

Raftsmen's Journal.



BY S. J. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., FEB. 8, 1865.

Ratification of the Amendment.

Already a number of State Legislatures have concurred in the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, passed by Congress, abolishing slavery in our national domain.

Including the seceded States, the assent of twenty-seven States is required to ingraft the Emancipation provision into the Constitution. Twenty-five, counting Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana and West Virginia, are certain to ratify the action of Congress, as their Legislatures are at present constituted.

Although the amendment could not have passed the House but for the votes of some half a dozen Democratic members, it does not follow that the party has abandoned its pro-slavery position. On the contrary; these few votes are but exceptions, while the party adheres to its former friendship for slavery.

Fire in Savannah.

The steamer Sueso Nada, from Savannah and Hilton Head on the 29th, arrived at New York. On the evening of the 27th, a disastrous conflagration occurred at Savannah, destroying considerable property, but without any loss of life.

Rebel Generals Penitent.

The Paducah correspondent of the Democrat says the rebel General Chalmers, in a speech at Corinth, in the early part of January, accused Hood of selling them out, and expressed the opinion that the Confederacy had gone under, and told his men they could do as they pleased, he should have nothing more to do with them.

Lake Michigan Ship Canal.

The bill for a ship canal from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi, after a protracted struggle, lasting nearly all day of 2d instant, was finally pressed to a vote, and passed by ten of a majority. This project was first brought before Congress four years ago by Mr. Arnold, but has always, before, been unsuccessful.

Peace Rumors and Movements.

During the last week or two many rumors have been current in regard to a speedy declaration of peace. The origin of these anticipations may be attributed to the fact, that it was asserted that Jeff. Davis, and some others of the rebel leaders, had expressed a desire to return to the Union on terms that would be entirely satisfactory to the President and Congress of the United States.

That he received some encouragement looking towards a peace is evidenced by the fact, that in a day or two after his return to Washington he started for the rebel capital a second time. What transpired between Mr. Blair and the rebel chieftains, has not been made public—but this much is known, that several days after Mr. Blair's second visit to Richmond, Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell approached and were admitted within our lines, ostensibly on a peace mission.

Upon the passage of the Constitutional Amendment the following animated and thrilling scene ensued: There was a momentary hush, when, as by an electric shock, the exultant shouts of the friends of freedom rung through the Hall.

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The Rebellion Dissolving by States.

The States (such as Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina, may repeal their secession ordinances, and come back as States. For this there is a motive which may not influence the Richmond leaders, but will influence the people.

The Crawford County Bank Robbery.

Some ten days since the public was startled by the announcement that the Crawford County Bank had been robbed of Bonds, etc., amounting to over \$100,000. Several days after it was announced that all but \$29,000 had been recovered, and now we have the assurance that the balance has also been found, and the thief discovered and arrested.

STATE BANKS CONVERTED INTO NATIONAL BANKS.

In the House, at Harrisburg, on Jan. 25th, the Speaker presented a communication from the State Treasurer, in answer to the inquiry what State Banks had gone into business under the National law, whereof they were fifty eight in number, having a capital of 20,502,388 30.

The Rebel Press on Peace.

Below we publish extracts from the several Richmond papers, of January 30th, which will serve to give our readers some idea of how the rebel leaders feel upon the subject of peace negotiations:

The Southern says: "Let us keep clearly in view our independence, to maintain which, we draw the sword, and listen to no suggestion for its compromise as the price of peace. Such a peace would indeed be but a hollow truce and an uneasy armistice. There can be no permanent peace where honor is compromised, or where vital and important interests are placed in peril. It would be madness. It would be an unnatural cruelty after having fought this battle nearly through to adjourn it over for our children to begin anew."

The Examiner says: "It is not so much to conclude peace that they send Commissioners and open their sham negotiations, as to deceive and distract us from the measures needful for our defense, while they move forward toward the final investment of Richmond. They prefer to enter the city as conquerors rather than to obtain peace by a treaty between Richmond and Washington."

The Whig says: "It is of vital importance we should just now remember that we are dealing with an exceedingly artful and thoroughly unscrupulous foe. It is not improbably that this is an honest and sincere endeavor to terminate the war, and that such may be the result, but it is not safe for us to think so. We confess with regret that we have but little evidence, and indulge but the faintest hope that the enemy are prepared to accord us such terms as we could think of accepting."

The Dispatch has an article showing that "the independence of the Confederacy is necessary for the prosperity and happiness of the middle and lower classes." It declares that "if slavery is removed, the poor whites are ruined."

The Constitutional Amendment.

There was great rejoicing in Washington on the evening of January 31st., among the loyal Missourians over the adoption of the Constitutional amendment. Senator Henderson, the father of the measure, Representative Blair, and other Union Congressmen from Missouri were serenaded, and acknowledged the compliment in very eloquent speeches.

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC!

Rebel Project of Arming Slaves. The late debate in the rebel Congress upon the bill authorizing Jeff. Davis to take forty thousand negroes and employ them to dig and dredge for the army, revealed a few facts in reference to the present state of feeling in the South.

Employment for Disabled Soldiers.

Petitions have been put in circulation in nearly all the cities, and are being signed by the leading citizens, irrespective of party, asking Congress to take some action by which honorably discharged soldiers may obtain government employment in preference to those who have for so many years been subsisting on government "pap."

ENGLISH IGNORANCE.

The ignorance of English factory operatives is evidenced by the testimony of a boy in Manchester, aged thirteen, a miler, who last month deposed as follows: "Heard about Jesus Christ at the church school, but its so long since that I've forgot Him. Do not know whether He did miracles or wonderful things, or how he was killed, and have not heard of NOAH and the flood. Jesus made the world in six days. The Queen has a name; it is Prince."

