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EVENING BULLETIN.

Friday, July 12, 1867.

☞ Persons leaving the city for the summer, and wishing to have the EVENING BULLETIN sent to them, will please send their address to the office. Price, by mail, 75 cents per month.

AMNESTY TO DESERTERS.

Desertion from the army is a crime recognized by the Articles of War, and made punishable by death or such other penalty as a court-martial may inflict, and it needs no argument to prove the justice and necessity of this guarding against the dangers to which the army and the country may be exposed by the desertion of its soldiers. Discipline and subordination are essential requisites in every army, and much of the delay and many of the failures in military operations during the late war arose simply from the absence, without leave, of thousands of men who, without any desire to aid the enemy or to weaken their friends, were constantly absent from their posts of duty in the most critical periods of the war. Towards the close of the war, after Lee and Johnston had surrendered, there appears to have been an immense number of these desertions. Soldiers who had served well in all the arduous campaigns of Grant and Sherman, took it upon themselves to decide that the war was over, and that their services were no longer needed, and so made their way home in swarms without leave, and without formally being discharged or mustered out of the service, and, in so doing, classed themselves, in principle and fact, as deserters.

Congress now proposes to ignore this wholesale breach of discipline and to remit all penalty or disqualification arising from it. The House has already agreed to this proposition and it remains to be seen whether the Senate will concur. It is to be hoped, of course, that it will be because Congress has determined to go back of the *fact* of the offence, and to consider the *intent* of the offenders. These deserters have no plea to claim anything from the Government. They had no right to decide that the war was over and that they were no longer needed. As a matter of principle and right, such an act as is now proposed in Congress is wrong and, in its future effects, very demoralizing. Only as a matter of policy, of expediency for the purposes of leniency towards a crime which was followed by no evil results, can it possibly be defended or justified. The precedent created by such a course is as bad as possible. It leaves the private soldier to judge of the necessities of the service, and to decide whether he will remain with his regiment or go home to his family. And yet there would be manifest inconsistency in a vigorous infliction of the penalty of desertion in a time when it is the fashion to make treason a trifling indiscretion, and to exalt traitors and rebels to a level with the trusted and best soldiers of the Republic. Under the policy of Mr. Johnson, leniency towards crime has been carried to such a point that rebellion has been made one of the most honorable of all amusements, and while the men who fought on the rebel side are being constantly flattered and caressed by one of their way, there is some show of reason in the enactment of this law. It is true that "two wrongs do not make one right," and, as has already been said, there can be no excuse framed for what was evidently a wilful breach of discipline and subordination. The act of Congress, if it should become a law, can only be regarded as an amnesty granted to offenders in view of former good behavior, and not in any sense as a justification of a crime which is lawfully punishable by death. It may be of service to the deserters in procuring for them some pecuniary advantage, but it cannot restore them to a moral equality with their fellows, who not only endured the full burden and heat of the war, but who waited patiently and like good soldiers for the time when their whole duty and were honorably discharged.

"HOW ARE THE MIGHTY FALLEN!"

During the war of the Rebellion the daring hope of the rebels was in foreign intervention and consequent foreign interference in their behalf. They received as much of the moral support of the French Government as Napoleon dared to accord them, and the attempt to foist Maximilian upon Mexico was part and parcel of the plan of aiding in the disruption of the Union by every means that comported with the safety of the wily plotter at the Tuileries. British gold, British ships, British arms and munitions of war, British takers of Cotton Loans, and the open sympathy of the influential classes in England with the scheme of destroying the Union, were England's contribution to the cause of rebellion; while the English Government was hypocritically pretending to stand aloof and take no part in the struggle.

The Copperhead party of the North sympathized with all the hopes, efforts and anxieties of the South regarding these foreign aids, and nothing could have more gladdened the hearts of the Woods, Brecks, Vallandigham and Brookes of the North, than to have heard the news of British recognition and French material aid for rebellion close upon the heels of the Bull Run of July last.

And now that the war for the Union is at an end, where do these Copperheads stand? An American Prince, who had been forced upon the people of a neighboring republic by the usurper upon the French throne, falls into the hands of the people whom he had outraged, and he meets the fate which he had denounced against those who should dare to oppose him by defending their homes and their institutions. Do the Democracy exult that justice has been steadily executed and that the Monroe doctrine met with such a vindication as will deter other foreign adventurers from essaying to imitate the example of Napoleon and Maximilian? No, they denounce the Mexican Liberalists, and by something more than implication, invite the vengeance of France and Austria upon the Government of Juarez.

What would the stern Democracy of the days of Jefferson have said to the standing bid for English aid which was made during the war of the rebellion? What would the Democrats of Madison and Jackson's time have said to the appeals for English gold through the medium of Cotton Loans? And what would the fathers of James Monroe, and the believers in his "doctrine," have said of a degenerate Democracy that would mourn over the defeat of a foreign usurpation in a neighboring republic, and hope for foreign interference to punish and degrade its people for protecting themselves in their own way?

When the Democratic party of the North sold itself out to slavery it got upon the high road to the ruin that has overtaken it. It has fallen off by degrees from its old principles and its old landmarks, until it has nothing in common with them left to it. It tied itself to a carcass, and like the Roman criminal of old who was bound to a corpse which he dragged about with him until he himself perished miserably, it is staggering and floundering onward to its wretched end, burthened with the terrible load of slavery and active sympathy with treason and rebellion.

CONGRESSIONAL DIGNITY.

