

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 3.

BUTLER, BUTLER COUNTY, PA., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1866.

NUMBER 17

The Surgeon's Story.

A TRUE INCIDENT OF THE WAR.

"The only time," said the surgeon, "that I ever saw prisoners roughly handled was at Winchester."

The ladies united in asking him to relate the incident.

"We made regular trips," he continued, "once or twice a week from Harper's Ferry to Winchester. We did not mean to garrison it but to prevent the rebels from holding it. At the time I was speaking of we had orders to enter Winchester, and push as far as we could safely go beyond it, to find out whether the enemy had any forces in the neighborhood."

"We reached the rebel town in the evening. The General ordered us to rest for the night—until he could get the reports of spies, and of one or two scouting parties that he had sent into the country."

"We were dismounted. The officers told us to make ourselves at home. The boys searched all the stables and barns in the town for forage, and others went out in squads to the neighboring farms."

"As soon as they got their horses fed they entered any house they pleased and took up free quarters in it."

"As a squad of three of our men were about to enter a barn in the outskirts of the town, three rebel soldiers suddenly jumped up from among the hay and let blaze at them. One of our men was badly wounded, but not fatally. His two comrades ran for help. They soon returned, I tell you, with as many a set of fellows as you could have mustered in Virginia. They hunted the barn high and low, every nook and corner, up loft and down cellar, but not a trace of the rebels could they find."

"We knew they hadn't got out of our lines; for our pickets were too strong for that."

"There were some houses near by and we searched them. But we had the same luck—not a trace of the rebels!"

"Well, boys, we must give it up," said Tom Rynder; "but I'll be hanged if I see how the Johnnies got off. They must be here—somewhere nigh by, too—but they've given us the slip as slick as grease."

"Not much they haven't," shouted Bill Green, a Maryland soldier; "you don't find this child leave this till he colors them doggone rebels. I tell you they're inside ten rods of here, some'ers, and I tell you I'm agwine to get 'em dead or alive. I know their tricks, by jolly, and I tell you they're in that house that some'ers or other. Hillo! Look at that hole! How are you, Johnnie? I'm after you!"

"And with that characteristic speech off he ran to the nearest house, which we had searched already from top to bottom. The houses there have no cellars. They are generally raised about three or four feet from the ground, and sometimes rest on a stone foundation which is built all round; and sometimes again they rest on a little piece of masonry at the corners only, while the spaces between them are banked up with earth. In the banking of this house there was an opening that some of us had noticed. The Marylander made for it and squatted on his knees and peeped in."

"Are they there?" we shouted.

"He looked up and said nothing. He was evidently disappointed."

"No," he said at last, after musing a while, "but they're here some'ers, and I'm agwine to find them. Hillo! bub, come here! Come along with me!"

"A little fellow had just come out from the house. He hung back, but Bill coaxed him into the barn. I went with him. Bill told the other men to keep the women of the house inside, talking to them, so that they might not see him with the boy."

"Now, bub," said Bill to the boy, "do you know that I'm agwine to burn down your house?"

"The boy looked scared."

"Oh, please not, Sir," he cried; "them fellars ain't thar; true's death, Sir, they's not thar."

"And I'm agwine to hang your dad, bub," added Bill, without taking any notice of what the boy had said; "and, likewise, I'll be obliged to give you the gold-darnest whaling you ever heard tell on in all your born days!"

"Oh, please don't, Sir!" cried the little fellow again—he was thoroughly frightened now—the soldiers ain't thar."

"How do you know?" asked Bill.

"I knows they ain't," replied the boy.

"Bill seized him by the collar and spoke fiercely."

"Now, bub, I'll hang you and your dad, and burn down your house in ten

minutes, if you don't tell me whar them fellars is hid!"

"Oh, please, Sir, I'm afraid," said the boy.

"Don't be afeerd," Bill told him—"they shan't harm you; nobody shan't harm you but me; and, by hockey, I'll pull your gizzard out and hang you double quick if you don't out and tell right off whar they're hid!"

"The boy was now completely cowed."

