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Lincoln's Officials Robbing the Mails.

It has become a matter of notoriety that the administration has prostituted the post office system of the United States to its own personal and political purposes to such an extent that no one is certain of the safety of money, or of the inviolability of private communications, when committed to the keeping of the mails. True to its practice of violating every personal liberty or right hitherto held sacred in governments and communities, the administration now arrogates to itself the indecent privilege of tampering with the correspondence of citizens; and, to gratify its malicious hate, against men who dare honestly to criticize and oppose measures which they deem corrupt and imbecile, has established a system of espionage over the mails as mean and shameless as it is possible for the originators to make it.

The prominent men of the country who oppose Mr. Lincoln and his policy now take it as a matter of course that their letters will be opened, and though writing nothing that they would be unwilling that the government officials should read, if they had any business to do so, find a great inconvenience in the fact that their letters are on this account delayed two or three days beyond the usual time of mail delivery, oftentimes to the great detriment of their business, and sometimes are not delivered at all.

This matter was brought to public notice by District-Attorney Hall's letter to one of the city papers, explaining the reason of the non-receipt by mail of Governor Seymour's letter to him in reference to the proceedings taken in the matter of *The World* and *Journal of Commerce*. It appears that Governor Seymour's letter was published in the *Argus*, and came on in that paper to New York before the original copy reached the district-attorney by mail. The following is his note in relation to the matter:

To the editor of the *N. Y. Express*:
Your paragraph, although perfectly correct, referring to the non-receipt of Governor Seymour's resolute letter, may, if unexplained, do his department injustice. I received it only this morning under post-mark of June 26. It should have been received in due course of mail early on the 27th. My clerk called for it at my post-office several times yesterday. Another and private letter from the executive, post-marked June 24 (1) also came to-day. I regret to say this is not the first time that some subordinate in the post-office, either in Albany or New-York, has tampered with my letters when their outside indicated associations distasteful to the administration sympathizers.

It is therefore evident that some spy or sneak-thief in the employ of the administration deliberately detained, and perhaps opened, Governor Seymour's letter, for the information of the dynasty that presides over the liberties of the American people. The postmaster at Albany is the editor of the *Evening Journal*, and he has not, we believe, yet attempted an explanation of this charge by District-Attorney Hall.

WM. B. REED'S LETTERS OPENED.

When Mr. Hall was corresponding with Wm. B. Reed, of Philadelphia, their correspondence was regularly detained and opened. Mr. Hall finally used to leave his envelopes unsealed and endorse them on the outside, with a request that the government spy, being thus saved the thief's business of opening the letters surreptitiously, should read them immediately and forward them as soon as possible, as the delay was a great annoyance.

The first grand coup de main which was known to the public was the seizure in this city of all the telegraphic dispatches which had been sent or received from May 1, 1860, to May 1, 1861. The seizures were made by Marshal Murray and Superintendent Kennedy, simultaneously at all the offices. The documents seized were voluminous, and no doubt the officials had a pleasant time looking them over; but nothing came of them. This seizure was made May 21, 1861, by orders from Washington.

An espionage of the mails was then arranged, no doubt, by Mr. Seward and Montgomery Blair, the two head spirits of the administration, and it was found extremely interesting and convenient to open the private letters of persons of whom they were jealous or suspicious, and thus to judge of their secret sympathies. The members of the opposition party were especially very carefully watched in their correspondence; and, though nothing was discovered, it has been continued up to the present day. No doubt the great plot which the Secretary of State is said to have discovered through his spies is made up from this source. Probably some time before the election, all the stray expressions in condemnation of the government which have passed through the mails, and which have been carefully collected, will be published, with astounding headings, as evidence of treason against the government.

Of course, the common people are apt to feel and speak strongly on political subjects, and, per chance, a person, writing to some prominent man, might make use of harsh language. Being addressed to a prominent man, the letter will be opened and the language taken down. For instance, the other day a soldier wrote to a friend: "I am down on this government, and every thing pertaining to it. It is above all things deceitful and desperately wicked. I would not turn my hand over to save this administration from hell and damnation."

If this letter had been addressed to some public man in the opposition, it would no doubt have furnished another evidence of the great plot. It will be attempted to be made out that there is a grand conspiracy at the North to overthrow the government. It is understood that General Rosecrans has lent himself to some such absurd ideas against the opposition.

