

# AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"Let us have Faith that Right makes Might; and in that Faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it"—A. LINCOLN.

VOLUME 1.

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## The American Citizen.

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### Desperate Measures.

The Rebel Congress has passed three acts in secret session, which, as the New York Tribune remarks, are as good evidence of the condition of the Rebellion as was supplied by the address to the People of the Confederacy which the same Congress adopted before its adjournment. A Confederacy which is forced to summon into the field every man between 17 and 50, to lay a tax on capital equal, and in many cases superior, to its probable income, and to repudiate a currency of which \$700,000,000 are in the hands of the people, is about as near the bottom as it can be before the final crash comes.

We state the provisions of these acts generally in a single sentence, but there is not much qualification to be made by a more exact summary. The Conscription bill with its few exemptions from universal levy has been in substance understood before, though the rebel papers have not, until lately, been permitted to print it. Nobody is exempted unless in the judgment of the rebel leaders he can do better service elsewhere than in the field. All men whom the South can put into the field, or whom her present masters can force into the ranks of their armies, will be there this spring. There is no doubt whatever that the coming campaign, if disastrous to them, will be the last they can attempt to carry on in considerable force.

The tax bill puts five per cent. on all property in addition to the heavy taxes previously imposed. On many descriptions of personal estate the tax is much heavier. Gold, silver, and exchange, pay taxes on their market value in Confederate paper—that is, every four or five dollars of specie is taxed as \$100. The income tax is ten per cent; additional, like the rest; and all taxes are payable on or before June 1.

The currency bill is a modification of Menninger's scheme. Treasury notes are to be funded in twenty year four per cent. bonds within six weeks, or must be thereafter surrendered for new issues, at the rate of three of the old for two of the new. The \$100 notes, if not funded, will be taxed 33 per cent., and ten per cent. a month subsequently. All notes outstanding at the end of the year are taxed 100 per cent.—which is a very neat method indeed of repudiation, and shows how far Mr. Jefferson Davis' genius has developed since the days when he swindled the creditors of Mississippi. New six per cent. bonds at thirty years are to be issued to the amount of \$500,000,000, interest on which is secured by pledge of the customs receipts—a security which, considering the present condition of the blockade, will scarcely be very tempting to capitalists. Yet this is the financial basis on which the leaders of the rebel Confederacy would persuade their subjects that they mean to carry on a war for independence till the resources of the United States are exhausted. Who does not see the inevitable and near result.

OMISSIONS IN McCLELLAN'S REPORT. General McClellan's official report omits all those dispatches that he sent to Washington, and which were published during his pursuit of the enemy from Yorktown.

One dated May 4th declared "with beaming confidence: 'I shall push the enemy to the wall.'" Another to Mr. Stanton, same date, declares "the enemy's rear is strong, but I have forces enough up there to insure all purposes." No complaint here about want of troops. The very next dispatch, however, dated the next day, when it was apparent he had lost his opportunity, declared that Johnson's army had made a stand, that his force was inferior, that he would "hold them in check until he could resume his original plan." The dispatch immediately prior to this says nothing about the original plan, and declares: "I am now satisfied of the correctness of the course I have pursued. The success was brilliant, and you may rest assured that its effect will be of the greatest importance. There will be no delay in following the enemy." Quite a different thing from holding them in "check."

"MR. TIMES, how do you keep your books?" "By double entry." "Double entry; how's that?" "Easy enough. I make one entry and father makes another."

## The Crisis and the Change.

It is more than gratifying to all who believe that in tracing the cause of this war we find under various pretexts its origin in the curse of slavery, to see the readiness with which so many of our political opponents now admit that the peculiar institution is at the bottom of all our troubles. Within the past six months we have found very many, who were wont to hint at the abolition tendencies of the North as justification for Southern outrages, expressing a very different belief. Thousands upon thousands have overcome their prejudices, buried their partisanship beneath their patriotic impulses, and are now unmindful of slavery and indifferent to its fate. Others go a step farther and express the hope that slavery will be wiped out.—They see, as the war has developed the skeleton, that sad and painful as have been the results of the strife, the day of rebellion could only have been postponed, where men became tainted, corrupt, and overreaching by their connection with a system of involuntary labor, which implanted in their hearts a contempt for honest industry, and a hatred for a race of men who developed a new country, and added new States so rapidly to the Union, that they saw the power, which they had wrongfully exerted, slipping so rapidly from their grasp that they read the handwriting on the wall which predicted their fate. The Southerners are better politicians than the Northerners, for they make politics a profession, and they knew before we were aware of it the inevitable tendency of our surprising growth.

The day for threatening the North had passed. A new race of unfettered statesmen had come forward. The game of rascality which had been attempted in Kansas, failed, and, unwilling to see their institution decay unwilling to admit that the time had come for the North to offer no more guarantees to a corrupt system, they attempted to develop the grand hope which had for years been so carefully nurtured at the South as the *derriere resort*, and sought to weaken the Union by dividing its territory and creating for themselves a confederacy in name, but in reality a domain where there should be a privileged class, which would soon have ripened into a despotism.