"Well, Sir," he said, "they's hid under our house. They's dug a hole in the ground right below the middle of the parlor. You can't see it when you look in that hole in the bankin', becase they totted all the dirt away, and you see it's too dark to notice the other hole thasaway."

"All right, bub," said Bill, "you'll be a man before your mother if you keep your eye peeled! We won't hurt you."

"Oh, please, Sir," cried the boy, "don't burn down our house; we's Union folks!"

"In what direction?" asked Bill, with a grin.

"I don't know nothin' about any direction," said the boy, with a puzzled look.

"Oh you don't?" continued Bill, "well you oughter. You oughter say you're Union—"

Over the left, you know over the left," he sang.

"Bill rushed out, and told one of the soldiers to stand with his revolver cocked at the hole in the banking, and to shoot down the first man that tried to escape through it."

"Then he went into the house and asked for an axe."

"What in the world do you want with an axe?" the old woman inquired, with an anxious glance at his face.

"I've no questions and I'll tell ye no lies," said Bill; "but, unless you want this house burned over yer head, bring me one in less than two-forty."

"The woman saw that Bill was in no mood to be trifled with, and went and got the axe without any more ado."

"Bill then turned to the three soldiers who had followed him into the house and told them to draw their revolvers and be ready to shoot. They did so."

"Without a word Bill seized the carpet at the edges and tore it up."

"The woman screamed."

"Lord a messy!" shouted the old woman, "what on airth are ye spilling my carpet for? The ole man and all on us is Union, and has allers bin!"

"Pon my word and honor," added one of the daughters, "there ain't nary reb hid in our house."

"We don't know nary thing about any reb," said another young woman.

"They all made a fuss and hollered, but Bill took no more notice of them than if they had been a parcel of hogs. He tore every bit of the carpet from the floor."

"As soon as he had done it he took the axe, and with one blow broke through the thin floor."

"Be ready, boys!" he said.

"The women were crying and screaming and talking Union all the time."

"One or two blows made quite a large opening, and with a single jerk Bill tore up the flooring."

"What do you suppose we saw?"

"There lay the three rebels, dressed in ditty home-spun, huddled together at the bottom of a wide hole that they had dug beneath the house."

Bill was a powerful fellow. He seized one of the rebels by the nap of the neck, and not only pulled him out, but pitched him to the further corner of the room. One of our boys instantly covered him with his pistol."

"Without waiting to rest, Bill served the two others in the same way."

"You ought to have seen him as he turned to the women:"

"Well, old Sixpence, you're Union, you are? an' the ole man? and allers hez bin? And you never seen no reb, you never did, Miss Brass? Nor you nuther, on your word and honor, Miss Secesh?"

"They hung down their heads, blushed up to the eyes, and left the room without a word."

"We disarmed the rebels and led them to the General. But it was hard work. I never saw men so exasperated. They wanted to lynch these assassins. If our wounded man had died I don't believe the General could have held them back."

"Next day we had orders to return to Harper's Ferry. The three rebels were lariat to the bows of saddles, and forced to keep up with us all day long on foot. Their shoes were taken from them, and they had a hard road to travel, I believe, that day. That was all the punishment ever inflicted on them for the attempted assassination of our men."

"This," added the Surgeon, "was in the days when we made war on peace principles, and it would not have done

then to have hanged these wretches. It might have exasperated the South, you know. So, as I said, all we did to them was to force them for one day to keep step to the music of the Union cavalry's hoofs."

WIT AND WISDOM.

A tender-hearted railway engineer on a certain railroad says he never runs over a man when he can help it, because "it musses up the track so."

It is calculated that the clergy cost the United States twelve millions of dollars annually; the criminals, forty millions; the lawyers, seventy millions; rum, two hundred millions!

Dr. Gross, the justly celebrated surgeon of Philadelphia, was once dangerously ill. Shortly after his recovery, he met one of his lady patients—they are not always patient ladies—who remarked to him:

"Oh Doctor! I rejoice to see that you are out again; had we lost you, our good people would have died by the dozen!"

"Thank you, madam," replied the affable Doctor; "but now, I fear, they will die by the Gross!"