It has been known for a long time that this city is filled with government detectives, who are looking after mare's nests, and by bogus officials, who occupy their time principally in levying black mail on unfortunate people who come in their way. Innocent Unionists who come here, having escaped from the South, are hunted down and fleeced by these bogus detectives, under threats of being sent to Fort Lafayette. They have no friends here, and have no means of proving their loyalty, and are therefore at the mercy of sharpers. The article published in *The World* of March 15, detailed fully their mode of operations. It was shown too that there were three hundred special officers of the War Department in this city, costing to the government about fifty thousand dollars per month. The provost-marshal of every congressional district has a corps of detectives.

This, perhaps, may give us a clue to discover where the immense number of men that are on our army rolls are to be found. Senator Wilson said that seven hundred thousand men had been enlisted or re-enlisted from the 18th of October to the 8th of June last, one hundred thousand of whom only were negroes. The country has wondered where these men are. The spies of the administration in the North are probably all on the payrolls of the army. Every fellow employed in tampering with the mails, or employed with the provost-guards, under the pretense of hunting deserters, but really to keep the net-work of espionage and corruption all over the North, and finally to force Abraham Lincoln on the people for another four years, somehow, no doubt, figures on the paymaster's list. The army of fellows in the North in the disreputable employment of prying into honest men's business would, perhaps, make an army sufficient to capture Richmond by very force of numbers—for they would not be likely to do it by the exhibition of moral or physical courage. They should be made to either go to the front, or to obtain an honest livelihood, as other people have to do, especially as citizens, who are helps to the community, are liable to draft to fill their places.

The *World* has suffered especially by this nuisance of tampering with the mails. Letters addressed to the editors in this office have been opened, and some have never reached here. We are constantly losing the money addressed to us by our subscribers. It is not a great effort of the understanding to conclude that persons who are engaged in the business of surreptitiously opening private letters would have enough of the instincts of the thief to keep themselves out of the mail, especially as it is come to be rather an exception than a rule to find a government official who will not steal. These men fingering the mails would naturally make a business of pilfering letters addressed to *The World* on the plea that it is a "traitorous" sheet. We have thus lost large sums of money due us.

In the case of General Fremont, the tampering with his letters has become so regular and palpable that he has found it necessary to have his correspondence addressed to some fictitious name to receive it in due time by regular course of mail. Telegrams to him are also delayed in the same way, and a singular fatality attends all telegrams relating to the Fremont movement.

Mrs. Fremont's private letters to friends are also opened, and it is stated that on one occasion it became so annoying that she wrote to a western postmaster that if he would be kind enough to let her letters pass through without delay she would mail with them to him a duplicate of each for him to examine at his leisure.

Several letters inclosing money in the envelopes used by the Fremont men in this city have lately been missed and the money not yet found.

The letters of a well known gentleman of this city who is known to be a Democrat and a fast friend of General McClellan, have been regularly opened and delayed, so much so that he made it a subject of especial remonstrance with the government, and the fact was not denied that his letters were watched. Letters of friends of McClellan are regularly watched. The methods adopted for the opening of private correspondence passing through the mails are those most approved by thieves and mail-robbers. The opening of letters is brought to such perfection that it is impossible in many instances to discover that they have been tampered with. One method is said to be as follows: A

small tube is inserted in the corner of the letter, where it is generally not sealed, and a gas blown in which acts upon the mucilage, and, by its continuous pressure inside, bursts open the envelope, with no possibility of tearing it or destroying the regularity of the edges. There are other methods, too, by means of thin knives.

It is stated that a great many of the letters thus detained are sent to the dead-letter office, the officials being ashamed to forward them, after so long a delay, by the regular channels. The dead letter office is found very convenient in these cases.

If this administration had the slightest respect for law—not to say decency—there would be a remedy for these things. But what law shall be opposed against the President's will? The laws against robbing the mail are of the severest character, as they should be; and every one of these spies are liable under that law to imprisonment for a term of years; and if ever we should be blessed with a Democratic administration they might possibly get their deserts.

The following extract, from the act of July 2, 1836, still in operation, gives the penalty even for detaining papers or letters for a day or two, and applies to hundreds of cases, even where the opening and robbing cannot be proved:

And be it further enacted, That if any postmaster shall unlawfully detain in his office any letter, package, pamphlet, or newspaper, with intent to prevent the arrival and delivery of the same, to the person or persons to whom such letter, package, pamphlet, or newspaper may be addressed or directed, in the usual course of the transportation of the mail, along the route; or if any postmaster shall, with intent as aforesaid, give a preference to any letter, package, pamphlet, or newspaper over another which may pass through his office, by forwarding the one and retaining the other, he shall, on conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and imprisoned for a term not exceeding six months, and shall, moreover, be forever thereafter incapable of holding the office of postmaster in the United States. [World.]

