



BY SAMUEL J. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., DEC. 11, 1861.

THE MESSAGE—WHAT IS SAID OF IT.

The New York Times says: "President's Lincoln's Message is precisely such a document as any one familiar with his character would have anticipated. It is clear, unpretending, frank and perfectly loyal to the declaration and acts of his whole political life. In regard to the question of slavery, President Lincoln speaks with firmness, but marked and conscientious moderation. With regard to the negroes, whose progress of the war sets free and throws upon our hands, he suggests the propriety of providing for their colonization—and also of accepting such slaves as may be freed by State action in lieu of direct taxes. We apprehend that the project of colonizing the negroes will be found open to more objections than occur at first sight. They will be imperatively needed to cultivate the soil, and the expense of the scheme would be beyond any direct benefits to be expected from it. We think the Government will find it necessary to establish for them some effective police government here, at home, and retaining their labor instead of sending them out of the country."

The Chicago Tribune interprets the Message by what it knows of the opinions of the President, rather than by what it says: "The cautious language which Mr. Lincoln employs, does not hide from us, who know the deep moral convictions of the man, the purpose that he has in view. He has come, if not fully up to our advanced position, at least within easy hail of those who have been looking anxiously back to see what progress he would make. Congress will take him at his word. The members of that body, if we may judge by what has transpired already, will interpret his meaning in a way which we even shall be content. We know not what form their legislation will take; but of this we are assured, and the Message is a warrant for what we say, that in the deliberate action of the Representatives of the People, the President will gladly acquiesce."

The Delaware County Pa., Republican, says: "The Message of President Lincoln to Congress is of readable length, no synopsis of it is requisite. It is written plainly, and is devoid of that verbiage usually found in documents emanating from high public functionaries. The President says just what he means, and is eminently conservative—too much so, we think—in his recommendations to Congress. The declaration, however, in the message that 'The Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed,' is a sufficient guarantee to the people that the power of the Government will be used to that end. On the subject of our foreign relations the President leaves no room to doubt the policy that will govern the Administration, so far as England is concerned. The message meets with general approval."

The New York Commercial is warm in its praises: "This admirable document is all that could be expected from the frank straight forward and honest pen of the President. It is Abraham Lincoln in every line, ingenious, direct, unqualified, cautious, thorough and loyal to the very core—not merely loyal to the sacred principles of the Constitution. It is the work of a clear-headed man, sensible of the gravity of the time, and responsive to the vast burden of trust devolved upon him."

The New York Herald is delighted with the Message. It says: "It probably suffers somewhat from its hasty transmission by telegraph, but its language is clear, terse and intelligible, and it is free from the wearisome, roiling which has heretofore made Presidents' messages so heavy. The President assigns to the subject of slavery its proper rank and subordination among the questions relating to the management of the war. It is not, in his estimation, a great question, but a minor question."

The New York Herald is delighted. It says: "The first regular annual Message of President Lincoln to the two houses of Congress is before our readers. They will find it a plain, concise, unpretending, business-like exposition of our foreign and domestic affairs, and the reader will lay it down, satisfied from its intrinsic evidences that the author of this State paper is fully entitled to his familiar designation of 'Honest Abe Lincoln.'"

In going to war with this country, England would lose two-fifths of her exports—she would lose our breadstuffs, the provisions to feed her, and our cotton, as heretofore, to cloth her. She would lose the \$23,000,000 per annum of revenue which she derives mainly from our tobacco. Her revenue would be unable to pay \$130,000,000 per annum as the interest on the public debt, and at the same time support her government and war expenditures. She would encounter revolution from her starving millions, and her existing Government would be swept into oblivion.

Kansas has 6,000 men in the service of the Government. The male adult population of the State capable of bearing arms, reaches only 25,000. This shows one man out of every four in the State in military service. In addition to this, the militia has been called out at different points and used for defense. Recruiting is going on actively. Of the 6,000 men in service, more than one-half of them are in Missouri. Of the remainder but a small proportion are yet effectively equipped.

CONDEMNED OUT OF THEIR OWN MOUTHS.—In the instructions which Mr. Toombs, as Secretary of State, gave to privateers, we find the following passage: "Neutral vessels conveying enemies' dispatches or military persons in the service of the enemy, forfeit their neutral character, and are liable to capture and condemnation." If we had applied this general rule to the Trent, she would have been lying in one of our harbors as a prize.

The farmers' Bank of Reading has taken forty thousand dollars of the new National loan authorized by the Government. In the sound banks in the Union should take some portion of this loan, and thus assist in the good work of upholding the government.

The traitor John C. Breckinridge, was on Wednesday the 4th, expelled from the United States Senate by 36 yeas, no man having the face to vote against the resolution.