Our Charlie, being the youngest, considers it his especial privilege to go wherever his mother does and feels that he has been deeply injured if she makes a visit without him. Forgetting this, however, one day called him to me while I was reading the Bible, and said:

"See here, Charlie, what Solomon says about punishing little boys: 'The rod and reproof bringeth wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.'"

Overlooking the former part of the verse, and recurring to his own particular grievance immediately, he turned the tables on me by exclaiming:

"Well, what does she ever leave him by himself for then?"

A SOLOMON.—It so happened that the good citizens of a Louisiana town elected to the important position of Justice a full set, lager-beer-shaped Dutchman—just as stupid as he looked. He spoke French as well as German. On a certain occasion two Frenchmen got into a quarrel, and after belaboring each other prettily, resolved to settle the matter by a suit before our friend.

"Well, now," said the Alderman, with all the gravity of a judge, "how will you be tried? by French Law or United States Law?"

Both being French, agreed to be tried by the laws of France.

"Well, now, Henri," said his Honor, "you struck Jonas."

"Yes."

"Well, then, you are both guilty, and by French law I fine you both five dollars!"

The parties paid the fine, and left poorer if not wiser men.

Little Charlie Warning is a thoughtful, soulful boy, who looks into your face, out of his great blue eyes, and says such wonderful unaccountable things. Though he is such a little fellow, only eight years old, still he goes to a military school. One day last summer he stood on his father's balcony at Amsterdam, looking at the rainbow, and wondering what it was.—

Presently he went into the library and said to his father:

"Papa, what is the rainbow?"

"I can not tell you now, Charlie," said the father. "I am reading."

But Charlie still stood, looking very disappointed, and presently his father said:

"At some future time, when you will understand it, I will tell you all about it!"

So he walked away, looking troubled and thoughtful, and took his stand again where he could see the beautiful bow, now fading away in the evening sky.—

Suddenly a gleam of light came across his face, as if some angel were whispering to him, and he ran into the parlor and said:

"Papa! I've found out about the rainbow; 'tis the angels out on dress parade!"

The angels on dress parade! Who but a little innocent child would ever have dreamed of any thing so sweet and beautiful? Why will we ever forget the presence of the angels? Why ever forget the presence of the great God, Father of angels and of men?

An editor and his wife were walking out in the bright moonlight one evening. Like all editors' wives, she was of an exceedingly poetic nature, and said to her mate, "Notice that moon; how bright, and calm, and beautiful!" "Couldn't think of noticing it for any less than the usual rates—a dollar and fifty cents for twelve lines!"

The Status of the Southern States.

There are no questions of political law more important than this at the present time, and none upon which there is more confusion of ideas, than those which pertain to the civic rights of the States lately in rebellion. What is their political status? Are they States at all, or only territories? If they are not States, when did they cease to exist as such? If they are States, what are their rights? Are they entitled to elect members of Congress? Do they stand upon an equal footing with New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio? If so, why does Congress exclude their representatives even for a day?

These are questions which are constantly and naturally asked. "Governor" Perry, Mr. Vallandigham, the New York World, and the New York Times find no difficulty in answering them. According to these authorities, the answer to all such questions depends upon the answer to one, namely, Are these States in or out of the Union? If they are in the Union it is confidently asserted that they must needs be entitled to all their ancient rights. If they are out of the Union, then it is said the war for the Union has failed of its purpose.

This fallacious reasoning, transparent as it seems to us, misleads a large portion of the loyal people, and confuses yet more. Let us carry it to its full extent, and it will be easily seen through.

A large part of Louisiana is kept from total submersion by water, only by a long line of dykes. Let us suppose that the whole State was in the like condition.—

Let us further suppose that, in order to carry out military operations, it became necessary to break down all these dykes, and to submerge the whole State, so that it should become permanently uninhabitable. Would the war have been necessarily a failure because Louisiana was destroyed? True, the war was not undertaken for the purpose of destroying a State, but neither was it undertaken for the preservation of a State. It was not commenced for the purpose of spending three thousand millions of dollars or of sacrificing five hundred thousand lives. It was waged to preserve the nation, and this was meant to be done whether the lives of individuals or of States should perish or not. So much for the argument from the supposed "failure of the war."

