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The People's Choice for President,
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The People's Candidate for President,
Abraham Lincoln.

The Administration of Abraham Lincoln began under difficulties and dangers such as never before had threatened the existence of our Government. Under the imbecility of the preceding Administration, a rebellion had been permitted to foster and grow, until it had reached fearful proportions. Our people long unacquainted with war, and our rulers to their counsel, stood perplexed, and it seemed hopeless. No one appeared to know, at least, no one ventured to suggest the means where by the States in Rebellion should be brought back to their allegiance. An additional perplexity arose from the threat of other States to secede, should the Government attempt to force back these already in Rebellion. Compromise was tried, and compromise failed; in fact, secession continued. Thus dark and gloomy was the prospect, and thus affairs glided on until the Confederates struck the fatal blow at Sumter. By this daring and fratricidal act, the Confederates declared war against the Government of our Fathers. Then came the President's Proclamation, calling upon the several States to furnish men to grapple with this monster army. This act of the President, bold and determined, but right and necessary, was hailed with a joyful response throughout the length and breadth of the loyal States. Men seemed to feel that the critical period between national destruction and preservation had passed. The army of the Republic and that of the Rebellion prepared to meet on the field of contest. With what has transpired since, we are all familiar. Dark days and bright days for months, and we may almost say years, seemed to alternate, until within the last six months we have reached the beginning of the end. Now has this Administration been obliged to struggle alone against the Rebels themselves, but also against every manner of foe at home and abroad. Foreign mediation has threatened, home defection convulsed, and even the counsels of friends been embarrassing, because though equally honest and earnest, they have been incongruous and diverse. Through all these difficulties and dangers, Abraham Lincoln, supported by the army of patriots in the field, has led us now depressed by despair, and now buoyant with hope to the dawn of an honorable peace and restoration. We know what another would have done; we know what he has done. McClintock would have done this, and would have done that, but in reality never did anything save waste away the army of the Potomac in the swamps of the Chickahominy. Abraham Lincoln has done all that mortal man under the circumstances could have done. His line of policy has been straight forward and decided. At one time, one party, at another time another, seemed to prevail in his councils, but, in reality, neither the conservative nor the radical party as they respectively name each other, controlled Abraham Lincoln. He studied well the demands of the hour, and on these he based his action. He saw, from the beginning, that the course of dissolution would have to be removed; and when the events of the war justified it, and not until then, came the Emancipation Proclamation, which one single measure has been productive of more good than all before it, and over which radical and conservative so long contended. And then came the arming of the negro, which all now agree is a tower of strength in our cause. He has been decided, but so mild in his treatment of enemies that many whom party prejudice once made hate him, now love him, and we learn from deserters, that even the Rebel authorities are obliged to exercise the utmost precaution in preventing the circulation of the Amnesty Proclamation through the ranks of their army. In fine, to Abraham Lincoln's straight-forward policy the American people are indebted for the present bright prospects of a speedy and lasting peace.

Politicians went to the Chicago Convention to nominate either Seward or Bates, but their combinations and intrigues were set at naught by the determined and enthusiastic preference of the People; and Abraham Lincoln, unthought of by the political Gamemaster, came forth from that convention, the People's candidate. And to day, he is more than ever the popular favorite. His name has become a household word. While the people respect and almost reverence the abilities of Messrs. Seward, Chase, Banks, Butler, and Grant, while they owe them an eternal debt of gratitude for the patriotic and effective manner in which they have performed their respective parts in the suppression of this wicked and unprovoked Rebellion, no one can fail to perceive that the loyal mass turns with a quiet but determined preference toward our present Executive, as their standard bearer in the coming campaign. He has satisfied them that, while the necessities of the war have thrown a greater power and prerogative into his hands, than any previous ruler ever exercised over us,—he will not only never trench upon their liberties, but that he will also protect them against the tyranny and intrigue of those who would advance to power over their trampled rights. It is in conformity with this universally popular preference that we to-day place his name at the head of our column as the Union Candidate for the Presidency in the coming Campaign. We feel assured of his nomination, and equally assured of his re-election, and the promise of the hour is that he will then be President of the States again united, prosperous and happy. With the destruction of the cause which was the cause of the Rebellion. Upon the ruins of slavery will spring up a system of free-labor which at a day not far distant, will bind together the different pursuits of the North and the South in a band of common interest. Then will grow up a fraternity of feeling, the loss of those we loved, but strengthening the brotherhood of those who are left to enjoy the liberty and the country, for which they died.