It is gratifying to hear of the indifference which is felt by those, who have all their lives been members of the great "conservative" parties in regard to this disputed point. It is more than gratifying to hear the outspoken words of men who have been slow to see the truth, but, having found it, now express, regardless of the sneers of those who are still blind, their candid convictions that no permanent peace can be secured, no glorious future of this country can be expected, until there is no task-maker holding the whip over a single human being on the soil which is protected by our flag.

This harmony of thought is worth, in its moral effect, almost an army of men. The leaders at the South know this change in public opinion. A year ago there was a diversity of opinion, and men who today endorse the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln were then openly opposed to it. They adopt it, in one sense, as a war measure, but the justice of this decree is, in reality, the chief element which is appealing to the understanding of the thinking men of all political creeds. The negroes have shown themselves worthy of our sympathy, and they have sacrificed their lives willingly that their race might be elevated, and hence it is that thousands, who thought them only fit to be boot-blacks, now readily recognize in them the germs which are capable of development. It is an inherent trait in the American character that, as a people, we are ready to give everybody what we call "a fair show." We sympathize with foreign nations which are oppressed, because they are not having a "fair show," and today we are forgetting the color of men in our respect for their deeds.

The proclamation which gave freedom to four millions of slaves, and dignity to every white man in this country, has passed its first birthday. The events of the year have given it a significance which is felt more heavily at Richmond than at Washington. It has been endorsed by millions, and it cannot be protested while we exist as a nation. It is the harpoon which has buried itself in the leviathan, and must prove fatal. We only require men enough to man the rope, sailors enough to man the boats till the monster, rising and falling, spouting blood and creating an ocean of foam, as if life was inexhaustible, shall at last float lifeless along-side of the old Ship of State.

YESTERDAY afternoon the President issued an order assigning Gen. Sigel to the command in West Virginia, and relieving Gen. Kelly. It is hoped that hereafter we shall have fewer of the guerrilla raids in that Department, which have been lately harassing the border.

## The War in the Duchies.

It is fully confirmed that the Danes had retreated from Schleswig, evacuated the Dannewerke, and blown up the works at Missunde. A Copenhagen telegram says: "The news that the Danish army, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, had evacuated the Dannewerke, leaving behind them the material of war, and retreated to Duppel, has aroused indescribable indignation and excitement in this city. Public feeling is very much depressed and great indignation prevails against the Commander-in-Chief."

The Danes, in evacuating the Dannewerke, left sixty heavy pieces of artillery behind them; and after evacuating Schleswig retreated towards Flensburg, the Austrians following in pursuit. On the 6th instant an engagement took place near Oversee between the Danish and Austrian troops. The Austrians, commanded by General Gablenz, completely defeated the Danes after a desperate resistance. Col. Prince William of Wurtemberg and a Lieutenant Colonel were severely wounded. Two hundred prisoners and six guns of heavy calibre, with a portion of the ammunition and baggage trains, were taken by the Austrians. Overseer, near which place the battle was fought, is situated between Schleswig and Flensburg, but nearer to the latter town.

A telegram from Kiel, dated on the night of the 7th, says: "The Danes are evacuating the Duchy of Schleswig, and are retreating in full haste to Jutland. An armistice is expected daily."

The following is the Danish account of the retreat: "Overcome by the fatigue of five days' constant duty, the Danish army, giving way to superior force, retreated to Duppel, on reaching which place the cavalry took a northerly direction, the enemy being continually in pursuit. Several engagements took place, and the Danish losses were considerable. It was the intention of the Danish commander before evacuating Schleswig to blow up the castle of Gottarp and set fire to the magazine—but having received orders to spare the King's birthplace, neither were carried into execution."

The excitement in Copenhagen continued on the 7th and 8th, and the Danish Commander-in-Chief, General de Meza, and the chief of the staff, had been recalled. At an extraordinary sitting of the Danish Rigsraad, the President of the Council said that the King was not instrumental in the retreat of the army; that the proceedings of the Commander-in-Chief were inexplicable, and that he had therefore been recalled.

The Paris France says: "Great excitement exists at Copenhagen among the maritime population and the workmen at the arsenal, all of whom demand to be led to battle. A powerful squadron is fitting out. Two screw frigates have left Copenhagen for the island of Alsen to support the movements of the Danish army."

THE UNION REACTION IN NORTH CAROLINA.—From late Southern papers it appears that the Union movements in North Carolina are rapidly spreading.—The Wilmington Journal of the 15th, treats at length on the agitation in North Carolina. It says: "The agitation commenced as soon as the State of North Carolina seceded—but we say here that we only state what we know, when we affirm that the movements now endeavoring to be made in North Carolina, are the cause of the deepest apprehension, not simply in Richmond, but throughout the Confederacy—not simply in official circles, but in the army and among the people. They discourage our brave defenders; they encourage our ruthless assailants."

