The Pittsburgh Gazette
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WHAT HINDERS IT?

After war, then peace. Such is the aspiration of every genuine American citizen, looking to the welfare of the whole human race as of this country. What hinders, not the cessation of actual conflict, for that happened more than two years ago, but the restoration of actual peace, concord and amity between the different sections of the republic.

No truer standard for determining the extent and intensity of the alienation that existed can be hit upon than the duration and severity of the war. So protracted and violent a struggle was rendered possible only by the existence of the deepest feeling on both sides. But it is needful to discriminate that while the people of the South hated those of the North, the people of the North, with individual exceptions, were not embittered towards those of the South. The feelings of the two sections ran in parallel lines, but differed widely as to nature and object. The South was radically estranged from the North, and earnestly desired separation; while the North, so far from being alienated, longed for nothing so much as continued fellowship and inter-communion.

This attitude of Northern sentiment, whatever doubt may have existed previously concerning it, was demonstrated as soon as the rebel armies surrendered. No serious thought was entertained of sanguinary reprisals. Not a rebel was brought to punishment; nor was one even put under arrest for treason. All were allowed to betake themselves to whatever lawful employments they pleased, without fear of molestation from any quarter. Laws passed during the progress of the war, auxiliary to military operations, as that confiscating the properties of leading rebels, were at once construed in the most liberal manner. Nay, the people have acquiesced in the restoration of millions upon millions of confiscated property, or the avails thereof, even when the President and Secretary of the Treasury have boldly violated the obvious spirit and letter of the laws, in making restitutions. Never, since the dawn of authentic history, was a great revolt sought to be closed out by the victors on a scale of such stupendous magnanimity.

Nor have the political concessions been less than those relating to personal safety and property reclamations. No desire has been evinced to hold the revolted States, for any considerable period, in a condition of political inferiority or abeyance. On the contrary, a marvellous eagerness has been exhibited to restore to those States all their forfeited rights and immunities, without exacting security for future repose or for the observance of the national faith pledged to the blacks in the Act of Emancipation. If the chivalrous tendency of the Northern people in this matter had not been counteracted, it is evident that the work of Reconstruction would have been fully completed months ago. What has retarded this movement?

It has been hindered by the conduct of the rebels themselves. In the main, the military leaders of the rebellion have behaved well. Many of them went into the revolt reluctantly, constrained by a public sentiment in their respective States, manufactured by politicians, and in which they did not share. For the cause they espoused, they did the best they could, as long as the prosecution of the war was possible. In defeat, they knew full well what rights victory conferred upon the national authorities. They comprehended what, under like circumstances, they would have felt empowered to do had they judged severity necessary or desirable. In surrendering unconditionally, as they did, they realized that every thing short of death that was awarded them was the result of clemency, not of desert. Hence, instead of stirring up strife, they have almost unanimously counseled a cordial acceptance of the terms proposed by Congress, and superadded an example corresponding with their inculcations.

Not a few of the politicians have seen proper to take the opposite course. Mainly third to tenth rate lawyers, they have resorted to legal niceties with a view to upsetting facts established by the force of common and the concurrent will of the nation. Quickly forgetting that they took their case out of the category of the laws, by an appeal to arms, had it adjudicated in the arena they selected, and had a momentous verdict rendered against them, they insist upon having a re-hearing in Court, on such points, and such only, as they fancy would there be determined in their favor. Of course, they would not care to be called upon to answer to the laws individually upon indictments for treason. Such arraignments might be attended with unpleasant consequences, or at least, beget uncomfortable sensation about their necks. All they want is to have so much of the laws vindicated as guard the rights of persons and of States; not so much of them as punish individuals for disregarding their obligations to the laws. They wish to indulge in the luxury of crime without incurring penalties, and when baffled and beaten to fall back with an air of outraged innocence upon legal provisions designed for the security of loyal and well-disposed citizens. Most of these politicians took good care, while the war raged, not to expose their bodies to serious risks, and they renew their clamor only because they think they can do so with impunity. What they seek is not repose for the country, but to retain in defeat as many of the advantages of victory as they can.