RECONSTRUCTION.

As the waning strength of the Rebellion indicates that the bloody conflict in which we are now engaged must soon terminate, the minds of the people necessarily turn to the reconstruction of the Government and the means to be employed to restore it and establish it upon a permanent basis. On this important question there are but two plans proposed. One is that set forth by the President in his Amnesty Proclamation, and the other is the one advanced by the croakers for "the constitutional rights" of the Rebels, commonly known as Copperhead politicians. Their scheme for the settlement of our difficulties amounts to this, whenever a majority of the Rebels now in arms against the Government, shall lay down their arms and elect state officers, members of Congress, and express a desire to return to the Union, they shall be restored to the privileges and benefits they have so long despised, and that the war, on the part of the Government shall immediately cease.

This scheme, like a new town in the far West, looks admirably on paper, and is a most excellent one for electioneering purposes. But its appearance, and its utility to the Copperheads are not quite sufficient to commend it to the favor of a people, who have suffered for three long years from the effects of the treason of Slaveholders. Let us examine the practical workings of such a scheme for reconstruction.

Suppose next month all the States in Rebellion were to hold elections, for the purpose of choosing State officers, and members of Congress. We know that they are not only under the influence of the men who have been the leaders of the Rebellion but that their influence would be supported by the military power of the Confederacy. What would be the result of such an election? Manifestly the choice of those very leaders for the very highest offices under the reconstructed Government. According to the theory of the Democracy, we then are bound to receive them again into the very position they held when they betrayed the Government into the hands of traitors.

With Leveche Governor of Virginia, Tombs Governor of Georgia, and Jeff. Davis of Mississippi, what assurance would we have that in three months from the date of reconstruction we would not have a second rebellion? Give the Rebels a vote, to-day, such a delegation to Congress and such state Legislatures as must inevitably be elected, under the influence and control of their present leaders, and we should have the force of secession followed by the bloody drama of rebellion just as soon as the players felt sufficiently rested from the fatigue of the present performance to commence again. And is this to be the fruit of the enormous sacrifices we are making? Is this mighty struggle to preserve the life of our Government to result in re-instating to power all place the dead and the insensitatives that have done their utmost to destroy it? Do men in their personal affairs adopt such a policy as this? Is the man who has betrayed the interest of his employer again taken into his employment and confidence? Is the clerk who rubs the money drawer again entrusted with the keys? Is the man who has committed a deliberate murder, furnished with weapons and allowed his freedom in order that he may have the "constitutional" privilege of committing the same offence again? Such conduct on the part of an individual or a community would be madness, and yet a similar treatment of the men who have robbed our treasuries and murdered the brave defenders of our Government, is regarded as eminently wise, constitutional and conservative.

Contrasted with this mad scheme, recommended not for the purpose of establishing the Government, but to aid demagogues in recouping a party or shed to death by the weight of popular indignation, is the plan of safety, and wisdom, proposed by the President. Under the Amnesty Proclamation, those who have been deluded or forced into rebellion are restored again to the protection of the Government, on their taking an oath to support all the measures for the crushing of the rebellion, unless those measures shall be judicially declared unconstitutional. Whilst this offer of pardon and amnesty is made to the men who have been deceived by their leaders, those leaders are left to the punishment legally due to conspirators and traitors. This then is a proposal which must necessarily exert an influence to bring back the plain people of the South, to their allegiance and at the same time prevent the possibility of the leading traitors taking advantage of the clemency of the Government, and placing themselves in a position to enable them again to destroy it. This is the direct tendency of the Amnesty Proclamation. Indirectly its effect will not be less beneficial and important. In connection with the Emancipation policy of the Administration it effectively destroys the institution of slavery and forever deliver the country from this only cause and source of discord and treason.

Let all true men therefore give the President's plan for reconstruction their most earnest support, as it presents the only hope of a speedy and permanent settlement of our troubles.

The President's order of this date (copy herewith) for a draft on tenth of March, for five hundred thousand men, after deducting all who may be raised prior to March first and not heretofore credited, is equivalent to a call for two hundred thousand men, in addition to the three hundred thousand called for October-seventeenth. Do everything possible to fill this as well as the former call, and secure action at once, in anticipation of the exact quotas, which will be announced from this office as soon as possible.