Republicans Becoming Sensible.

There are frequent indications, of late, that many Republicans are becoming sensible as to the alarming condition into which the country has been brought by this war, and also as to the necessity of a change of administration. A remarkable instance of this, is the Boston Herald, a leading Republican journal of Massachusetts, from which we take the following extracts:
"The present appears to be a fitting time for the press of the country to lay aside all party issues and devote themselves to the task of restoring peace to the nation upon a basis which should be alike honorable to all concerned. The present raid into Maryland, threatening as it does Baltimore and Washington, the heavy drafts which are constantly being made upon the people in the shape of men and money—to say nothing of heavy taxation and the high price of living—admiration us that war is a most serious matter, viewed in its most favorable aspect."

It further says upon the general topic of subjugation:

"We presume the people of the South are satisfied that they cannot subjugate the North, and the people of the North are satisfied that they cannot subjugate the South. This being the case, what becomes our duty? To stay the slaughter of men,—to restore peace to the country? This is a political question, and must be decided at the polls by the voters of both sections of the country. If the press would unite upon a basis that would recommend itself to the people, there would be no difficulty in coming to an understanding upon the subject. Can we agree with the South upon any terms? Can we offer a basis of settlement which they will adopt, and which at the same time will be satisfactory to the North? For our part we see no way opened for a return of the rebel states to the Union except by and through the agency of the Constitution. They must either resume their State sovereignty and acknowledge the Federal Constitution, or they must stay where they are. If the people at the South are a unit against a return to the Federal compact, it becomes a question for us to decide how much longer we will fight to compel them to an unwilling association with us. And if we were to succeed in destroying their armies, would we then have peace again upon a permanent basis? These are grave questions, and demand the serious consideration of thinking, reflecting minds. Our object in this article is to call the attention of the press to the great duty that devolves upon them in this trying hour,—ask them to discuss this matter calmly and dispassionately, with a view to concert of action, and to unite the people of the North upon some project to stop the further shedding of blood."

Volunteers Wanted.

Volunteers wanted for one year. Inquire at this office for the name of the parties wishing to pay bounties.

Reasons why Mr. Lincoln should not be Re-elected.

1. He is at heart a secessionist. On January 14, 1848, he made a speech in Congress, in which he said: "Any people anywhere, being inclined, and having the power, have a right to rise up, and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that will suit them better."

2. He has violated his pledge to the people. In July, 1861, Congress passed a resolution, which was adopted by him, in these words: "That this war is not waged in any spirit of oppression, or for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, or for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of the States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution."

3. He has violated the Constitution which he took a solemn oath to support, in ways without number. His emancipation proclamations which he has issued he himself acknowledged he had no power to do.

4. He has suspended the habeas corpus in states where there was no necessity for it. He has caused to be arrested and imprisoned citizens for expressing their candid opinion as to the acts of the administration, without allowing them a trial by jury, and has afterwards discharged them without attempting to prove any charges against them.

5. He has muzzled the mouth and the press in a more arbitrary manner than any despot in Europe.

6. He has prolonged the war for the purpose of collecting a great army to aid and assist him to a re-election as President by the point of the bayonet.

7. He has sent armies to Florida and Louisiana for the purpose of organizing new states for the purpose of voting for him for the next President—and by so doing twenty thousand men have lost their lives.

8. He has squandered millions upon millions of the public moneys to colonize and support the negroes, and has no sympathy for the white soldiers who are slain by thousands in the field.

9. He has organized an army of negroes and forced them from the plantations, where they could have raised food for the army and have supported their families, who are now starving and dying.

10. He has inaugurated a system of extravagance and corruption in the conduct of the war which will, sooner or later, overthrow our government.

11. Before he was elected, he declared himself against the election of a President for a second term. He has violated this pledge, and now says it was all a joke.

12. Being suddenly raised from the common walks of life to the highest honor in the gift of the nation, he became vain and puffed up, and keeps a corps of soldiers as a body guard, which no other President ever did.

13. He has a set of fanatics and shoddy contractors, and all kinds of speculators, for his advisers, and they flatter him, which pleases his vanity, and makes him think he is the greatest man in the world. He will soon wake up and find all these things a joke, and honest old Abe will go down to posterity as a great joker, and nothing more.—*Albany Argus*.

What Has the War Done?