Into their hands the President has unwisely played. That officer committed two faults. He magnified his own authority out of all proportion. Indeed, he acted as if the government was an imperial despotism, and he, as its head, had a right to do as he would. He deposed the Governors of nine States, and appointed satraps in their stead. He issued rescripts authorizing the satraps to levy and collect taxes, and to apply the proceeds. He convoked Constitutional Conventions, and dictated what alterations should be made in the local organic laws. He claimed to have absolute and exclusive authority to determine and prescribe all the conditions of Reconstruction, leaving Congress to judge only of the personal character and qualifications of the members of the two Houses chosen from the revolted States. He arrogated to himself alone the right to do all Congress has since done in that regard. No acknowledged Emperor and Military Conqueror was ever more exacting, self-sufficient or imperial. In thus assuming powers that did not belong to his office, and which were totally fatal to all just conceptions of representative government, he laid the basis of a conflict with the legislative bodies. Congress could do nothing less than assert its own prerogatives in the premises. It was inspired to resistance alike by a feeling that its dignity was invaded, and a sense that the public liberties could be secured only by compelling the President to recede from his unwarrantable assumptions.

At this point the President suddenly reversed completely about. He made the grand discovery that no power existed in any or all departments of the government to do what he had been doing of his own motion. He rushed to the extreme of maintaining that as soon as the war was over all the rights the revolted States had previously enjoyed under the Constitution, reverted to them as a matter of absolute necessity, and in as full perfection as though they had maintained an unshaken fealty to the Union. Upon this showing Congress should certainly have proceeded against the President by impeachment, and have deposed him for flagrant usurpations. Nothing can be plainer than that if the President should presume to do by loyal States what he did by disloyal ones, he would merit impeachment, and it would speedily overtake him.

From the moment the President abandoned his original blunder, he has maintained such a position as has afforded the strongest possible encouragement to the rebels. His doctrine has been their doctrine. All his measures have contributed to ends they have at heart. He has encouraged them to resist the easy terms of Reconstruction propounded by Congress, and to demand that their states shall of right be restored unconditionally. He has made the Executive mansion the rallying point for all the disaffected men throughout the insurgent States. He has listened to their complaints against Congress and the commanders of the Military Departments. He has refused to execute laws whose import he well understood, but which he attempted to emasculate by sophistical interpretation. He is now threatening with removal a number of Generals because they refuse to substitute his will for the laws of the land. He makes the work of Reconstruction difficult; may, perhaps, cause the adjournment of it, or the imposition of severer conditions; and engenders a strife most unfriendly to speedy and lasting concord.

Beecher on Wealth.

It is a very comfortable thing to be rich. Most men have an exalted idea of their capacity to endure affluence. Yet a general impression has gone abroad that morally the possession of wealth should be deprecated rather than desired. In an essay, which appears in the current number of the *Herald of Health*, Rev. H. W. Beecher expresses himself in this relation in a very forcible and philosophic manner:

All the institutions of society which enrich and ennoble human life require wealth for their existence. The time has gone by when men can rail at wealth as incompatible with religion and virtue. Schools and colleges were impossible but for accumulated treasure. Books and newspapers, that have become as indispensable as food—these were impossible except in communities where there is treasure accumulated. Churches could not be built, and their services could not be maintained, except on accumulated capital. Hospitals, relief asylums, eleemosynary enterprises, depend upon conditions of wealth. Art could not long flourish where there was not wealth. Literature and learning depend upon wealth—not directly and visibly in every case; but communities that have to labor from day to day for the necessities of life have not the time nor the means to pursue higher aims and ends. It is only where wealth has been accumulated that men rise from servile labor for the bread that perishes, and begin to give life to higher ambitions and nobler elements such as art, literature and learning.

