

Daily Telegraph.



HARRISBURG, PA.

Tuesday Evening, December 9, 1862.

DEGRADING.

When one thinks of the facts of rebellion, and recollect what the rebels are struggling for, it is degrading to know that there are those in the north who sympathize with all the efforts that are being made to destroy the Union. The rebellion is not against a wrong. The masses of the south have no injuries to redress. If this were so, the governments of Europe would have long since recognized the Confederacy. But European statesmen have penetrated the thin veil with which the traitors seek to conceal the real objects of their treason. Those statesmen fully understand the purpose of the southern leaders. That purpose has developed itself in a design to erect an aristocracy more arrogant than any which exists in Europe, because the meanness of European exclusiveness boasts of its devotion to liberty, of its zeal for humanity, of its attachment to justice. All these attributes are disavowed by the aristocracy of the slave states now in rebellion against the federal power. That aristocracy base their pretensions to rule, alone on the right which they claim to maintain a system of slavery. The leaders of the rebellion struggle because they hope success will confer upon them and their families, courtly titles. It is for this that Jeff Davis took the lead, and for this the lesser leaders in treason are now fighting, while the poor dupes who are risking life and limb, will be awoken from their dreams of success and future greatness, to find that they cannot resist the tyrannical influences which their own acts of treason created. If rebellion could be made a success to-morrow, the soldiers who fought in the ranks of the rebel armies, would return to their homes worse slaves than the blacks who are held in bondage as common chattel. Nay further, if the influence of that success could be extended beyond the limits of the Confederacy, it would be wielded to enslave every white laboring man in the north, on the principle, that no labor of the hands was ever sufficiently dignified to be free, and that no condition of society was safe, except that which was based on a system of servitude, in which the labor of the majority could be monopolized for the uses of the minority of the people.

Knowing these facts, it is often wondered how the Democratic leaders can reconcile their conduct in relation to the rebellion, consistently with that of the profession of devotion to Democratic principle. If Democracy means anything, it is that of ~~opposition to slavery~~, and ~~for the~~ leaders of modern Democracy, while claiming for their organization all that belongs to pure and lofty principle, still maintain that society organized on the basis of slavery, is the safest and most happy. The Democratic leaders now oppose the administration of Abraham Lincoln, simply because he is engaged in a struggle to put down rebellion—to crush out slavery—because without the total extinction of slavery there can be no future protection from rebellion. And yet the people sometimes swallow such doses as are prepared by the Democratic leaders, and imagine that they are assisting in the progress and development of a government under whose control they will be enabled to prosper and become happy. The people must unlearn their attachment to Democracy by experience. Argument or persuasion will never accomplish the reform of those who are blindly attached to these dogmas. As they behold Europe turning with disgust from the slaveocracy of the south—and as slavery is laid open in all its corruptions, the charm of Democracy will lose its sway. That is, the charm of false Democracy will give way to true Democratic feeling, and ere long a lofty principle of Democracy will prevail where a false and malicious devotion to the power which is created by slavery, exists.

And thus, from degradation in politics—from contests in which men are made of more importance than measures of public good and social vitality, and as the people begin fully to understand the tricks by which this degradation is produced, we can only expect reform and progress. The Democratic leaders never swayed the minds of the masses by argument. They never elected a high official on a clear issue of principle. But always descending to degradation, they have achieved their success by tricks and lies—by just such plans as those with which they now assail the efforts of loyal men to rescue the government from rebellion. When in power, Democracy shrinks from nothing that is monstrous or mean. When out of power, its adherents will stoop to any degradation for its possession. *Vide*, the past and present course of the Democratic leaders.

EMANCIPATION CONSTITUTIONAL.—The great Virginia orator, Patrick Henry, whose democracy will question, predicted that a period would come when Congress would attempt the manumission of the slaves as a Constitutional act. And, continues he, have they not the power? "Have they not the power to provide for the general defence and welfare? May they not think that these call for the abolition of slavery? May they not pronounce all slaves free, and will they not be warranted by that power?" This is no ambiguous implication, or logical deduction. The Constitution speaks to the point: **THEY HAVE THE POWER, IN CLEAR, UNequivOCAL TERMS, AND WILL, CLEARLY AND CERTAINLY EXERCISE IT.**—Elliot, Debates of Va., Vol. 3, p. 590. But this was in the good old days when Democracy meant something and stood on the broad platform of the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal," and when Democrats (like Jefferson, Madison, Patrick Henry) had had to think and hearts to feel for the "rights of all mankind." Then the Constitution was understood to be framed for the advancement of liberty—now "sham Democrats" can see in it nothing but a conservator of "Southern rights and interests" and especially of slavery?

PENNSYLVANIANS IN RHODE ISLAND.

