

THE AGITATOR.

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WELLSBOROUGH, PA.
WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 19, 1860.

WHO CARES?

Before this meets the eyes of the reader, South Carolina, through a Convention elected for the purpose, will have declared herself by manifesto, an independent State, separate and apart from the Confederacy. Unwilling to wait for concessions or compromise—if these should unhappily be offered,—unwilling to listen to reason or argument, she will have rushed out into the darkness of isolation. What the result of this move may be to herself, she alone must determine; but aside from present commercial embarrassment, the remaining States will not be affected in the least by it. This is capable of mathematical demonstration. She and other States who propose to follow her, believe that "Cotton is King." Wiggill the Wise said yesterday in the Senate, and said, too, that the people of the North would soon have to eat their ice and granite. But Cotton is not Kings. South Carolina raises but little else beside this staple article. She has 375,000 negroes and 250,000 whites to feed. Her cotton crop alone must feed them, and must be turned into money and grain. South Carolina cannot hold her cotton crop out of the market three months without starvation. The laws of trade and not corrupt politicians with their caresses and conventions regulate such matters. If she can find a market easier at Boston than she can at Manchester, she commits commercial suicide by not sending it to Boston. Her merchants are not fools and they know this. They know that not a ton of coal less will be mined in our State than before; not an ounce less of grain will be raised any where in the Domain of free labor; not a manufactory will be stopped anywhere in the country, and we will be much better off without her, than with her. All this is known to her people, and to the old grannies at the North who want to concede their dearest rights rather than have her go.

[We believe there is a deep laid plan at the bottom of all this scheme of secession. We believe that James Buchanan, the President of the United States, is privy to it and is helping it along by his action, or rather non-action.—The plan is to have a State secede from the Union, and if this is not enough, have all the cotton-raising States secede. As soon as this is fairly accomplished, an appeal will be made to the fears and the pockets of the people of the North; the first by a threatened war, and the latter by a threatened panic, to induce them to concede everything to win the seceding States back again into the family. Appeals will be made to the patriotism of the people everywhere, and the people everywhere will be taught that patriotism means submission to Southern dictation. But the moment a majority of the people of the North concede the first thing—the moment we surrender the smallest iota of our just rights or principles,—that moment is the Republican party broken and demoralized, and the country is ruined beyond redemption. The "irrepressible conflict" will then be ended and slavery will have conquered. Poor laboring white men will be considered as of no more consequence than negro slaves, and it would not be surprising if the poor whites of the South should in less than fifty years be requested to choose their masters and go into slavery, as the free negroes have to do this winter in the State of Georgia.

Now whether we are right in assuming the existence of such a scheme, let the near future of our history determine. For ourselves, let us resolve to be no party to its consummation. Freemen of Tioga County, let us not bend the knee to the oligarchs. If the Republican leaders of our State falter, let us not follow them. Let the interbreathed animals who fear disunion more than they love liberty gather "body, soul and breeches" to the Democratic party where they belong, but let no man, who in days past, was proud to call himself a Republican shrink from that proud appellation now just because the slave-drivers demand it. Backbone is essential now-a-days. Let our watchword be as heretofore: "Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever!" But if the Union does not preserve our liberties, if it does not protect us in the enjoyment of free speech, free labor, free soil and the freedom of the press; if the Union is only to injure to the benefit of one political party or one section of the country; if the Union is intended only to protect the slave-holding aristocrat in the enjoyment of his rights, and the perpetuation and spread of a great national crime—if these only are what make the Union valuable—who cares how soon it is broken by the withdrawal of South Carolina or any other State? Not we!

COMPROMISES.

The question which Northern men of nearly all parties now in Washington ask of each other, is, What does the South want the North to do? In all the threatening speeches of the Disunionists not one of them has yet indicated any course of policy on the part of the North which would be satisfactory to the South. Why is this? Simply because the Southern leaders do not desire their respective States to remain in the Union, and just now they fear to make any proposition looking to its continuance, for fear the North should accept it for the sake of peace. Mr. Iverson of Georgia, and others of less note, have said again and again that the election of Mr. Lincoln was only a pretext for secession; that the South cared nothing about that, particularly as such an event was expected, but that if they did not go now they might never have so good an opportunity again. But in case they should reconsider their determination to go out, and remain, what in the name

of decency could they ask from the North in the way of concessions more than they have already asked and received? It is true they may ask the repeal of the Personal Liberty Bills on the Statute Books of some of the Northern States. But will the people of the States interested repeal these laws until the slave-holding States shall guarantee the right of peaceful citizens to travel through the South without being tarred and feathered, and otherwise abused? Besides we have never heard of any of these Personal Liberty Laws of which complaint is made, ever preventing the return of a single fugitive slave.