There are some honest men who say that the war must go on (without trying to negotiate) until the rebellion is crushed, the slaves all freed, and a Union restored. They are deluded with the hopes of early peace, by Lincoln's style of a vigorous prosecution of the war! Delusive hope! What has the war done thus far towards the accomplishment of these purposes? Look to the borders of Missouri, Kansas, and Kentucky, the abodes of guerrillas, robbers and devils, accursed of God, and abandoned by man. Look to the blackened, war-scorched belt over which the contending armies move, and leave desolation and death in their track. Look at the slaughtered thousands around the ocean shore and along the river bank, and upon the innumerable battle-fields reaching almost across the continent, and the answer will be, it has done and is doing the same to this nation as it has to every other where civil war existed.

The Springfield Republican, a Massachusetts Lincoln organ says:

"We should have unlearned such follies by this time. War can never be conducted successfully in this way. Half a million volunteers could not be organized, equipped and put into the field before the campaign for this year is at an end, and to maintain such gigantic armies another year, with the better portion of our able bodied men withdrawn from productive labor, would exhaust our resources and bring us to bankruptcy very rapidly."

Our white soldiers will feel highly complimented by the following from the New York Tribune:

"General Willard is an enthusiast on the subject of colored troops. He firmly believes that a white man in course of time, and by strict discipline, can be made as good as a negro. He has the most implicit confidence in his troops, and so have they in him. Gen. Hinks, who commands the colored division, took it by preference. How are you, white trash?"

Truth in the Right Quarter.

The Newburyport Herald, a Republican Anti-slavery journal, but with some respect for the Constitution and the rights of the States, says:

"We never did knowingly, and never intend to infringe upon the Constitution and trample down the laws and usages, and compromises upon which the nation stands, for the emancipation of slaves in the Southern States. Holding to State rights—the right of each community to legislate upon and control its local affairs, which is at the bottom of American freedom—the very keel of our ship of state, we do now and have always repudiated all interference with local matters in States to which we do not belong. It was never necessary or justifiable. We have no slavery in Massachusetts, and we would resist to the death its imposition upon us; but if we had slavery here, established by the free will of the people, as just, right and expedient for us, though we might differ from the majority, we would resent and resist any interference on the part of Maine or Vermont, or any other community or government under heaven, to forcibly or unlawfully abolish that slavery."

"Whenever slavery is abolished by violence, at the expense of the Constitution and Union, it will not make the negroes free, but it certainly will destroy the liberties of thirty millions of whites. There can be no other result; for our freedom is in the Union and under the Constitution; and when these go, where will the republic have gone before it; and when that sinks, the star of the world's hope in our great political experiment—for surely it is nothing yet but an experiment—goes down in blackness and darkness. If anybody would risk its setting by lawless and revolutionary action for emancipation or anything else, we go not with them.—The safety of all—whites and blacks—is as in the case of St. Paul's shipwreck—in sticking to the ship, keeping the old flag flying, employing experienced hands and pilots, and running by the old chart where we have proved it to be correct."

Republican testimony against Lincoln.

The New York Times a leading Republican paper speaking of President Lincoln's declaring he will not receive propositions for Peace without the abandonment of Slavery, disapproves of his course in the following language:

"The President made but two conditions to the reception and consideration of any proposition for the restoration of peace, which should come to him from competent authority; first, that it should embrace the integrity of the whole Union; second, that it should embrace the abandonment of Slavery. We believe he might have gone still further than this; he might have omitted the second of these conditions altogether, and required the first alone, as essential to the reception and consideration of proposals for peace. We do not mean to say that it will be eventually found possible to end the war and restore the Union without the 'abandonment of Slavery'; but we do say that this abandonment need not be exacted by the President as a condition without which he will not receive or consider proposals for peace. The people do not require him to insist upon any such condition. Neither his oath of office, nor his consistency requires him to insist upon it. That is one of the questions to be considered and arranged when the terms of peace come to be discussed. It is not a subject on which terms can be imposed by the Government, without consultation, without agreement, or without equivalent."

It is cheering to see this evidence of good sense coming from such a prominent and influential Republican paper. Republicans as well as Democrats are getting heartily sick of the war as at present conducted, and long for an honorable peace. The people will hold Mr. Lincoln to a fearful responsibility for closing the poor to peace for the purpose of setting free the slaves of the South. The lives, the property and prosperity of the white people of the country are to be made subordinate to the destruction of slavery.

A gentleman who, a few days ago, was wandering over the ground recently occupied by a portion of Gen. Early's forces, engaged in the "siege of Washington," picked up the note-book of a Confederate soldier, containing, among other matter, the following bit of lyrical poetry:

Quoth Meade to Lee,
"Can you tell me,
In the shortest style of writing,
When people will
All get their fill
Of this big job of fighting?"
Quoth Lee to Meade,
"I can, indeed,
I'll tell you in a minute—
When legislators
And speculators
Are made to enter in it."