We have lately been in communication, through the mail, with several of the sick and wounded men belonging to Pennsylvania regiments, who are now in the hospitals located at Portsmouth Grove, R. I. The story which these men write, is as melancholy as it is pitiful, developing a system of unmerciful conduct towards the sick soldier, which would disgrace a cannibal, were he to treat with similar severity the captive he contemplates to devour. We have refrained from alluding to these communications, simply because we have received our share of the resentment engendered by such statements. But justice to the sick and wounded men belonging to Pennsylvania, who are in the hospitals of Rhode Island, compels us at least to call attention to the simple fact that these men are bitterly complaining—complaining of wrongs which demand redress—of injuries and insults alike inefurable and disgraceful.

It seems somewhat inexplicable that the people of Pennsylvania, who are serving the

SUPPLYING THEIR OWN SHAME.

Some of our contemporaries are very severe on the manner in which the military courts of inquiry are conducted in Washington, and among these the Cincinnati *Daily Times*, becomes scathingly sarcastic, when it declares that the proceedings of these courts are producing some rich morsels for European satire and rebel merriment. Certainly the gentlemen bound in gold lace, who have gained promotion, and are now in the enjoyment of the highest military honors, without ever having won a battle or successfully conducted a campaign, are demonstrating how dangerous it is for a nation to distribute its military favors upon any other principle than that of a reward for professional merit and personal virtue. The prevailing rule, so far as the Army of the Potomac is concerned, has been to shower honors and pay upon those most capable and most willing to do nothing towards the accomplishment for which the army was organized. Look at McDowell. The war found him in an ordinary military position. He was honored with the command of the Army of the Potomac, and managed it so as to bring disgrace to the army and shame to the country. For this he was promoted to a Major-Generalship. In the new position he continued to repeat his early career, and was undisturbed, though complaints grew loud, thick and fast, until a gallant officer, while his life blood was rapidly ebbling out on a disastrous battle field, wrote that he was the victim of McDowell's treason, and then died. Upon this McDowell ordered a Court of Inquiry, and when the Court met the Government had no charges to present against him! The rule of trial was then transposed, as the rule of promotion had been, and McDowell was allowed to prove himself not guilty!

McDowell proceeded, among other things, to prove that he was never drunk. Up steps a Colonel Goodwin, and swore that he had seen the General drunk in the city of Washington. McDowell immediately offers to prove that this Colonel Goodwin—the commander of a regiment, remember—had served a term in a penitentiary! And in that manner is high military evidence to be discredited. Goodwin has challenged McDowell, and so they go.

So also in the case of Fitz John Porter. Fitz John, who never did anything in his life entitling him to a higher position than lieutenant, a position in which the breaking out of the rebellion found him, rapidly gained the highest military honors, through some unknown influences.

Fitz charges Porter with purposely withholding his corps from action to secure his defeat. Porter makes out a clear case, demonstrating that Porter could have saved the day and would not do it. What does Fitz John do? By a rigid cross-examination he endeavours to convince the court that Pope is such a great liar he cannot be believed under oath! That is the plain English of the proceedings in the Porter court-martial.

Official publications developed that when Pope was in command of the Army of Virginia, he reported Sigel as entirely "unreliable." That report has just come to light, and Sigel, and all the Tentonians of the Army of the Potomac immediately flew into a rage over the anger beer, have demanded a Court of Inquiry. When those who "fight mit Sigel" get after Pope what splendid developments will come forth.

These Courts of Inquiry demonstrate one broad fact—the best place in the world to secure unworthy promotion, and to unmake a good General, is the Army of the Potomac.

WHO HAVE GONE TO THE WAR?

The following table gives the official vote in the states named (comprising all that are yet received) for the year 1862, compared with the vote of 1860, showing the decrease in the votes of the respective parties:

	1862	1860		
Adm.	Opp.	Adm.	Opp.	
Conn.	89,782	80,684	48,792	37,204
Delaware	8,155	8,044	8,115	12,224
Illinoian	121,349	128,202	172,545	167,667
Indiana	118,386	127,717	136,884	131,417
Maine	45,614	39,553	62,370	35,864
N. Hampshire	32,224	29,118	37,947	32,346
N. Jersey	46,716	61,314	58,345	62,801
N. York	295,461	307,068	862,646	812,510
Ohio	173,753	184,832	231,610	210,830
Penn.	215,386	218,981	270,170	206,540
Oregon	5,781	3,450	6,529	5,632
Vermont	29,649	8,641	33,984	10,123
	1,138,939	1,152,309	1,420,451	1,227,768

The total vote of 1860 was 2,648,209, that of 1862 2,291,248, showing a total decrease of 356,961. After deducting the increase to both parties in four states, as shown by the above table, this decrease is seen to be divided as follows: Administration 281,612, Opposition 74,749; an excess in the Administration decrease of 206,763 votes! And yet the vote this year has been an exceedingly full one as compared with last year, and also with 1860, when we consider the large number of voters gone to the war.