But, in truth, all that is said about States being "in or out" of the Union is utterly irrelevant to the argument. The Territory of Colorado is surely in the Union, notwithstanding it has not been admitted as a State. Does any citizen of a territory find any difficulty in obtaining a passport as a citizen of the United States? Were not the residents of Louisiana admitted to all the rights of citizenship, by treaty, long before they organized a State government? These considerations dispose also of the argument that the election of Mr. Johnson proves that Tennessee was a State then in existence. There is nothing in the Constitution which prevents the election of a citizen of Nebraska or the District of Columbia to the Presidency. Nor is there anything in the fact that Mr. Johnson continued to act as a Senator of the United States, after his State had become disorganized, which binds Congress now to recognize the continued existence of that State. It was a favorite doctrine of Henry Clay that every member of Congress represented the whole nation, and not merely his own particular State or district. This doctrine is unquestionably the true one, and has been gradually acquiesced in by all parties, though vehemently denied at first. It follows that no member can be deprived of his seat (except by regular process of expulsion), even if the entire State or district from which he comes should be swallowed up by earthquake or inundation. Much more is he entitled to remain, if he chooses, after his State has lost its corporate existence.

Coming then to the conclusion that the controversy is not to be disposed of by one or two phrases, let us consider what are the facts upon which it turns.

For the purpose of our present argument, we lay aside all considerations founded upon the belligerent attitude of the South, and dismiss entirely all questions as to the effect of the State rebellion upon State rights. Waiving these, the following facts remain:

1. That Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas elected regular State conventions, which, according to the universal law of this country, had a right to make any changes in their frame of government not prohibited by the Constitution of the United States.

2. That these conventions adopted or

disannounced declaring that their respective States were no longer within the Union striking out the words "United States" wherever they occurred in their constitutions and laws, and substituting the "Confederate States" therefor, absolving all State officials from their oaths to support the Constitution of the United States, and requiring them to take oaths of allegiance to the new State constitutions and to the "Confederate States."

3. That Tennessee passed similar ordinances, only by her legislature instead of by a convention.

4. That all these States repealed the laws providing for the election of Representatives to the Congress of the United States.

5. That all the officials of these States took an oath of allegiance to the "Confederate States," and renounced their allegiance to the United States.

6. That long before the rebellion ceased, the official term of every State officer within these States, who had ever taken an oath of allegiance to the United States, had expired; and no one held office in any one of these States, by virtue of an election prior to the ordinances of secession, except, possibly, a few judicial officers.

Now, in the language of Chief Justice Bronson (Indiana v. Woram, 6 Hill, 83), "that a State is a corporation cannot be doubted." Viewed as a corporation, can there be much question as to the legal effect of such a course of action as we have set forth above? Setting Tennessee aside for the present, the other States took every possible means to destroy their corporate existence. "What more could they do than they have done?" Acting through the most authoritative exponents which they could summon into existence, they declared their fixed determination not to exist any longer as States of this Union. They abolished every law of their own which gave them a place in the Union. They vacated every office held as an office of a State in the Union. They destroyed every right which they had to elect representatives to a Congress of the Union. They left not one shred of legal and constitutional government in existence. True, they believed that they could exist as governments outside of the Union; but they broke down all the bridges behind them, and perilled all upon the hazard of their opinion. The war has settled that they were mistaken upon this point, but it has not provided any remedy for their voluntary destruction of their own institutions. That act of folly must be repaired by regular constitutional processes.

It is said that the States did not lose their identity, although they rebelled.—But a State, like any other corporation, may cease to exist, although all its powers are assumed, all its property taken, and all its officers continued, by another corporation bearing precisely the same name. Thus, a number of banks in New York, which were organized many years ago under special charters, re-organized under the general act of 1838, without the slightest change in name, stockholders, officers, property, or business. A few years ago the question arose, in an action brought by one of these banks, whether it was one and the same corporation throughout. The courts held, without a shadow of doubt, that it was not, and that the new corporation was as distinct from the old as a son from his father. Just so Virginia, as a State of the Union, is totally distinct from the Virginia which professed to exist as an independent or Confederate State. Nor does the fact that Virginia, as a Confederate State, never had a legal existence, have the least tendency to prove that the former Virginia did not destroy itself.