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Nay, I advocate riches. The time is coming when men will be rich in large numbers; and Christians may as well try it on now as later. I do not believe that the world is going to be scrawny, bare-boned and undecorated forever. The God of grace is the God of beauty; the God of love is the God that made the heaven with the sun therein that shines by day, and the stars that shine by night; and I believe that God who is full of taste and full of variety and full of beauty, has ordained that men shall be rich in the future state of the world.

Freedmen's Monument to Lincoln.

Considerable attention has been attracted this week, says a correspondent of the Chicago *Journal*, to the drawing, by Miss Hosmer, of the proposed Freedmen's Monument to the memory of the late President Lincoln, which is exhibited at Messrs. Colnaghi's gallery. Its merits have been extensively discussed in society, and the press generally has criticised it in terms of commendation. Miss Hosmer, herself, is always a favored visitor in England, where her merits as an artist are fully appreciated, and where, indeed, they were accepted even before she had acquired much popularity at home. Much of this was due, I apprehend, to the fact that she was the favorite pupil of Gibson, whose testimony in regard to her merits was received without hesitation, and when her works were once exhibited here she no longer needed the certificate even of her master.

I do not know whether the design has been publicly exhibited with you, but venture to give a brief description of it. The height of the structure is to be sixty feet, the material granite and the statue bronze.

The design is an open temple, in which is the figure of the President, holding in one hand the Emancipation Proclamation, and in the other a broken chain. Round the temple are four heroic figures typifying liberty, and encircling the architrave the closing words of the Proclamation, viz: "And upon this, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God." On a circular base, a procession of thirty-six female figures, hand-in-hand, representing the States. On four smaller bas reliefs are as many scenes in the life of the President, the inscriptions on which are respectively: "Abraham Lincoln, Martyr President of the United States: Preserver of the American Union: Emancipator of Four Millions of Men." The four statues at the corner represent the negro as follows: 1st, as a slave exposed for sale; 2d, as a laborer on a plantation; 3d, as a guide and assistant of loyal troops; and, 4th, as a soldier of the Union. Of course a fine drawing does not convey a strictly correct idea of what the construction will be, but competent judges declare that when complete, it must take high rank as a work of art.

Arrest of a Scoundrel—Chicago Detective Was Up the Case.

For some time past obstructions have been placed upon the track at Hanover Junction, Rock county, Wis., a portion of the Beloit and Madison Railway. Happily, the trains have met with no serious accident in consequence of the disbolical attempts. The railroad authorities determined to ferret out the perpetrators of the criminal outrage. They employed Richard B. Bellinger, Chief of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company's police, for that purpose. Bellinger sent a man to the Junction with instructions to hire himself out as a laborer to a farmer named Patrick Sheridan, who was suspected of having made the repeated attempts to overthrow the trains. The man acted as ordered, and went to work on Sheridan's farm. He became very familiar with his employer, and by the exercise of his faculties for worming into other people's confidence, succeeded in a few days in being assured by Sheridan that the latter had determined to "smash up the road," and that he was the man who had thrown cedar posts and other obstructions upon the track. Bellinger was advised of this, and proceeded from Chicago to the farm and arrested Sheridan. The prisoner was yesterday examined at Beloit and held for trial at the Circuit Court at Janesville, Wis., in bail of $1,500.

The reason of Sheridan's demoniacal conduct is because a pony, belonging to him, which had strayed upon the track, was some time ago killed by being run over, and because the company did not settle his claim for damages at the very moment he requested. Such a wretch should be shut up in jail for life.—*Chicago Journal.*

A PLEASANT SOCIAL CUSTOM IN NORWAY.—The men of Hallingdal are said to have a strange and barbarous custom when in drink. Being well primed with finkel, they draw their short knives, and pointing them to each other, they inquire in an amicable way, "How fat will you go?" A certain portion of each knife is then measured off on each side, and the remainder of the blades are carefully bound around with cloth, so that the knives cannot penetrate beyond a certain distance. All present then set to work and stab and slash each other in all directions. Sometimes these encounters end fatally, but a little blood-letting does none of the parties any harm. It may be asked if these strange combats arise from a natural taste for shedding blood. It is said not to be so, but that the custom has been handed down from father to son for many generations, and that any Hallingdal man who refused to fight when challenged, would be branded as a coward.