The Raleigh Standard of the 12th contains the proceedings of meetings held in Johnston, Rutherford, Chatham, Wake, Cabarras, Moore, Bevard, Transylvania, Rockingham counties. Resolutions were passed at all the meetings, calling upon the Legislature to submit the question of a convention to the people. The Government is also called upon to take measures to have a convention called. The meetings all breathe a spirit of defiance toward the Davis Government, and are decidedly in earnest in asserting their State rights.

The schooner Kent was seized one day last week in the Chesapeake Bay, and a large mail taken from her. Beside the mail, a lot of goods was found on board for Dixie, among which was a small package for Gen. Winder, Provost Marshal General, Richmond, with a number of excellent maps of the harbor of Charleston, and other important points of military interest. Beside the above, the captors discovered a deposit of gun caps, military braid, drugs, &c., which had been left on the roadside by a blockade runner. The lot of goods that were packed consisted of the Blue Book and a number of copies of *The Army and Navy Gazette* of the United States.

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## War News.

St. JOHN, Feb. 24.—The Police Magistrate delivers judgment to-day in the Chesapeake case, ordering that the prisoners be committed to jail for surrender to the United States authorities. He said that the evidence for the prosecution discloses that the prisoners and other parties captured the steamer Chesapeake. It was the work of cowards and villains. The master of a vessel must have unfettered authority, and obedience from his crew and passengers. The evidence on the part of the defense discloses the fact that there is a terrible civil war raging in the United States. The only authority given for the seizure of the Chesapeake is that given by John Parker, and he had no power to give commissions to other parties. There was no authority given in the letter of marque to Parker to transfer his power to another. The magistrate would find no justification for the seizure of the Chesapeake. It was *anti-mo furandi non furie belli*. It was piracy, robbery and murder. It was justifiable by the United States courts, and a case within the Extradition Treaty. Application will be made for a writ of *habeas corpus*, so as to bring the case before the Supreme Court.

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## WIT AND WISDOM.

MODESTY and talents make a slim capital on which to make a fortune.

THE three greatest conquerors in the world are Love, Death, and Fashion.

A FRIEND that you buy with presents, will be bought from you.

KINDNESS to others, generally insures kindness in return.

It is not easy to straighten in the oak the crook that grew in the sapling.

Why is a vine like a soldier? 'Cause it is trained—has tendrils—and it shoots.

THE more we help others to bear their burdens the lighter our own will be.

"OVERCOME evil with good," as the gentleman said when he knocked down a burglar with the family Bible.

IN the opinion of too many, a mean man is one who has a small income and lives within it.

THE man who "kept his word," gave serious offence to Webster, who wanted it for his dictionary.

ARE there any madmen among the Arabs? Of course not; they all lead a *no-mad* life.

WHY are hoops like obstinate men? Because they often stand out about trifles.

"MY \*s, but I'd like to make a — at some nice girl in this § and ~ her. The scene would be without a §."

I DON'T blame "Prince Alfred," said Mrs. Partington, "for not wanting to take the Throne of Greece; he'd slip off as sure as you live."

WHY is a newspaper like a tooth brush? Dye give it up? Because everybody should have one of his own and not borrow his neighbor's.

If a man who makes a deposition is a depositor, does it necessarily follow that the man who makes an allegation is an allogger?

THE editor of the *Albany Transcript*, says that the *New York Daily Book*, is set up entirely by girls, and adds that he should like to set up with them.

ARTEMUS WARD has turned out poet Hear him:

"Uncle Jim he climb a tree  
For to see  
What he could see."

THE following is said to be a true copy of a shoemaker's bill, received by a gentleman in a neighboring town, whose family consists of four or five daughters.

Mr. —, Dr. to J. S. —

To soiling Miss Mary, 81 22  
To stamping and wetting Susan, 25  
To binding and closing Ellen, 13  
To putting a few stitches in Jane, 6

A RECRUITING officer whispered to a sweet rosy-cheeked dame, as she was putting on her bonnet at the close of a quilting party:—"Will you allow me, Miss to accompany you home?" "No sir, I'm engaged," said she in a loud tone, so as to give notoriety to the transaction.

"You miss it most prodigiously," said the military wag, "for I have got both pockets chock full of gingerbread."

A LONG NAME.—"I wantseh to schip in the Lucilla," said a Dutchman to the clerk in a shipping office.

"Well," said the clerk, pen in hand, "what's your name?"

"It is Hans Vanasmahanderdennseveymeynteyntienschieupklutmideseh upvondayomp!" said Dutcheby gravely spitting out his old quid, and taking in a fresh one.

"Heavens!" said the astonished clerk, "I can't write that. Look here, mister, what is it in English—do you know?"

"Yaer Ich does. It is von Smidt!" Clerk faints.

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