The case of Tennessee, as we have said, differs from that of the other rebel States in the fact that no convention was held therein. But all legal government was destroyed there for four years as effectually as in any other State, and, practically, it stands upon the same footing as the rest, except that its constitution can survive the destruction of all government under it.

In all these States, then, there was no civil government, no civil law, no civil administration of affairs, for years. Nevertheless, it is claimed that, by virtue of some undefined principle of immortality, the States outlived all the forms of government and law which are usually supposed to constitute a State.

Can a State continue to exist without a government or any lawful means of electing one? Can it exist after its people have, in a regular and proper method, declared their will that it shall not exist? Is there any self-acting power in a State government that keeps it alive after it has taken every conceivable means to put an end to itself? Were our forefathers wrong when they declared the right of the peo-

ple to change, alter, or abolish the form of government at will, and can we only change, and not simply abolish?

These are questions which the supporters of the President's policy never discuss. But they are practical questions, and the President has himself conceded a great part of our position upon them. He has uniformly assumed that there were no legal governments in the rebel States after the passage of their ordinances of secession, and that not a single office, from governor down to pound-keeper, was legally filled in any of these States when the rebellion ceased, except where Mr. Lincoln had re-organized their governments. The only difference between our conclusions and his theory is, that he believes in the continued existence of a State after its entire government has perished, while we hold, with Mr. Henry J. Raymond, that a State ceases to exist when its constitution and government are destroyed.

The real points in controversy are, whether the duty of restoring the States is a duty devolving on the President alone, or upon Congress, voting subject to his veto power (which we shall discuss hereafter), and, above all, what, as we pointed out two weeks ago, will be the effect upon the national safety of admitting the rebel States to their old places now?—The Nation.

A Connecticut Story.

The following is related as a fact, having actually happened some years since in the State of Connecticut:

A man in rather indifferent circumstances, surrounded by a large family, being entirely out of meat, had recourse to the sheepfold of a neighbor, a wealthy farmer, for relief. The neighbor having a large lot of sheep, did not perceive that he had lost any, until one of the finest of the flock, very large and fat, was missing—and counting his sheep he found he had lost several. Unable to account for this extraordinary loss, he resolved a few nights after to watch.

About midnight he observed an uncommon disturbance among the sheep caused by the appearance of a man in disguise. Curiosity, as well as to observe the conduct of the person, so as to find him out, induced him to lay still. In the flock there was a ram, with whom it seems, the man was in the habit of conversing, as if he had been the owner of the sheep.

"Well, Mr. Ram," says the nocturnal sheep stealer, "I have come to buy another sheep; have you any more to sell?"—Upon which he replied, as in the person of the ram.

"Yes I have a sheep to sell."

By this time the owner had discovered him to be one of his neighbors.

"What will you take for that large fat weather?" says the purchaser.

"Four dollars," replied Mr. Ram.

"That is a very high price," says the man, "but as you are so good as to wait for the pay I think I will take him."

"Well Mr. Ram," continued the honest sheep buyer, "let me see how many sheep I have bought of you?"

"If I am not mistaken," says the ram, "this is the fifth," and then went on to cast up the whole, giving Mr. Ram a polite invitation to call on him for pay, and bidding him good night, he led the sheep home, while the owner lay laughing at the novelty of the scene, lightly gratified and amply paid for the whole. A few nights afterwards, when he supposed his neighbor was out of mutton, he caught the old ram and tied a little bag under his neck, and placed a piece of paper between his horns, on which he wrote:

"I have come for my pay."

Under this line he footed up the whole sum of five sheep, exactly as his neighbor had done, as before related, he then took the ram to his neighbor's house where he tied him near the door and then went home.