The total Opposition majority is but 13,370 this year against 287,693 for Mr. Lincoln in 1860. Who can doubt the result if the volunteers had been at home? The whole mass of them would need to be converted in order to insure a Democratic victory.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.—
SUFFERING OF THE TROOPS—EFFECTS OF THE COLD SNAP ON THE QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT—SOLDIERS BUILDING HUTS—NO MOVEMENT REPORTED.

federal government in the army, should be transported past their own doors, and through their own ports, to be placed in hospitals among strangers. The sick and wounded Pennsylvanians who are in the hospitals of Rhode Island, were compelled to suffer the hardships of a voyage of seven hundred miles, before they reached their destination, when it declares that the proceedings of these courts are producing some rich morsels for European satire and rebel merriment. Certainly the gentlemen bound in gold lace, who have gained promotion, and are now in the enjoyment of the highest military honors, without ever having won a battle or successfully conducted a campaign, are demonstrating how dangerous it is for a nation to distribute its military favors upon any other principle than that of a reward for professional merit and personal virtue. The prevailing rule, so far as the Army of the Potomac is concerned, has been to shower honors and pay upon those most capable and most willing to do nothing towards the accomplishment for which the army was organized. Look at McDowell. The war found him in an ordinary military position. He was honored with the command of the Army of the Potomac, and managed it so as to bring disgrace to the army and shame to the country. For this he was promoted to a Major-Generalship. In the new position he continued to repeat his early career, and was undisturbed, though complaints grew loud, thick and fast, until a gallant officer, while his life blood was rapidly ebbling out on a disastrous battle field, wrote that he was the victim of McDowell's treason, and then died. Upon this McDowell ordered a Court of Inquiry, and when the Court met the Government had no charges to present against him! The rule of trial was then transposed, as the rule of promotion had been, and McDowell was allowed to prove himself not guilty!

These facts admit of no comment.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME.

We notice of late, that our contemporaries in the larger cities, are indulging in strong appeals for the suffering and starving operatives of Lancashire, Eng. This is all very well as a display—but it should be first carefully ascertained whether we have those at home who need and demand our assistance, before we go abroad, to contribute a share of our abundance to revive the starving mob of Great Britain, and send sweet morsels to tickle throats which will thrill with cheers for the first "secession" agent who may appeal to them for applause for the Davis Confederacy. We have had enough of feeding starving Britshers. We have beheld their neutrality and high regard for the progress of civilization, and it is about time that the struggling people of this country leave the British to starve or to help themselves as best they can. If the money which has been used in fitting out rebel piratical steamers, by the Christian people and capitalists of England, had been devoted to the poor of that country, gaunt famine would not now stalk through the streets of Lancashire. If the wealth which has been lost in running the blockade, or sacrificed to southern credit, had been disposed of in fair and legitimate trade, want would not now pinch the stomach of starving John Bull. These are rough truths, and it is time that the English people learn the lesson which they inculcate.

If the people of New York or Philadelphia, have such abundance and to spare, that their charities can be extended across the ocean, they should be anxious first to contribute lavishly to the suffering poor at home. Let us remember in this state, that we have hundreds and thousands who need our care and charities. But lately one of the most flourishing inland boroughs of the Commonwealth was visited by a devastating and most calamitous fire. Lock Haven, once so prosperous and beautiful, as it lay in peace on the banks of the Susquehanna, is now almost a heap of ashes. Its homes have been made desolate—it's hearths, where the glow of hospitality had welcomed for all, are now covered with blackened embers—while distress and dismay have filled the hearts of its people with sore anguish. Let us think of and aid the suffering of the people of Lock Haven—let us think of and supply the wants of our own poor, when it we have to spare, it will be time enough to freight ships with contributions for distant charities. *Let charity begin at home!*

XXVIII CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.

The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of War, in answer to the resolution calling for information relative to the sale of colored freemen, captured by rebels, &c., stating that no information on the subject was in the possession of the department.

Mr. SHERMAN, (O.), presented a petition in favor of a general bankrupt act.

Mr. DAVIS, (Ky.), presented two petitions protesting against the action of the advisory board of the navy.

Mr. SUMNER, (Mass.), from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a bill for the relief of the owners of the French vessel *Jules-Emile*.

Mr. ANTHONY, (R. I.), from the Committee on Printing, reported a bill to increase the bonds of the Superintendent of Printing.

Mr. HALE, (N. H.), introduced a bill to abolish the grade of medical officers in the service of the United States. He said that nothing was worse than this so called medical service.

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