

Select Poetry.

The Nigger on the Fence.

"Our politicians, now-a-days,
Come out and show their hand;
Nor cover in the "wood pile,"
The Nigger through the land;
For having power, they boldly move,
And care not for expense,
And for admiring eyes they've set
The Nigger on the fence."

At Washington, in Congress Hall,
And in the White House too,
They labor for the negro,
And acting else they do;
They've lately hazened him along,
Nor make the least pretence,
But lab'ring while men all must bow
To nigger on the fence."

In ancient times, the Israelites
Set up a call of gold,
And worship him devoutly,
At least so I've been told;
But now our canting preachers
Avoid that great offense,
And reverently labor for
The nigger on the fence."

Indeed right in the pulpit,
Some Hell per eleganza
Set up the woolly negro,
As their golden calf again,
And profits too, enormous,
Come flowing out from thence,
And piles, and piles of greenbacks,
Keep nigger on the fence."

And so the war must move along—
Conscriptions must be made,—
The Lincoln-Barnside tyranny,
Implicitly obeyed.
With it, they won't dispute—
"Tis all to help that woolly chap—
The nigger on the fence."

Alas! if all these noble men,
In times that tried men's souls,
Could visit earth, and witness how
The bayonet controls—
With added heeds, they'd turn away,
And quickly hasten hence,
Disgusted with Americans,
And nigger on the fence."

Mr. Buckalew's Letter
To the Meeting at Hughesville, Eastern
Lycoming, August 22d, 1863.

Mr. Buckalew's Letter

GENTLEMEN OF LYCOMING:—You are to be commended for assembling yourselves as men opposed to the Administrations at Harrisburg and Washington, and I am glad to contribute to your proceedings the expression of some few earnest words.

An issue between Power and Liberty is distinctly presented as the policy of our rulers, and if we stand indifferent to it, or acquiesce in its decision according to the pleasure of those who aspire to be our masters, what shame will be ours! what loss and injury! what degradation and eternal disgrace!

By liberty I do not mean license, but that regulated freedom established by our ancestors which we have enjoyed hitherto without question, and the example of which we have held forth proudly before other nations as the reproof of their systems and the glory of our own.

By power I do not mean legitimate authority, but authority usurped and lawless, pursuing its own ends over a broken Constitution and through the baleful flames of civil war.

Between these—between power and liberty—can you hesitate in your choice? Will you hold up a balance and weigh, doubtfully, the arguments which sustain liberty against those which oppose it?

Necessity—Safety—are these the magical words by which despotism is to be changed in character and made fit for our adoption? Shall the plea of tyrants be accepted as our standard of public rule? Shall we concede force, and justice, and wisdom, to one of the most impudent, false and injurious doctrines ever intruded into the discussion of public affairs?

But there is a necessity (quite different from that asserted on behalf of power) which we must now admit as most evident and urgent—a necessity that we rid ourselves of those who plead necessity as the justification of their misdeeds. Those who cannot govern lawfully and justly are not to govern at all, but to give place to others. For it is monstrous to say that the incapable and vicious shall lord it over their fellows. The rulers who say they cannot govern by law and according to right, stand self-condemned. Judged out of their own mouths, they are unfit for rule and should be voted out of power.

Gentlemen; the greatest son of New England spent most of his life and won his great fame in this Commonwealth. We are proud that he became a Pennsylvanian and took rank in our history with the founder of this State—with the illustrious man who established it "in deeds of peace." Let us try the logic of tyranny by the judgment of that great man. Let us invite the apologists of arbitrary power and advocate of "strong government," who fill our ears with impassioned discourse upon public safety, and national life, and necessity, to go with us to our great commercial metropolis and there stand with us beside the modest slab which marks the resting place of Benjamin and Deborah Franklin. Oh! how low mean, and pitiful,

and low, and utterly false and detestable will there sound all these apologies for wrong, all these pretenses for stealing away or taking away from the people, the rights and liberties achieved for them by the great men of former times! We will hear the voice of Franklin sounding in our ears those memorable words of wisdom and warning which should be written up or hung up in great letters wherever the people meet for consultation in times of public danger;—"THOSE WHO WOULD GIVE UP ESSENTIAL LIBERTY TO PURCHASE A LITTLE TEMPORARY SAFETY, DESERVE NEITHER LIBERTY NOR SAFETY!"

Gentlemen; Your political opponents think that patriotism should be called loyalty and made to consist in unconditional, unquestioning devotion to an administration of the government. I believe you will agree with me that this great virtue requires no new name borrowed from the literature of monarchy; that it is shown in devotion to the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the several States and that the true patriot regards public officials with a respect precisely proportioned to their observance of law, justice and right, and to their skill, wisdom and honesty in the performance of their public duties.

Judge your public men fairly but freely. Let no man put a padlock upon your lips, nor impose upon you any of the false and pernicious sophisms of arbitrary power.