The truth is, and we must not shut our eyes to it, that the five cotton States intend to secede if they can, and we firmly believe that President Buchanan is in their confidence and is a party to their schemes of revolution. Why then should Northern men stultify themselves by compromising their principles or rights? If we concede the least iota to these men now, and peace and Union shall be the result of it, and a short time will elapse before they will ask an amendment to the Constitution making it treason to elect any man to any office who does not believe in the divine origin of human slavery. They have used this disunion threat long enough. Let them now carry it out if they think best, and see which shall suffer the most, the North with her institutions of civilization and freedom, or the South with her barbarism of Slavery. However much we deplore a separation of the States, there is but one course for all right minded men to pursue with honor, and that is to make no humiliating applications, no beseechings, whinings, or beggings, no compromises, concessions, or bargains. All these are futile, and something more would have to be conceded the next time the Republicans should elect a President, till at last the North and her free millions would become the mere subserviency of the handful of autocrats in the South. Let us stand up manfully for our rights. We have elected a President under the forms of the Constitution. Let us not show by our actions that we are sorry for such an event. Our principles will stand, whether we stand or fall. Let us not fall by compromises.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Summary of the News of the Week.
[Specially prepared for the Agitator.]

FACTS.

The Secession orators, with the exception of Wiggill, whose prudence and moderation far exceed his wisdom, of which latter he has but little to brag upon, and Iverson of Georgia, who wishes to be re-elected for six years to the United States Senate, have been less rampant this week than they were last. There is, however, a settled determination on the part of South Carolina and perhaps of Georgia, to withdraw from the Union in any event, and the discussion of compromises, is only intended to humiliate the North. Still it is hard to tell what a day may bring forth.

Howell Cobb has finally resigned as Secretary of the Treasury. He is heart and soul a disunionist, and gives this as the reason for his withdrawal. Here is what he says in his letter to "J. B.":
"In the troubles of the country consequent upon the late Presidential election, the honor and safety of my State are involved. Her people so regard it, and in their opinion I fully concur. They are engaged in a struggle where the issue is life or death. My friends ask for my views and counsel. Not to respond would be degrading to myself and unjust to them. I have accordingly prepared, and must now issue to them, an address which contains the calm and solemn convictions of my heart and judgment."

"The views which I sincerely entertain, and which, therefore, I am bound to express, differ in some respects from your own. The existence of this difference would expose me, if I should remain in my present place, to unjust suspicions, and put you in a false position.—The first of these consequences I could bear well enough, but I will not subject you to the last."
"My withdrawal has not been occasioned by anything you have said or done. Whilst differing from your message upon some of its theoretical doctrines, as well as from the hope so earnestly expressed that the Union can yet be preserved, there was no practical result likely to follow which required me to retire from your administration. That necessity is created by what I feel it my duty to do; and the responsibility of the act, therefore, rests alone upon myself."

He does not, of course, say a word about his incapacity, nor does he say that he has brought the country to the verge of financial ruin for the purpose of making secession more practicable. In reply the old and drivelling Public Functionary, instead of rebuking Cobb's treasonable sentiments, "regrets" his withdrawal, and compliments the "ability and zeal" displayed by him thus:
"Whilst I deeply regret that you have determined to separate yourself from us at the present critical moment, yet I admit that the question was one for your own decision. I could have wished you had arrived at a different conclusion, because our relations, both official and personal, have ever been of the most friendly and confidential character. I may add that I have been entirely satisfied with the ability and zeal which you have displayed in performing the duties of your important office."

Cobb's place has been filled by the appointment of P. F. Thomas, formerly Governor of Maryland.

Miles, and Keitt, of South Carolina, have been elected delegates to the disunion convention, and have left Washington, and do not expect to return. The other members from that State will withdraw as soon as the ordinance of secession is passed.