—The effect of the laws against cutting and in favor of planting trees in France has been such that, of late years, instead of a steady decrease in the extent of woodland in the empire, there has been a constant gain. In 1859 the wooded surface of France was 8,783,743 hectares, or less than 22,500,000 acres, the whole number of acres of land in France being at least 125,000,000. In 1865 the number of hectares in wood had increased to over 9,000,000, or nearly a million acres more than fifteen years before.

CLEANINGS.

—Dr. Mary Walker is about to return to the United States.

—It is confidently stated that General Lee has been to the circus.

—"Archie Lovell" has been dramatized for the Versatile Lotte.

Ex-Governor Brownlow is going to practicing law in Louisville.

—Wm. B. Bristow, the musician, died Sunday morning in New York.

—The King of Portugal and Poniatowski made a joint call on Rossini.

—"Hog'em" is the euphonious name of a ten days' old city in Montana.

—A boy sculptor in Columbus, Ohio, cuts wonderful statues with his jack-knife.

—Millard Fillmore is living in elegant ease and studying the classics in Buffalo.

A letter from Mexico, dated July 30th, states that new raisins were then in the market.

—Lord Palmerston was favored with the only private visit made by the Sultan in London.

—The Indians never scalp negro soldiers. Much cry and little wool is their motto.

—Agassiz and his pupils are going to Southern Ohio for a gneiss little time, says the *World*.

—Bright's friend, Henry Vincent, delivered a lecture on America after he got back to Liverpool.

—Senator Trumbull, it is stated, endorses Gen. Grant as a suitable candidate for the Presidency.

—The wife of Jesse Carter, of Mobile, Ala., was recently killed by her son, who mistook her for a robber.

—Santa Anna thinks he can buy himself off. Not if the Mexicans estimate him at his own valuation.

—Ice formed on Mount Washington, N. H., last Tuesday night to the thickness of a quarter of an inch.

—The city of St. Paul had a population in 1849 of four hundred: its present population is seventeen thousand.

—The entire population of Ireland is estimated by the Registrar General at 5,581,625 in the middle of the year 1866.

—A movement is on foot in St. Louis against the bakers, with a view of inducing them to reduce the price of bread.

—Some fifty unpublished letters of Voltaire are said to have been discovered in Belgium by M. Philarete Chasles.

—Fort Lyon, on the Arkansas river, is about to be rebuilt, at a cost of $700,000, and will be one of the finest forts in the west.

—The Detroit Board of Trade has passed a resolution that two hundred pounds shall hereafter constitute a barrel of flour.

—An editor, referring to air-tight coffins, says: "No person having once tried one of these coffins, will ever use any other."

—A great public demonstration in behalf of Mr. Stanton is to be held in Springfield, Illinois, as soon as Gov. Oglesby returns.

—Thirty thousand muskets, taken from the Austrians during the German war, are to be converted into Prussian needle-guns.

—The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge are to visit Ireland, to be present at the coming national horse show in Dublin.

—A Judge of the Supreme Court of Maine has decided that a marriage between a negro and a white person was illegal and void.

—The Tuscarora Indians have a tract near Niagara Falls; they are mostly farmers. The tribe now numbers only about four hundred.

—The Portland physicians account for the remarkable healthiness of that city this year by attributing it to the purifying influence of the great fire.

—In the little town of Winn, Maine, one hundred thousand hides are annually tanned into sole leather at one tannery, said to be the largest in the world.

—A suspicious chink was heard from the garments of a suspicious female at a recent pic-nic near Gotham, and on investigation by a disturbing Feinian, it was found that she had been stealing lager beer glasses. She had strung them around her garters.

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