"RING OF THE TRUE METAL."

Letter of Hon. John Campbell of Philadelphia, to Col. Charles J. Biddle.

PHILADELPHIA, November 29, 1861.

Sir: My attention has been directed to a letter of yours, which appeared in yesterday's issue of the Philadelphia Record. It is a most interesting one, and I took especial pains in reading it to comprehend its scope of meaning. I confess that I was much astonished at its contents, although I thought I had schooled myself not to be surprised at any political occurrence whatever. Your intercourse and mine has always been kind and friendly; it cannot, therefore, be said that this reply to your letter is dictated by either ingratitude or envy. I stood by you, and your fortunes, in the election for mayor, and your election a candidate for mayor. We voted for you against what I then considered a most infamous political combination. You were defeated for the nomination. You know how sore I felt at the result; yet there was no office in your gift, if elected mayor of our city, that I would accept from you. When you were nominated for Congress, no man felt more rejoiced than I. The Press newspaper doubted your sincerity in supporting the Administration. I took it as a personal insult, and I believe, to a certain extent, influenced Col. Ferry to deal leniently towards you—at all events, I wrote to him, remonstrating against any attack upon you. Knowing, as I do, Col. Ferry's generous nature, and his desire to oblige his friends, he refrained from being severe upon you. I am certain that my anxiety to have you elected to Congress had its weight with almost every person engaged in the contest. But I did desire, for your successive evenings after your nomination, I closed my place of business earlier than usual, and travelled the district, beseeching and imploring Douglas Democrats to vote for you, pledging my word that you would be found, upon the floor of Congress, a staunch supporter of the Government. I regret to say, judging from the tenor of your letter, that I was mistaken. One gentleman alone, who I thought would be a valuable aid, and got for you twenty-eight votes, besides his own, all of whom usually vote against the Democratic party.

I say to you clearly, and distinctly, that you could not have been elected but for my exertions. I say this in no exulting spirit, but merely to prove that I have been your warm, devoted, unselfish friend. I now proceed to analyze your letter, and to me it is a painful and disagreeable task, but I deem it to be a duty that I owe to such citizens as were influenced by my representations to vote for you. If I mistake not, every citizen to whom your letter is addressed has seen a Breckinridge Democrat, except the Hon. A. V. Parsons. The Hon. George M. Dallas has been absent from the country, and I have been informed that Mr. Fraley has repudiated your sentiments. It appears plain to me that you have chosen to identify yourself with the Breckinridge school of politicians, and if so, you will have, for your own sake, to abide by the consequences. In your letter of yesterday you say:

"My political opinions are what they have always been. I am a Democrat—never more than at this hour. I rejoice that it was with my name upon your banners that you overthrew the Republican party in this city."

Contrast this with the following: "CAMP MASON AND DRUMS' LINE, Beyond 'Centreville, Va. Bedford, Pa., June 29 '61. 'Hos. A. V. PARSONS: The nomination takes me wholly by surprise. I thank you for this great and unsolicited honor. I am, I trust, a true son of Pennsylvania, ready to serve her when and where and how she pleases. My present position is most congenial to me; but will not place my preference in opposition to the people's choice. If elected, I will serve as soon as I can quit the field without dishonor. Philadelphia would not expect me sooner. I will give no partisan pledges. I will try to do my duty in whatever sphere it may please God to place me. CHARLES J. BIDDLE."

Were you less a Democrat in June last than you are now, or was it a trick to secure our assistance? Some causes in the interim must have wrought a wonderful change in your opinions. In June you had no partisan pledges to give in your nomination; you were not so offensive to that of even John C. Breckinridge. Again you say:

"This, at least, we may say for the Democratic party—it rated at its true value the 'fantastic theories, the whimsies, the 'isms,' and the questions of mere phraseology, that men calling themselves statesmen, have preferred to peace, to union, to the gradual progress and development of each section and all races, in due relation to natural causes. This, too, we may say for the Democratic party—while it maintained its sway, 'Secession' was a little baffled clique; as the 'Republican party rose, 'Secession' became 'an army with banners.'"

The Democratic party was my party so long as it stood by the Union and Constitution. But whenever any party dares to revolutionize the Government and destroy the Constitution by armed violence it is time for every loyal citizen to escape from such a party. I cannot suppose that you are either ignorant or forgetful of the political transactions of the last year. I will not suppose that you do not know that the Southern leaders of the Democracy at Charleston and at Baltimore, aided and abetted by Northern cravens and office-seekers, not only refused to support for nomination the only statesman that could have been elected President by the Democracy, but, under the guidance of Breckinridge, Davis, Yancy, and other conspirators, had resolved "to fire the Southern heart and precipitate the Cotton States into rebellion." 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