COMMITTEE OF THIRTY-THREE.

Monday, Dec. 10.—The House was engaged chiefly in the discussion of the question whether Mr. Hawkins, of Florida could be excused from serving on the Union Committee, as he did not desire to act upon it. The speeches were made solely by members of the late Democratic party. In the course of the debate Mr. Daniel E. Sickles, who was last heard of when he renounced to the world, declared that if the South seceded, the great city of New York would also secede from the State, and would set up on her

own individual book as a free and independent city. Mr. Sherman of Ohio introduced a bill for the relief of the Government which authorizes the President to issue Treasury notes for such sums as the exigencies of the public service require, not exceeding \$10,000,000, of denominations not less than \$100, to be redeemed at the expiration of a year, bearing interest not to exceed six per centum, for the payment and redemption of which the faith of the United States is solemnly pledged.

The bill authorizes the President to borrow from time to time money to redeem the same. The notes are to be received in payment of all debts, taxes, &c. The operation of the bill is limited to the first of January, 1863. Its provisions are similar to the act of 1857.

In the Senate, an animated discussion was had in regard to the Crisis, in which Latham of California, and Douglas both declared for the Union and its maintenance.

Tuesday, Dec. 11.—In the House the debate on the motion to excuse Mr. Hawkins of Florida from serving on the Corwin Committee was continued. Messrs. Cobb of Alabama, and Reuben Davis of Mississippi both spoke for the Union and against excusing. The previous question was called and the House refused to excuse Hawkins by vote of 95 to 102 yeas. Mr. Hawkins rose and said that he wished to be understood in respect to his determination concerning service on the committee, and that he now declared plainly: "I will not serve on this committee." [Sensation and smothered applause in the galleries and also from Southern members on the floor.] Mr. Burnet said that he could see no reason why, when gentlemen asked in good faith to be excused from serving, and it was known why they refused to do so, even in case they were not excused by the House. Mr. Smith, of Va., gave his reasons for voting not to excuse. Because, he said, the States should all be represented, and it was well known that if the gentleman from Florida [Mr. Hawkins] and the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Boyce] were excused, there was no remedy for the vacancies which would be caused. Mr. Boyce of S. C., asked to be excused and the previous question being called, the House refused to excuse—yeas 96, nays 100. Mr. Morrill of Vt., asked to be excused, on the ground that his time was so burdened with the duties of other committees he could not attend to it, but he was not excused and the House adjourned.

In the Senate, Mr. Collamer moved that the bill for the admission of Kansas be made the special order for Tuesday next. Mr. Green objected. Mr. Collamer saw no reason why it should be postponed. Mr. Green said that he expected some information on the subject, and until he received it, he thought it should not be made the subject of a special order. The motion of Mr. Collamer was agreed to, and the bill made the special order for Tuesday next. Mr. Cameron moved to take up the Morrill Tariff bill, which passed the House last session. Mr. Hunter thought there were enough measures pending without taking up this one. The bill was taken up—yeas 29, nays 27. On motion, the bill was referred to the Committee on Finance. Mr. Hale offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of reducing certain branches of the military service; which was agreed to. The following resolution, as modified yesterday, was taken up and read:
Resolved, That so much of the President's message as relates to the present agitated and distracted condition of the country, and the grievances between the slaveholding and the non-slaveholding States, be referred to a special committee of thirteen members, and that said committee be instructed to inquire into the present condition of the country, and report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Bigler urged conciliation upon the North, and delay of any action on the part of the South which might precipitate a conflict. He favored the adoption of a compromise upon the subject, either by an amendment of the Constitution or otherwise, and said that the Northern people were ready for conciliation. Mr. Iverson did not believe that the committee could effect any possible good, and therefore, he was opposed to its creation. He reviewed the whole ground as showing that there was no remedy for the evils which afflicted the South short of disunion. Mr. Pugh replied in a spirited Union harangue, which was well received. Mr. Douglas deprecated the tendency of the newspaper press to aggravate the sectional difficulties. Mr. D. was listened to by a house filled to overflowing, and large numbers of members of the House.