The Associated Press report of last evening's session of the House gives a partial revelation of one of those exhibitions of bad taste and temper, which are only a shade or two more reputable than the ruffianism and violence which prevailed in the good old days of Southern pistols and bowie-knives. The Senate Reconstruction bill being under consideration, General Schenck stated that his understanding of a certain clause was correct, whereupon the following scene ensued:

Mr. Bingham asserted that it was not.

Mr. Schenck said he had expected to get such a flat denial as that from the gentleman from Ohio, who was one of those who did not know everything, and who supposed that no one else knew anything.

Mr. Bingham, referring to Mr. Schenck's remarks did not see why that gentleman should undertake to snub everybody, and say that he (Bingham) knew everything. If he did know everything he would not have asked him for information.

Mr. Schenck expressed him by saying that he (Mr. Bingham) had asked a question, and had interrupted him by saying it was no such thing.

Mr. Bingham remarked that he excused his colleague, for he was not himself to-night. [Laughter.]

Mr. Schenck did not know what his colleague meant by that remark, but he (Mr. Schenck) was better satisfied to be what he was than to be egregiously mistaken as his colleague was in forgetting his very offensive manner.

Mr. Bingham declared that he was incapable of misapprehending his colleague, but he knew he was not himself to-night.

Mr. Stevens (Pa.) expressed the hope that the reporters would omit anything said to-night, about any member being drunk. [Laughter.]

Mr. Bingham, after some minutes, said he withdrew what he had said in reference to his colleague.

Mr. Eldridge insisted that Mr. Bingham, who was speaking on the Republican side of the House, should come over to the Democratic side of the House, where he belonged, and go back to wallowing in the mire. [Laughter.]

It is not worth while to analyze the relative responsibility of the several participants in this choice dialogue. There is not much to choose between them, except that the whole affair seems to have originated in the singular peevishness which seems to have grown like a cancer upon the character of Mr. Schenck in late years. Hardly was the account of the death of Maximilian received before we had reports from various sections of the country of the organization of bodies of men who assert their intention to punish Mexico for slaying the usurper. One corps in New York, has assumed the sanguinary title of "Maximilian's Avengers" and they breathe forth threatenings and slaughter against Juarez and his supporters. It is doubtful, however, if they will produce any great agitation in Mexico; men who adopt bloodthirsty names generally expend the force of their ferocity in the title, and leave the real heroics for those who act without bluster. That there is, however, a disposition among the restless spirits of the country to undertake filibustering expeditions to Mexico is a truth, and a serious one, that demands the attention of the government. Manifest destiny, we admit, points to the absorption of the country by the United States, but it must not be done through the instrumentality of wild and reckless adventurers. The days of such men as Walker and his coadjutors passed away forever when the dream of a great slave empire dissolved like "the baseless fabric of a vision," and whatever action the developments of the future may make necessary on the part of the government in regard to Mexico, our present position relations with Juarez require that those filibusters be put down with a strong hand. We had better settle our own difficulties before we undertake to arrange the affairs of our neighbors.

We have no further information from which to determine the motives that actuated the Czar in his proposed mediation in behalf of insurgent Ireland, and we think it is idle to conjecture the reason for what must be regarded as extraordinary action. It may be intended for retaliation for the interference of England and the other great powers in the Candian question; or perhaps it is designed as a gentle hint to the English that the solicitude they have so long displayed for the Turks could find rendier and more profitable employment at home. The Czar may, again, be in earnest in his desire to put an end to the disorderly, and the occasionally insurrectionary state of Ireland, because of the very bad example that it furnishes to his Poles, who not unlikely may feel the inspiration of a single Irish success to rebel. Perhaps Alexander imagines he will do the United States a service by interfering in the Irish trouble. We have been mixed up with it very largely in various ways, and he very naturally imagines that its final settlement will add to our comfort, and he desires to give us another proof of his good will. It may be that the only desire to avenge the Crimea by robbing England of one of her jewels; or the balance of power may require that he should absorb Ireland as a necessary counterpoise for Walrussia. Any of these considerations may have induced the Czar to interfere, and for the sake of humanity and decency it is to be hoped that his interference will receive a prompt response from the European powers to whom it is addressed.

It appears from a recent declaration of the President, that the recommendation to merey, in the case of Dr. Wharton, which was made by the Military Commission, in the case of Mrs. Surratt, never reached him officially, and he did not indeed even hear of it, until it was announced in the newspapers. The fact that such a recommendation was made shows that there must have been some extenuating circumstances, slight though they may be, in the actual guilt, and she was clearly entitled to whatever advantages were to be derived from them. What these were, we cannot tell; but that they should not have been placed in the President's possession is monstrous, and likely to create a suspicion that there has been some trickery and underhand influence at work to compel the execution of the unhappy woman. The affair is at present involved in mystery, but the developments that have been made seem to demand an investigation of the most thorough character, and to call for the punishment of the guilty parties, if such really exist.

Trouble has had its usual effect in inducing humility, in the case of Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria. In his anxiety to save the remnant of his empire, and attach himself to his subjects by stronger ties than those of mere despotic power, he has relaxed the rigor of his absolutism, and acknowledged to some extent the political theory that all governments derive their authority from the consent of the governed. His coronation as King of Hungary, and his oath of fealty to the constitution of that country, was a recognition of the truth, and now we learn that he yesterday signed a bill making his ministers responsible to the Legislative body. This action was probably rendered more important because of the active efforts of Prussia to induce the neighboring German States to accept its liberal form of government. But whatever the motive, the fact that these concessions have been made is a significant proof of the progressive power of Liberal ideas.

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