When the neighbor arose in the morning, he was surprised to find a sheep tied to his own door, but it is beyond words to express his astonishment when he found out that it was the old ram with whom he had been dealing so much in mutton, with his brand on his forehead, and the amount of five sheep actually made out, as he had a few days previous in the person of a ram. Suffice it to say he obtained the money, and after tying it in the bag, and tearing the paper from his horns set the ram at liberty, who immediately ran home, jingling the money, as if proud of having accomplished the object of his errand—to the no small gratification of his owner.

"Ah, Sam, you've been in trouble, have you?" "Yes, Jim, yes." Well, cheer up, man! adversity tries us, and shows us our best qualities." "Ah, but adversity didn't try me; it was an old vagabond of a Judge, and he showed up my worst qualities."

KICKING AGAINST THE PRICKS.—

On Saturday last, a curious exhibition of "reconstructed" temper was witnessed on Pennsylvania Avenue, near the Metropolitan Hotel. A tall and well formed young man, dressed in "Confederate gray," was walking along carelessly, evidently a little under the influence of a generous flag-on, or so, when his eye fell upon a cast-iron figure of a negro boy, which smiles upon the wayfarers on the Avenue, and holds up invitingly a ring in which to fasten the reins of horses. The reconstructed gentleman paused in his promenade and walked around the statue, surveying it for some time with an air of amused curiosity, which soon changed to a look of ineffable scorn.

The Southern evidently considered the statue as typifying all the troubles and woes of the late so-called Southern Confederacy, his lip curled with supercilious hate, and, drawing back his right foot, he kicked the molten image with a concentration of spiteful rage that was laughable to behold. He kicked as though he would have the kick felt by the entire African race, but he only kicked once! The little "nigger" stood unmoved, and held up his ring as grinningly as before, while the "reconstructed" recoiled and limped away with a very wry face. This hint to his understanding changed his aspect visibly, and he went off a madder and a wiser man.—Washington paper.

South America.

Another of the South American republics, that of Bolivia, has joined the South American alliance against Spain. Immediately after crushing the armed opposition to his administration President Melgarejo (Jan. 20), informed the Bolivian Minister at Lima of his determination to defend, in union with Chili and Peru, the common American interests, and on Feb. 24 the Minister communicated the intentions of his Government to that of Peru. The allies which are now joined together in an offensive and defensive alliance represent the following territory and population:

	Area in square miles.	Population.
Bolivia.....	374,000	1,987,000
Chili.....	153,000	1,559,000
Equador.....	240,000	1,040,000
Peru.....	250,000	2,500,000
Total.....	1,023,000	6,586,000

As the area of Spain is estimated at 176,000 square miles, and the population at 16,500,000, the united Republics contain about two-fifths of the population of Spain, but exceed that power is territory more than five times. Bolivia, like Equador, cannot furnish for the present any considerable addition to the allied fleet; but the formal alliance greatly adds to the power of resistance thus far displayed by Chili, and is a new guarantee for the final success of the republican institutions of South America in their struggle with Europe.

The United States of Colombia, which has a population exceeding that of any of the Republics above named (two million seven hundred and ninety four thousand), have preferred not to conclude for the present a formal alliance, but to content themselves with a strong declaration of sympathy. President Murillo, in opening the Colombian Congress, emphatically expressed this sympathy, but was silent on the subject of the alliance. In the Congress, a motion to join the alliance was made, but it was voted down. It is thought, however, that this resolution may not be irrevocable, and that the President elect, who will enter upon his office in April, may successfully employ his influence for bringing about the alliance.—N. Y. Tribune.

EDUCATING GIRLS.—

With few and insignificant exceptions, girls have been educated either to be drudges or toys beneath men, or a sort of angels above him; the highest ideal aimed at oscillating between Clarotche and Beatrice. The possibility that the ideal of womanhood lies neither in the fair saint or in the fair sinner; that the female type of character is neither better nor worse than the male, but only weaker; that women are meant neither to be men's guides nor playthings, but their comrades, their fellows, and their equals, so far as nature puts no bar to that equality, does not seem to have entered into the minds of those who have had the conduct of the education of them.

"Sow and you shall reap." That so we sowed our old corn the other day and reaped a lot of tares.

"Pride goeth before a fall." It frequently goeth before a waterfall.

"What part of a building would a proud man be likely to build? A basement."

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