Wednesday, Dec. 12.—The House was engaged all day in submitting propositions for the consideration of the Special Committee of Thirty-Three. The Senate was amused by a rhetorical display of proteynetics by the Texan Solon, otherwise yelet Wiggill. We have not room for his entire speech, and must content ourselves with a "specimen brick." Among other silly things he said:
"If we could believe they (the Republican Senators) would go to their constituents and urge the ratification of proper amendments, we believe the Gulf States would suspend their action. Certainly so, if the amendments be ratified and carried out in good faith. If they will leave preaching the irrepressible conflict doctrine and declare slaves to be property; that they shall be delivered up when demanded as fugitives; that abolition societies shall be abolished, and abolition papers be suppressed; that abolition speeches shall no longer be made, and that we shall not have pirates and murderers sent among our women and children—when such an honest effort is made to meet the demands of the South there is a prospect of giving them a fair consideration." [Roars of laughter from the galleries and the Republican Senators.]
Gen. Cass, Secretary of State, has resigned his post, and the resignation has been accepted by the President.

LET LOUISIANA LOOK OUT FOR HER SUGAR.—A compiled statement of Mr. R. Champronier of the sugar crop of Louisiana shows "that the total product of that State, from 1834 to 1858 inclusive, a period of twenty-five years, was 4,014,709 hogheads, valued at \$248,139,260, and that of this quantity the Atlantic ports took 1,485,653 hogheads, and the Western States 2,514,454 hogheads."
It should be remembered that the sugar crop of Louisiana is fully protected by a duty on foreign sugars of twenty-four per cent., and should she secede, her great crop would be brought into direct competition with the sugar crop of the West India islands, with which she has never been able to compete without such protection. Under such circumstances, can she afford to sacrifice by secession such great and important interests, and lay her plantations waste at the "beck and bid" of South Carolina.—N. Y. Free Post.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The late cold snap was so severe at the South that the Charleston Mercury froze in the tube.

The largest horse in the world is an English horse of the Clydesdale breed, now at Newcastle, Pa. He weighs 1777 pounds.

There is said to be 30,000 inhabitants in Kansas suffering for the want of necessary food and clothing, and they must perish unless soon relieved.

Beecher says of half-way men: "They are of now use—they can never get to Heaven—they are not known in hell, and are not wanted on earth."

A man lately put his dog to bed and kicked himself down stairs. He did not discover his mistake until the next morning, when he chased a cow and couldn't bark.

A fierce secessionist of the Palmetto State says, that he would rather be hung in South Carolina, than die a natural death in any other State. We hope he will get his wish.

A Carolina editor has found authority for secession in the Bible. We should think the scriptural words most applicable to the secessionists are these:—"Depart, ye cursed," &c.

Daniel D. Perry, a youth of eighty years, was married in Full River on Thanksgiving Day to Easter Simmons, sixty-nine years old.—Each of them had previously been married twice.

The New York Leader states that the original stockholders of the World subscribed a short time since an additional sum of \$30,000 to maintain that publication on the two cent platform.

The population of the city of New York is officially returned in full, and is about 10,000 less than the lowest estimate a week or two ago. The true number is 814,277. The increase since 1850, is 298,730.

A Southern editor, some years ago, in attempting to compliment Gen. Pillow as a "battle scared veteran," was made by the types to call him a "battle scared veteran." In the next issue the mistake was so far corrected as to style him a "bottle scared veteran."

A bill has been introduced into the South Carolina Legislature to abolish the Fourth of July as a holiday in that State. Yankee Doodle and Hail Columbia were hissed recently in Charleston as "Yankee tunes." South Carolina feels herself a foreigner. Her citizens are traitors to the Union.

The report from Tennessee is that John Bell has prepared an elaborate address to the American people on the crisis, taking strong grounds against the right of secession and the expediency of it, and demonstrating the ruin to the border States which must follow from the Gulf States going out.

It is said that Gen. Joe Lane has sent the following despatch to the Governor of North Carolina:

Dear gov—oregon is probly lost. I have resolved to see seed with my Native, state. The election of lincon has did the gov. Our only trust now is in god and a Southern onion.
Yours,
jo Lane.

A Jersey paper—the Bridgeton Chronicle—notices an organization of young men in that town styled "Zouave Oddities," who have banded together for the purpose of sawing and splitting wood for destitute families the ensuing winter. With wood-saw astride of horse, and axe in hand, they proceed to the premises, and reduce the wood to stove size with an alacrity unknown to those who labor for pelf. Good!