THE NEW DRAFT.
PROVOST MARCHAL GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, FEB. 12, 1864.
To Major F. TOWNSEND, A. P. M. G., Sup't.
Vol. Recruiting, Albany, N. Y.
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JAMES B. FREY, P. M. G.
The less reputable portion of the Opposition Press deliberately, persistently falsifies the recent call, pretending that it is for Five Hundred Thousand Men in addition to the Half Million to all that have been called (not raised) hitherto, including the three-months and nine-months' men, and make a sum total of over Two Millions. This is a part of the machinery whereby they hope to discourage the People and break down the war for the Union. They will fail, for the People have made up their minds to go through, and the gates of Jeff. Davis's dominions shall not prevail against them.

FREE LABOR VERSUS SLAVE LABOR.

Out of 700,000 people in the State of Maryland, says the Baltimore American, there are—or rather were—12,000 slaveowners, a small minority with an exceptional interest. It is not pretended by these proprietors of bone and muscle, when they retreated into the shadow of their innate and sincere convictions, that Divine sanction can be accorded to such a monster of evil by any correct or rational interpretation of Scripture. When they yield candid and honest response to inquiry they do not justify its wrongs or conceal its iniquities. They acknowledge its failure as an economic system of labor.—In grasping it, then, with such desperate energy, they are neither influenced by high moral considerations nor by a disposition to count the cost, but simply by supreme selfishness, by the desire to dominate over an inferior race, to make what was originally a social and domestic system of political machine to maintain aristocratic privileges—to aggrandize the few at the expense of the many—in brief, to promote what Hobbs calls "self-interest" "well understood"? But is it well understood?—Viewed in the light of economy, or expediency, or advantage over free labor, certainly not. The facts are stereotyped, but they are as true now as ever—old, and yet even new—and it is worth while to revert to them occasionally, and to commend them to consideration.

Reports Concerning Richmond.
We have very important and exciting intelligence from Richmond; intelligence which favors more of probability and truth than any we recollect to have received from that quarter for some time.

The Richmond Examiner of Monday announces that the city is threatened by an Union army; that on Saturday night the rebel pickets were attacked and driven within twelve miles of the place; that the York River Railroad was crossed near Dispatch Station, and that another large Union force was advancing from Barboursville and Talleyville. The Examiner says that the assaulting force consists of three brigades of infantry, four regiments of cavalry, and 12 pieces of artillery, and that it is also other two large for the purpose of a river-rail. The force which could thus stand before Richmond on Monday, might, by a possibility, have advanced from Culpeper. But it would be only a possibility. The main rebel army was fronting our army there on Saturday. We then made a reconnaissance in force, and retired. That fact serves to show that the rebel command must have been a Union army, and alive to every movement of the Union army. They could hardly allow themselves to be outgeneraled so greatly and gravely as must have been the case, if the army which was at Culpeper on Saturday is menacing or marching into Richmond on Monday. A great battle could not well have been fought on Sunday, and a march of more than seventy miles accomplished before the close of Monday.

If the report is confirmed, we think it will be found that the assaulting forces proceeded from Fortress Monroe and its vicinity, up the James river, and landed at City Point, that they cut the railroad to Petersburg, thereby depriving Richmond of an important food. This having been done, the result would be merely a question of time. What length of time would be required may be judged by the period which elapsed from the departure of Gen. Butler's forces from Fortress Monroe and the reported attack of Richmond.

A few circumstances of past occurrence may be profitably recalled at this moment, to strengthen the opinions which we are inclined to entertain. General Gilmore's troops were recently withdrawn from before Charleston, and brought north. As we understand, they could hardly have varied much from twelve thousand men, which would exactly satisfy the three brigades, and by the Richmond papers to have appeared there. The twelve cannon might have come from the same direction, and the four regiments of cavalry from Fortress Monroe. What additional number of men General Butler might have been able to take with him from that point, cannot, of course, be known at present. If our reasoning is correct therefore, the assaulting force will have consisted of not less than twenty-five thousand men, with twelve cannon, as the minimum; will have succeeded up the James River to City Point; from thence have marched to Petersburg, and from thence have proceeded against Richmond.

A word may, perhaps, be hazarded as to the condition of Richmond and its probable readiness to resist such an attack at this juncture. It will be remembered that a few weeks since there was an announcement that Gen. Pickett's division had left Richmond, and gone south to attack Gen. Butler, or at least cut off his communication, at Newbern. The main rebel army is also stated to have been at Culpeper on Saturday. Subtracting these numbers from the force which has garrisoned Richmond during the winter, and there could not have been left a body which should materially exceed seven or ten thousand men.