An important election approaches in this Commonwealth, and another important one succeeds it next year. At those, you are required to judge those who have ruled or misruled you since 1860, and to determine, as far as your votes will go, the policy of the future. You need no labored exhortation from me to inspire you with zeal, courage, determination and fidelity in the discharge of your electoral duties. Behold! the evils which afflict the nation and the dangers which threaten it! These exhort you, beyond art of mine, to right action, and justify that opinion which we hold in common, that upon Democratic success in the elections just mentioned, depend the existence of free, liberal and just government in this country; a restoration of Union founded in consent; the avoidance of future wars and the preservation and growth of that material prosperity which results from good government when vouchsafed to an united, industrious and virtuous people.

I am, your fellow-citizen,
and obdt. servant,
C. R. BUCKALEW.

ful, and low, and utterly false and detestable will there sound all these apologies for wrong, all these pretenses for stealing away or taking away from the people, the rights and liberties achieved for them by the great men of former times!

But the belief of the Democratic party has been that a person could honestly differ from the "powers that be" in times of peace and in times of danger. Had they believed otherwise they would have hung the Hartford Convention;—Tom Corwin for saying he hoped the Mexicans "would welcome our soldiers with bloody hands to hospitable graves."—Mr. Lincoln for factious opposition,—Kansas aid Societies,—Abolition orators, editors, etc. During the dark days of 1860, papers with the motto, "Free Speech, Free Press and Free Kansas," at their heads called the President "traitor" and "coward"; and now they threaten with the halber and actually incarcerate in dungeons or banish men, who, in loyal States, free from the taint of rebellion, dare intimate that Lincoln is not a second "Daniel come to judgement!"

Another quaint theory of the Democratic party is that Presidents, Congress and Governors are placed in power by the people to act as their agents, and that they are accountable to them for the exercise of that power. Executives "are to execute the people's will, not their own." If they see fit they can make Chicago Platforms, or even create a Constitution on an Abolition basis; but the agents cannot do this unless specially authorized, much less can he dictate to his principal. This is the real foundation of our Government, consolidated by practice, by decisions of courts, and the opinions of the people. The opposition have gone even further than monarchial governments and not only maintain the doctrine that "the King can do no wrong," but hold that even his ministers—his Stantons, Fremonts, Hunters and Barnsides, are equally immaculate.

So much for generalities;—let us examine more attentively into the designs of the opposition. Senator Wilson of Mass. has declared,—and the sentiment has been adopted by the party, and is the standing platform of their Party Leagues,—that "the men who believe in the emancipation proclamation, who mean to make it a practical reality, the irreparable law of the nation, must prepare for a mighty conflict—a conflict that will stir the country to its profoundest depths. Beside this transcendent question of the enforcement of the proclamation in the rebel states, all other questions, growing out of the existence of slavery, sink into utter insignificance; for its success carries with it everything else—ensneipement in Delaware and Maryland, Kentucky and Tennessee, fugitive slave law and all."

There is the doctrine; to make the tenets of abolitionism "the irreparable law of the Nation." Even the suppression of the rebellion is considered a secondary matter, the "enforcement of the proclamation" being "the transcendent question." Farther on he speaks of emancipation in the border States. This, then, is to reward the fidelity of the States, which have stood firm amidst all the ravages of civil war, and which have been assured of Federal protection. Even their exemption by the emancipation proclamation is to be recalled, and the Fugitive Slave Law,—one of the compacts of the Constitution—a law passed by Congress—upheld by the Supreme Court—justified by a long series of precedents—is to be a dead letter. He also says that "the issue is justice to a wronged race; not the restoration of the Union, and the enforcement of the laws as declared by the Administration and Congress when the troops were called out, and which also declared that "when these objects are secured the war should cease." These doctrines of Wilson's have been published with approval in a long editorial by the "Washington Chronicle," the organ of President Lincoln.

If opposition to these sentiments constitutes "embarrassment to the Administration," it should be the endeavor of every patriot to increase the embarrassment until the doctrines so pernicious to our safety as a nation are blocked.

It is idle to call Democratic principles treason, when they have conducted our nation to all the greatness it ever attained, and the failure of those "principles" involved in our present calamities. The whole history of the party proves it to have been law-abiding. If not, why are we taunted with being "sticklers to the Constitution," "adherents to obsolete laws" etc? Did we ever favor "higher law" doctrine. Have we not always maintained every law which became such by the exercise of legitimate power? And even in these times of arbitrary arrests and illegal seizures do we not quietly appeal to the laws of the land and abide by the decisions

of our Courts? Have the Republican party been as law abiding,—have they not counselled resistance to the powers that be—and in fact opposed force to officers of the law in the execution of their office?

Take it nearer home. Was it not in the streets of Bloomsburg that a juror was assaulted and threatened with hanging for a difference in opinion—a County Commissioner mobbed by so-called Christians (who were doubtless imitating their Divine Master), and hanging threatened to any man who said Abraham Lincoln was not a second George Washington?

These acts were approved also by a local paper which for years maintained the right of "Free Press and Free Speech!" No resistance to law is approved by the Democratic Party or its Press.—Fidelity to the Constitution and the recognized laws of the land is the Keystone of the Democratic faith, and any principle contrary to this is undemocratic.