The success of the Republicans on the Pacific coast adds seven more votes to Mr. Lincoln's column, and gives him 180 electoral votes—six more than Buchanan had in 1856. Buchanan carried 19 States. Mr. Lincoln has carried 18; so that he has within one of the number of States carried by the Old Public Functionary, and six more electoral votes. It will also be found, when the totals are all cast up, that he has a larger popular vote than Buchanan had and the largest ever given to any Presidential candidate.

A Modern Othello is reported to have behaved nearly half a dozen Desdemonas lately. They are all daughters of one family, and threaten to elope if the slightest opposition to the perpetual union with the Moor is made by pater familias. The names of the young damsels are Misses S. Carolina, Flora Ida, Ally Bama, Miss Sissippi, and Miss Georgia. The others, Miss Virginia, Miss Louisiana, Miss Saurin, and Miss Mary Land, are in love with the fellow; but won't leave Uncle Sam's comfortable home on his account. They are sensible—Commercial Advertiser.

The Carroll Free Press, a Democratic paper at Carrollton, O., has been discontinued. The Editor has associated with him a Republican, and the two publish the Carroll Independent, in which the Republican has charge of the second page and the Democrat the third.—Each announces that he shall be independent and speak boldly against the opposing party. The leading Editor may announce that "the junior Editor will to-day publish an article on secession all of which is rank falsehood, which disgraces the sheet in which it is published," and the other may in the same issue, say that "that black Republican villain who writes for the second page says this article is a falsehood."

Not often comes an incident of so much interest to record, as the interview of Garibaldi and Victor Emanuel, on the 25th ult., between Teano and Speranzano. The cheftain had taken his quarters at a small inn, and ordering his column forward, sent Count Trecci on to greet the king, whom he met rapidly advancing, preceded by Ciardini and at the head of 30,000 men. Count Trecci galloped back breathless, and Garibaldi taking horse with his staff, soon met the head of the Piedmontese column. It opened, Garibaldi leaping from his horse and embracing him. The king advancing at the head of his proper division, saw the red shirts, and distinguishing their leader, put spurs to his horse, all the officers on either staff, crying "Long live Victor Emanuel!" Then the soldier, who had so gracefully placed an empire in the monarch's hand, declining for himself everything except the gratitude of the millions whom he had saved; baring his head, could only say: "King of Italy!"—his voice husky with the swelling of his heart. The King, with like feeling, replied: "Thank you!" and grasped the hero's hand. Thus they stood, looking at each other in the fellowship of noble minds, and said not another word. Still hand in hand they followed the troops, and as their respective suites mingled in the rear, began to talk on the great events which the hour had crowned.—N. Y. World.

AN INCENDIARY PUBLICATION.

The Cincinnati Commercial has gone and done it. It has committed high and rank treason against the free and independent State of South Carolina, the light and shining star of the "Southern Confederacy." Under the heading of "The Rattlesnake Confederacy," that journal says the following awful things.

A writer in the Charleston Mercury suggests the following as a suitable and appropriate national banner for the Southern Confederacy: "The ground entirely blue, with a golden Palmetto in the centre; a golden rattlesnake twining round the stem of the Palmetto, with its rattle sprung, head erect, and tongue protruded. In the background, to the rear of the tree and snake, a golden spread eagle, and a single golden star in the upper right corner, with the words 'Room for More' on the opposite side."

Rattlesnakes and spread eagles! what a coat of arms have we here? Doesn't this beat the Turks, slightly? "The ground entirely blue,"—that's significant, to begin with. Won't the chivalry who gather under that banner feel blue, though, perhaps they get through the war, I will—perhaps not. "With a golden Palmetto in the centre," as if to say we are made of money, and our very trees drop gold, which considering the suspension of all the banks, and the four hundred thousand dollar loan, is quite comme il faut.