Lieutenant-Commander Wm. A. Parker.

who was in command of the Monitor Onondaga and showed the white feather when the rebel rans came down the James river last week, has been relieved and ordered before a court martial.

THE GREAT AMENDMENT.

The U. S. Senate having, on the 8th of April last, initiated, by the decisive majority of 38 to 6, the following Amendment to the Federal Constitution:

ART. XIII.—SEC. 1. Neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, of which the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

The House, after debate, proceeded (June 15th) to vote thereon, and it was lost—Yeas 95, Nays 64—the Constitution requiring an affirmative vote of two-thirds in either House to launch a Constitutional Amendment.

Mr. Ashley of Ohio hereupon moved that the above vote be reconsidered; and the issue thus raised, having been passed upon by the People in the late Presidential election, has been debated at the present session at much length by some twenty to thirty members.

Mr. Miller of Pennsylvania (who was run out last fall) spoke against it now. The vote was finally taken, and the amendment affirmed by Yeas 119; Nays 56—three more than were necessary in the affirmative. So the Amendment is fully sanctioned by Congress, and now goes to the Legislatures of the States, three-fourths of which must ratify it by a majority vote to render it a part of the Constitution.

The Legislature of the following States is nearly certain: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, California, Oregon, Nevada.

New Jersey, Delaware, Kentucky—3.

Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana—3

and others will doubtless follow in due season. We hope to be enabled to announce, before the close of the current year, that this amendment is a part of the fundamental law of our country.

This is the time to indulge in exultation, did not the momentary gravity of the subject forbid. But we may be permitted to tender our thanks to those opposition members of Congress whose votes have so materially strengthened our hope that we may yet live and die in a free country—one which we may quietly, inoffensively traverse in every part without fear of exposure to the bludgeons of ruffians or the pistols and dirks of assassins, for no other reason than our wish that all our countrymen might be free.

—We further trust that this result will prove to have contributed essentially to the not distant and complete pacification of our country. A majority of the American people have decided that slavery shall die, because sore experience has taught them that its perpetuation is inconsistent with the integrity and safety of the Republic.

—The total revenue is a marvelous result, when we consider the reductions in the income tax and in the tea and sugar duties, and some smaller remissions of taxation, such as the half of the insurance duties and other little matters. There is every encouragement to proceed in the same direction, with only the difficulty that indirect taxation is now confined to a very few articles, the smaller ones being almost swept away, and the smuggler being almost unheard of.

THE New York Tribune has information, which it deems reliable, that a secret league has been formed by the Catholic powers in Europe—France, Spain and Austria—under the guidance and with the express concurrence of the pope, which is pledged to recognize the Rebel Confederacy on or immediately after the 4th of March next, under the pretext that the Union will thereafter consist of those States only which participated in the late Presidential Election and in the choice of members of the approaching Congress.

THE Boston Post remarks that it is now plain that the French Emperor, from the beginning intended to despoil Mexico; and then begin the establishment of a series of colonies of France, from which she could gain material wealth; and that the protection of French citizens in the collection of their civil debts was merely a rank pretence and a sheer imposture.

THE London Daily News of the 3d, says: But the facts we have been reviewing not only show us the end of the war, but they open to us a happier prospect of what will be after the war. The theory advanced by some of our contemporaries that the North could never hold the South, even after the Southern armies are beaten from the field, is plainly untenable.

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The End at Hand—An English View.

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PHILADELPHIA, February 2.—Yesterday the Evening Bulletin was sold at auction, and bought by Mr. Peacock, in the interest of himself, with Fetherston, Lander and Wallace. The price was \$89,000. The sale created a great excitement in journalistic circles.

The government realizes about \$70,000 a month from the sale of the hides, tallow, hoofs, &c., of the cattle slaughtered for the use of the Army of the Potomac, the number being about one hundred head per day.

New Advertisements.

Advertisements set in large type, extra cost of manual style will be charged double price for space occupied.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF UNSEATED LANDS.

Assembly passed the 25th of March, 1855, entitled an Act to amend an Act directing the mode of selling unseated lands for taxes, and for other purposes.

The Commissioners of Clearfield county Pa. will dispose of the following lands, at the Court House, on Tuesday, the 1st day of March, 1865.

Table with columns: Acreage, Per. Warrantee, and names of owners like David Keppart, George Muller, etc.

Taxation in Great Britain—Official Report of the Revenue of 1864.

The annual report of the revenue of Great Britain for the year 1864 appears in the latest London Journals. The aggregate amount raised by taxation was £70,125,374.

Customs, £22,535,000 Postoffice, £4,000,000 Excise, 19,343,000 Crown lands, 297,500 Stamps, 9,468,000 Miscellaneous, 3,314,874 Taxes, 3,251,000 Total, £70,125,374

The customs fell off £886,000 from the preceding year, and the property tax decreased £1,807,000; but the excise gained £1,598,000, the postoffice £200,000, and stamps £216,000.

The aggregate decrease in all branches was £398,000 for the year. The London Observer says: The taxes show an increase of £53,000 on the year, which is to be attributed to the increase of houses subject to the inhabited house duty.

THE New York Tribune has information, which it deems reliable, that a secret league has been formed by the Catholic powers in Europe—France, Spain and Austria—under the guidance and with the express concurrence of the pope, which is pledged to recognize the Rebel Confederacy on or immediately after the 4th of March next, under the pretext that the Union will thereafter consist of those States only which participated in the late Presidential Election and in the choice of members of the approaching Congress.

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It is a fact which ten thousand mothers in the land will not fail to note that the exchange of prisoners has been going on well enough since the President, on the 15th of October last, placed the subject of exchange under the direction of Lieut. Gen. Grant, with full authority to take any steps he might deem proper.

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