It may also be asked why I do not speak in condemnation of the rebellion?—*Talking will not suppress an armed rebellion, but may prevent the dangers I fear at home; my theory on both these points have been reduced to practice.* All I ask of my critics is to do the same.

SOBRAC.

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In conclusion. We expect to be mustered out of service before long, and return to our homes, none the worse, it is to be hoped, for our experience. We trust the necessity may never again arise for engaging in our present business. We have not met the confederates in fight, but we rejoice at the prospect of meeting soon in decisive battles the principles, more particularly, of the abolitionists—that enemy assisting, whether designed by or otherwise, in accomplishing the same result as the rebels—the overthrow of our Government. The triumph of the Democracy, we think is certain. It will run the northern foe into the ground, and cause the other to voluntarily probably, yield the contest before the trio in united strength drive our beloved country to the end of the road to destruction on which it is now being rushed with such lightning speed.

Yours, truly,
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From the McClellan Guards.

CAMP MUELENBERG, }
Near Reading, Pa., Aug. 15, 1863.

Dear Sir:—Although the McClellan Guards, two members excepted, are not from your county; yet, you, doubtless, and the readers of the COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT, will be pleased to hear from us.—Although our company is chiefly from the neighboring county of Montour, and therefore, as regards residence, we are, when at home, only Columbia, yet, whether here or there, we are one and the same, for the most part, with its inhabitants as regards our political principles. Our company consists of 85 men, and contains some of the best to be found in Montour county. Many of whom can write and talk for the Keystone as well as fight. The regiment we are in, is the 53d, of which Henry Royer of Pottsville, is Colonel. Our Captain, Thomas Chalfant, of Danville, fills his office to the interest and satisfaction of the company. Hon. J. C. Ellis is with us, and by his willing performance of duty, sociability and kindness, renders himself universally liked. He is a good representative of that class of persons in society, any where desirable but every where too scarce—the useful and generous. Our camping ground, near and overlooking the beautiful city of Reading, is high and dry—better adapted to comfort and health than drilling. We have the number of grumblers without cause with a company, and at the same time there exist many causes for bitter complaint.—But the most of us came expecting to sacrifice comfort, and we practice as much self-denial as possible. At this moment, one of the officers connected with the food department, is passing through camp, and the men in several companies are crying vociferously "bread," "bread!" Indeed, food that at home we would regard a necessity of life, at times, here, is both a rarity and luxury. Reading and vicinity has been called, and fitly perhaps, the cupboard of Pennsylvania. Because of the abundance, therefore, in this region, our treatment has been shameful. But although there is evidently one or more screws loose somewhere, yet this military machinery is so extensive that those having little acquaintance with it, as is the case with the most of us find it difficult to ascertain the precise one or ones that should the tight end and are therefore not just enough to work at any particularly. The usual routine of laughable incidents common to camp-life occurs. These must be seen, for the most part however to be interesting. Not long since, a guard challenged, "Who comes there?" "A friend with a bottle," was the reply. "Advance friend and pull the cork," rejoined the guard.

We volunteers, in common with thousands of our fellow Democrats, to repel the rebel invaders. One of the results of this general uprising of the party for State defense, has been to prove the falsity of the malicious charge of the abolitionists, that we are traitors. And as this rushing to arms aided in driving the confederates from our soil "two birds have been killed with one stone."

Our company, in forming, met with the strongest opposition from the Jacobin styled loyalists. In Catawissa, where two

of our Courts? Have the Republican party been as law abiding,—have they not counselled resistance to the powers that be—and in fact opposed force to officers of the law in the execution of their office?

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The Greenback-ites.

Who sold to the Government, for use of soldiers, shoddy clothing, that one rain would utterly destroy?

Republican Greenback shoddy contractors.

Who sold shoes to the soldiers that had paper soles?

Republican Greenback shoddy contractors.

Who have speculated off the soldiers?

Republican Greenback Paymasters.

Who have made money off the contractors of all kinds in this war?

Republican Greenback Patriots.

Who form Union Leagues, but do not go to the war?

Cotton Speculators, Draft Commissioners, Postmasters, etc—all belonging to the Greenback aristocracy.

A GOOD ONE.—The N. Y. World recently published brief extracts from the writings of Washington and Madison, in such a manner as not to indicate the authors. One of the Abolition papers of that city referred to the extracts and termed them "Copper head hisses" of the World. The World then goes back on Mr. Abolition editor and congratulates him on the compliment paid to the patriotism of Washington and Madison.

Woodward, Lowrie and Libert.

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In conclusion. We expect to be mustered out of service before long, and return to our homes, none the worse, it is to be hoped, for our experience. We trust the necessity may never again arise for engaging in our present business. We have not met the confederates in fight, but we rejoice at the prospect of meeting soon in decisive battles the principles, more particularly, of the abolitionists—that enemy assisting, whether designed by or otherwise, in accomplishing the same result as the rebels—the overthrow of our Government. The triumph of the Democracy, we think is certain. It will run the northern foe into the ground, and cause the other to voluntarily probably, yield the contest before the trio in united strength drive our beloved country to the end of the road to destruction on which it is now being rushed with such lightning speed.

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