

notwithstanding my positive denial of it, and my demand for proof.

He who asserts a matter has the affirmative and is bound to make the proof. He who denies may not be able to prove a negative, nor is he bound to do so. How difficult for me to prove that I never wrote such a letter—how easy for him to prove it if I did.

I felt the miserable charge deeply at the time, as all who were present I think can testify; and I have felt it none the less keenly since; nor shall I till Mr. Greeley either publishes the letter or retracts in some way or to some extent what he has said. I have always felt a deep interest in the war, and in all matters connected with it, and have no peculiarly and in other words what my feeble means would allow. Were I in receipt of from ten to twenty thousand dollars in clean cash for three or four months services in the year, perhaps I should have done more. He has been twelve years in Congress, and I have always given him a cheerful support; he can do so no longer, and will give my reasons.

I will vote for no man who will not, injure or abuse the humblest citizen, and then throw himself upon his dignity and refuse reparation.

2. I do not consider him a safe man for the times. He who refuses to respect the rights of others, who disregards their feelings, who makes wrong assertions, and then through his conduct, dignity, and in my judgment, a dangerous man to be in Congress in these perilous times, or as they may be a year from next winter. This and the knock down spirit have already too much prevailed in our national councils, instead of that gentlemanly urbanity that was so closely adhered to in the early days of our government; and as a nation we are now most severely suffering from it, and the knock downs in the Senate Chamber, and Hall of Representatives, are now being re-acted on fields of bloody strife. We want those now who have a full and just regard for the rights and feelings of others, in whatever position they may be placed. He who always engenders ill blood, and who is certainly having as a nation our full experience of the principle.

I regret the position that I am compelled to take in regard to Mr. Greeley. It is by no means pleasant to differ from any of my political friends who think differently from me. But I ask, what would you have me do? Settle down under the charge thus publicly made, by a man in the position of Mr. Greeley, who has been so long in Congress, and enter no protest against it? Say nothing and ignore my own manhood? I cannot believe that any friend of mine would do it himself or ask it of me. Mr. Greeley has either perpetrated a great wrong on me, or I have told and allowed a gross falsehood. If the former, I ought not to be silent, unless he correct the wrong; and if the latter, it is my duty to be judged of between us.

If I have any friends, (and I hope I have some,) to whom I would ask this one simple question. Do you believe I ever wrote such a letter as charged upon me? If you do, you must believe that I am not only mean, but that I am the utterer of repeated falsehoods, and am entitled to no respect from your lands. If you believe I did not, then I claim that you should stand by me, and discontinue and repeal, not only the charge itself, which I could readily have forgiven had there been any disposition shown to make it right, but also the *persecution* which I have had to undergo, after my absolute denial. What a man would do for himself, ought he not under like circumstances to do for a friend if indeed he be a friend. But it may be said that when important interests are at stake I ought to yield my own private feelings. So I ought under some circumstances. If I believed that Mr. Greeley was the only loyal man—the only one with whom the government and all its dearest interests of our country would be safe—the only one that was in favor of sustaining the present administration in every measure to the bitter end of the rebellion, and crushing it out in the most direct and effectual manner, so that its haggard head should never again be seen, I might pause and try to forget everything else and do my utmost to elect him. But I have no such thing. I do believe that there are many others who have as deep and heartfelt devotion to the country as Mr. Greeley has or ever had, and with whom their interests would be equally safe. It may be selected again, and so continue to be for forty years to come, if about once in twelve years the *Congressional District* can be changed. Fourteen years will do pretty well for one county in a district, if necessary, but fifty would probably suit better. But to all this I have nothing to say. If the people are satisfied, I am. Whether he shall be elected or defeated—whether at the end of every two years he shall cease to be a great crisis, that renders it absolutely necessary that he should be elected just once more. It is for me I think the just will continue to shine, and all creation will not be unaligned, our government will be sustained—rebellion put down, and we yet be a great and prosperous nation, and the principles of the Republican party still be maintained.

If the existence of the Republican party depends alone on electing Mr. Greeley to Congress for forty years, or as long as he lives, then it has a poor foundation, and its days I fear are numbered. If it requires that any one of its members must submit to any insult or wrong that the spleen of Mr. Greeley may choose to heap upon him; and that it will not answer to say anything in self-defense without endangering the party, then the party weaker than I supposed. Mr. Greeley may suppose he is the Republican party, and I do not.

I have written thus much in self-indication. I need not say more; I could not in justice to myself say less.

BENJ. S. BESTLEY.
Montrose, Sept. 30, 1862.

General McClellan's Victories in Maryland.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 30, 1862.

Major General McClellan, Commanding.

GENERAL—Your report of yesterday, giving the results of the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, has been received and submitted to the President. They were not only hard fought battles, but well executed and decided victories.

The late President, who has spent a large portion of his life in the several conflicts which terminated in the expulsion of the enemy from the loyal State of Maryland, are creditable alike to the troops and to the officers who commanded them.

A grateful country, while mourning the lamented dead, will not be unmindful of the honors due to the living.

H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief.

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Great Battle at Corinth.

CAIRO, Oct. 7.—As yet we can only state the general results of the fight at Corinth. Skirmishing commenced on Tuesday last, and there has been more or less fighting every day since. The Rebels lost 800 killed, and from 1500 to 1800 wounded. We have 1500 prisoners at Corinth, and 309 on the Hatchie, which are coming in constantly. We have taken several thousand stand of arms, thrown away by the Rebels in their flight. They are mostly new guns, of English manufacture. Our loss is believed to be about 300 killed and 1000 wounded.

Webster's Prophecy.

"If these infernal fanatics and Abolitionists ever get power in their hands," said Webster on a memorable occasion, "they will override the Constitution, and the Supreme Court will decline to enforce their laws to suit themselves, lay violent hands on those who differ with them in their opinion or dare question their infallibility, and finally bankrupt the country, or deluge it with blood."

"Jim Lane has been putting the negro volunteers in his brigade to a very degrading service. He employs them to guard secessionists as he finds it necessary to arrest for treason. Why should all this dirty work be put upon the negro volunteers? He would do better to employ Abolitionists if he could find any in his brigade, or in the army at large. Not having any, he takes those who are 'next best' for the dirty work."

The Lincoln and Pomeroy Colonization scheme offers the blacks a free farm in a country suited to their tastes, free passage thither, farming tools, and a year's provision for the family. The people, heavily burdened as they are. Will the government do as much for poor white men who wish to emigrate and escape the burdens of taxation?

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