If now, by any happy combination of circumstances, General Butler could have learned of the departure of General Pickett, and the defenceless condition of Richmond, he might well have been induced to leave his southern field of labor, to desert Newbern, and persuade General Gilmore to bid a brief farewell to Morris Island and the scenery of Charleston. In this event, those troops which were detailed from Richmond to attack Newbern, would merely have put themselves beyond call when the most trying moment was reached, and the most urgent demand of all the war was calling for their aid. Through this reasoning additional possibility is given to the report.

The origin of the report in a leading rebel paper; its straight forward subsequent history, and those considerations to which we have made reference, do not allow us to treat this statement as lightly as we have done most of its predecessors.

Meanwhile, and until the rumor is endorsed by something better than the best testimony which can now be adduced in its behalf, we can hope that it may be confirmed, and the head of the rebellion established by loyal and patriotic soldiers. The present intelligence is assuredly the most promising and hopeful which we have had for a long time.

The Plots of the Democratic Minority in the Senate.

The last hope of the factionist in the Senate has been destroyed, and at length the way is clear, through the plots and the counterplots of such miserable demagogues and traitors as Clynner and Lambertson, to secure the progress of the legitimate business of legislation. When the writs for an election to fill the vacancy in the Indiana Senatorial district were issued, it was confidently asserted, in copperhead circles in this city, that an election could and would not be held in that district—that the issuing of the writs was informal and illegal—and that the Sheriff of Armstrong county, a Democrat, would positively refuse to recognize the writ. These declarations were made on the strength of the plots entered into in this city. The leaders of the minority in the Senate, were derided that the Sheriff in Armstrong county should be used as a tool to carry out their base purposes, and still further disgrace the State with the delay in the legislation. But the Sheriff of Armstrong county appears to be an honest man, with too much integrity for the manipulations of Clynner and Lambertson. He recognized the writ for an election, as issued by Speaker Penney, and accordingly we find in our KITTENYAN, the proclamation of the Sheriff of Armstrong county, fixing the election to fill the vacancy in the district, to take place on the 19th inst. This puts an end to the machinations of the minority in the Senate. After the 19th inst. they will throw off the disguise and show in their true garb—Harrisburg Telegraph.

JEFF DAVIS'S BODY SERVANT IN WASHINGTON—WHAT HE HAS SEEN AND HEARD—AN INTELLECTUAL CONTRABAND, FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS THE BODY SERVA

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FOR COCHENS, COLLIS, AND THROAT DIBR DEBS, USE "Brown's Bronchial Troches," having proved their efficacy by a test of many years. The Troches are highly recommended and prescribed by Physicians and Surgeons in the Army.

GEN. BUTLER'S DEPARTMENT.
Held North-Western Richmond, in Attempt to Recover Our Possession.—The Project Unsuccessful. Our Troops Within Ten Miles of the Rebel Capital.—They Returned Without Loss.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 8, 1864.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

LATER FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

Movements of the Rebels.
The Gunboat Underwriter Captured and Destroyed.
The Rebels Retreat from Kingston.
NEWBERN RELIEVED FROM DANGER.
FORT MONROE, February 4.—A messenger has just arrived from Newbern, North Carolina, with dispatches to Major General Butler, dated February 23.—5.15 P. M.

THE WAR IN WEST VIRGINIA.

THE RETREATING ENEMY OVERTAKEN.
A BATTLE NEAR MOORFIELD.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—The Herald has received the following special despatch:

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—Our forces have overtaken the enemy at a ford near Moorfield, in Hardie county.

SOUTHERN NEWS.
Bombardment of Charleston.

Rebel Movements in Mississippi and Tennessee.
The Bombardment of Sumter and Charleston.

THE ARKANSAS CONVENTION.
The following important letter has been received:

Cotton and County Matters.
TEMPERANCE.—We are glad to learn that the Temperance movement recently started is advancing in a manner most satisfactory to its most ardent friends.

OUR QUOTA.—Many persons seem anxious to know why it is that our Borough authorities are taking no active measures for filling up our quota under the last call.

GRAND CONCERT.—The Handel Musical Association will give a Concert in Reuben's Hall on Thursday evening February 18th 1864.

RUEM'S HALL.—The great Combination Troupe of Messrs. SMITH & HAYES, will most positively appear to-night and to-morrow night.

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