"A golden rattlesnake twining round the stem of the palmetto, with its rattle sprung, head erect, and tongue protruded." What a brave and gentlemanly rattlesnake, to be sure! Just in the "overt act," too, of striking the deadly blow which shall finish the enemy forever. "Rattle sprung, head erect, and tongue protruded,"—eyes right, head up, tail down, make ready, take aim, fire! bang! and straight-way the bloody corpses of the foe bite the dust. Certainly there is nobody but must admit the propriety of selecting the rattlesnake—rampant—as the appropriate emblem of modern Carolina warfare. We can only venture to suggest one slight modification; instead of the "blue ground," which might be taken as so suggestive of the cerulean prospects of the new "Southern Confederacy," let this worshipful rattlesnake be seen "protruding" from a bucket of tar and feathers—piping hot.

In the background, to the rear of the tree and snake, a golden spread eagle." Still golden? But we decidedly approve of the position of the "spread eagle" in the rear of the snake. He is more out of harm's way, you know, and besides, should not every cause aim to put its best foot foremost?

"A single golden star—(more gold!)—in the upper right corner, with the words: Room for More! on the opposite." Well done, South Carolina! The "lone star" of Texas has found a rival. But what sublime and never-sufficiently-to-be-admired magnanimity is contained in that significant motto, borrowed, without credit, from the omnibus line of business—"Room for more!" Here's patriotism, South Carolina with her golden palmettos, golden spread eagles, golden rattlesnakes, and golden "lone star," will absolutely take, into partnership any poor devil of a fire eating commonwealth which will follow her banner. The force of condescension could go no further.

Ho, there! Principals and powers! Flags of all nations! Prepare to salute the shining star of the kingdom of South Carolina! Room for the rattlesnake of the Palmetto State!

A BOY STEALS ELEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE WESTERN MAILS.—William H. Hudson, a lad of 18 years of age, employed as train boy, to carry water, sell fruit, &c., on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, was arrested on suspicion of having robbed the mail.

As the train was approaching Chicago, the baggage master passed through the mail car, where Hudson was making his bed, as was his custom, when he observed several letters on the floor. He returned with a light to search more carefully, when nothing could be found. Hudson was arrested, and three letters opened. He was conveyed to Chicago, where a partial examination was had, and the boy eventually confessed his crime. Mail matter has been missed frequently on this route, but no one suspected the train boy. On the night of September 10th, the bag sent from Chicago to Quincy arrived at its destination in due time, but empty; the entire contents having been abstracted. This was the work of Hudson, as now appears by his confession. Upon searching his trunk a large amount of mail matter was found, among which were drafts, notes, land warrants, &c., amounting to \$11,324.73, all carefully enveloped in a handkerchief. In view of the carelessness of permitting a boy to enjoy such facilities as to sleep in the mail car, the Chicago Tribune says: "One would suppose that a bed of plumply-filled mail bags might grow a first-rate mail robber as readily as a bed of guano a monster cabbage."

HAS SEEN BRIGHTER DAYS.—Poor Tom Marshall!

We heard of Tom, a few weeks ago, he was "down East," having turned over a new leaf, and was delivering temperance lectures. He had announced his determination to cheat the Inebriate asylum out of at least one victim. In the late number of the Cincinnati Enquirer we find the name of poor Tom in the police records of that city, allied to as a "red-faced, blotted-nose, dilapidated individual, accused of drunkenness." When asked what he had to say for himself, he made an attempt to palliate the offense, attributing it to an attack of rheumatism, making an eloquent appeal to the court for clemency.

Poor Tom, a descendant of one of the most talented families in Kentucky, the time was when, as a Senator from that State the walls of legislative halls rang with his eloquence; but that time is passed, and we find him now a poor, degraded ragabond. How hath the mighty fallen!

The State of Florida, next to South Carolina, seems most vehemently anxious to get out of the Union. The Territory from which Florida was converted into a State was purchased of Spain. With a very few thousand White inhabitants, some remnants of Indian Tribes, and an army of Runaway Negroes, it was admitted, by an act of grace, into the Union.—Its Wars; to expel the Indians and reclaim the Slaves have cost the United States Treasury more than thirty millions of dollars. Florida has nothing to complain of, nothing to excuse, and less than nothing to justify its treason against the Union. It has received nothing but good from the Government, for which it returns nothing but evil. To protect the Citizens of Florida from robbery and murder it has cost the Treasury of the Union more than \$100,000 for every head standing upon Traitors' shoulders.