General Sherman's troops recently took possession of a cotton mill and made prisoners of four hundred girls, who were earning their honest living at work in it. Puzzled at first, what to do with them, he finally resolved to send them to Marietta, Ohio, and there discharge them, to seek at leisure, for subsistence, among a strange and hostile people.

The President's Call for Troops.

Let the Government, or the Lieutenant-General in command, deal frankly with them, tell them plainly how numerous a force is required, and how rapidly it must be under arms, in order to secure the success which is now, as all believe, within our grasp—and the East would turn out regiments as fast as the West did its hundred-day men in May. Such a call, so made and so understood, would encourage everybody; it would be responded to by the best blood of the country; it would create a new enthusiasm.

But the shape in which the President has chosen to put his demand is, we are constrained to say, pretty sure to do the very reverse. To threaten a peremptory draft now, when everybody believes that the war is nearly ended; to demand men for three years, when the struggle should be and must be over in six months; to call for half a million men when the country had rightly or wrongly imagined that a hundred thousand would suffice to terminate the struggle, this does appear to us to misunderstand the spirit of the American people, and to blunder.

This is apparent in the first place because it is sure to be misunderstood by all our enemies abroad and at home. It will be received as a confession of weakness, and not as a sign of strength; it will be regarded as a compliment to the resisting power of the rebels; it will be quoted as an official acknowledgment that unless our army, already so vast, is made stronger by half a million of men, we shall fail. In the second place, because, instead of stirring the hopes and reviving the enthusiasm of the people, it rather depresses them; it gives voice to the doubters, and silences those who never doubted before of our success.

In a great crisis like this, it is important to keep up the spirits of the people, to maintain their hopefulness, to encourage them to new efforts. But this proclamation, cold, lifeless, rigid, bound round with red tape, clothed in the formal language of the bureau, sounds as though the author thought the people could not bear to be chilled and disheartened. Its tone is not that of the chief of a Republic calling upon his fellow-citizens to support a cause in which all alike are interested, but rather it is the tone of a European sovereign telling his subjects what he requires of them. Now whatever cold forms official routine moment like this, the best words the President of the United States can speak to the people are the directest, simplest, heartiest; the best tone he can assume is that of unreserved trust and confidence in the people; the strongest and most effective appeal he can make to them, is a simple statement of the truth.—*Post, Ato*.

Lincoln's Last Trick.

"Honest" Old Abe is a great master of low cunning. The most artful knave that ever plied the vocation of politician could not be more expert in the art of offering bribes to prejudice. In the Niagara negotiation trick he has out-Lincolned Lincoln, craftily making a strong appeal for abolition support, while putting a seeming affront on Mr. Greeley, one of the foremost apostles of the abolition gospel. Mr. Lincoln knows that the sincere abolitionists distrust and despise him; that they hate Seward, whom he retains as his chief adviser; that they are just now exceedingly sore and sour because he has forced out of his cabinet the man whom they most wished him to retain in it. There was imminent danger of an explosion in the Republican party when Mr. Lincoln seized this opportune occasion to proclaim himself so thorough-going an abolitionist that he would not consent to the restoration of the Union without the abandonment of slavery. He calculated that the denunciation which this declaration would provoke in the Democratic press would advertise his abolitionism, and operate as a certificate of character to that wing of his party which is in most danger of deserting him. He will keep this new abolition pledge until after the election, when he will probably disappoint abolitionists and Unionists alike by making a disgraceful peace on the basis of equal separation. If he is re-elected the Union will neither be restored nor slavery abolished; all Mr. Lincoln's talk about doing either is a trick to retain his hold on power. A refusal to consent to reunion till slavery is voluntarily abandoned by the South, is equivalent to a determination that the Union shall never be restored.

The very best thing that the President can do is to turn Stanton and Halleck into the street, and fill their places, as he easily can, with men of more ability.—Postmaster-General Blair conducts his department with ability, and so might be permitted to remain under bonds to keep the peace; but Stanton has not one single qualification for his place. He has no ability as a war minister whatever, no honesty or sense of decency, and has been an insupportable weight. At such a time as this, when the nation is struggling for its very existence, these cabinet quarrels are not an edifying sight, and the President cannot do a more acceptable service to the country than to give a leave of absence to all those who thus trifle with their positions, and are, at the same time, incompetent to perform their duties.—*From the Troy Whig (Republican) July 21*.