your Family an Insurance on Your Life?

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