

Democrat and Sentinel.

THE BLESSINGS OF GOVERNMENT, LIKE THE DEWS OF HEAVEN, SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED ALIKE, UPON THE HIGH AND THE LOW, THE RICH AND THE POOR.

NEW SERIES.

EBENSBURG, PA. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1864.

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Correspondence.

DAVENPORT, IOWA, }
August 2, 1864. }

FRIEND HASSON:—Early last spring I made a tour through a few of the counties in the southern part of this State. I spent about ten days in the pleasant prairie village of Fairfield Jefferson county. It lays nearly in a direct line 60 miles west from Burlington, on the Mississippi river. The branch road of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway runs through this place, and on, some thirty miles to Ottumwa, on the Des Moines river, and forming a junction with the Keokuk and Fort Des Moines road, which follows the lead of the river, in a N. W. direction.

Along the Des Moines river, the country is quite rough. Considerable timber of rapid growth, lines either side, during its whole length across Iowa. To return to Fairfield, it is situated quite off any water-course, on the main level of the prairie, it is not quite so undulating in this section as would be desirable by most farmers. The country is so little broken that in a "wet season," (as they term it here,) the water stands on the whole surface of the ground, making the roads almost impassable. In size, the village (or more properly town, of Fairfield will correspond favorably with Ebensburg. Several fine churches, a Court House and a public town square, set off the place to advantage, in a prospective point of view.

The next thing (of no importance, whatever but a nuisance) is the renown which it receives from its containing the most vile, reptilian, black-damnation-like, traitorous Abolition Lincoln-copperheads, that can claim residence in any town or city in this Union. You may recollect, that at the time Mahoney was kidnapped from his home in Dubuque in this State, one Sheward was taken at the same time, with several others to Washington, and confined in the Old Capitol prison. This same Sheward, hailed from Fairfield, in which place he edited a Democratic newspaper. His press would have been silent, had it not been for the pluck, determination and ability of his wife, assisted by his brother, as fore-man-printer. After his release he returned home and, again resumed the editorial chair, which he filled till within about one week of the time of my arrival in the place, when his office was entered by a squad of mean vagabonds wearing the insignia of Uncle Sam's soldiers, and, by his being taken unawares, his books were seized and partly torn up and the press damaged to such an extent that he concluded to close up and quit the place which he does while I was there. Thus you will perceive what a recommendation the place has for the quiet, peace and harmonious disposition (over the left) of the people for first class society. No where in the country does the different religious sects hold such eternal, deadly hatred of one another, as there. It has come to such a pass that not a single Democrat will attend Divine worship in the original churches (I mean the edifice, alone). For what ought to be Divine, there is substituted, the worship of the devil. When I was there, efforts were being put forth, to raise money for the purpose of erecting a church where the people both Jew and Gentile could attend to hear the "word of life" explained, without the political thunderings of a hell-bound clergy, haranguing somebody, as "copperheads, traitors, rebel sympathizers," they, who on questions of matters of the State, honestly choose to differ from them.

The leading man and most popular one in the county is Dr. Ware, an early settler and a genuine practical physician for thirty years, is a thorough Democrat. And, since the war began, he has been perfectly silent outwardly, neither associating with Abolitionists, or publically denouncing them, for as he told me, "they are not worth talking about." And just for the reason that the Abs. could not get him to say anything, they made it a point to persecute and abuse him when, and wherever an opportunity offered. His life was threatened by the cut-throats, and so much was his fear, that he never went out from his door without arms. As I was a visitor at his house, during my stay in the place, I write as 'twas told me. About ten days before my arrival at his house, he told me six armed men made their unwelcome presence known one evening when it was quite dark, by ringing the door-bell. The Dr.'s wife being the only one in at the time, answered by opening the door; when, to her astonishment, which amounted to fright, she beheld two soldiers standing on either side of the door, with drawn

Navy revolvers, ready to have blown the person desired to pieces, had he presented himself at the door at that time. Fortunately for the Dr., he was in the rear part of his lot, attending to his horse. As soon as his wife could control herself enough to speak, she asked them what they wanted. They replied "we want the Dr. to come out here." She immediately stepped back into the yard, and warned him to leave, when she returned, to inform them, the Dr. was not at home. They seemed quite dissatisfied, but left, with the remark that they would "call around in the morning." But they never came. It was found out afterwards that the soldiers were led by a young fellow of lazy drunken habits, who, be it known, was living off an aged widowed mother that earned her bread by washing, he never lifting a hand to help her. Such was the representative of Abolitionism. This same fellow, to show his "loyalty," made it a point, of looking on his arms two greasy, sabbie brethren of "de born equals," and parade the streets, to the disgust of Abolitionists generally. That was a little too heavy for them. I shall have to fly the track as my letter is proving rather protracted. I just mention an anecdote which took place in Fairfield a few months ago, which to many proves very amusing. The Hon. Henry Clay Dean of Iowa, in his visit to Fairfield, is the guest of Dr. Ware. He is well known by the people in that section, and because of his untidiness of personal appearance he goes by the vulgar cognomen of "Dirty-shirt-Dean."

At the time I speak of, he made a speech in the town, which set the "freedom strikers" a howling again, as he had done on many a previous occasion. The following morning he sauntered out into town, and while in conversation with a friend in a store, a "loyal" lady, stepped in and observing Dean, when she passed to the counter, turned her head to one side, and *sotto voce* to the clerk, remarked, "There's old Dirty-shirt-Dean. Dean, always goes about with his ears and eyes open. Hardly was the expression from her lips, when Dean turned, and said: "Madam I'll compare shirts with you!" I can tell you a pair of skeleton shirts went kiting out the door, in less time than it takes me to think of it. She was "done for" in a very small space of time. At another time, in the same town, a quack phrenologist, "made port" in a very fashionable style, and made himself quite renowned in the science, according to his own testimony, bluster and braggadocio. The folks generally, did not think him very far advanced, and had come to the conclusion that he was a scientific humbug and bore. Clay Dean, then being in town, it struck a few of the town "cuts," that they might have a little sport, and in the meantime prove this gentleman up at his own expense. Quite a crowd was gathered at one time in a boot and shoe store at one time during the day, and among others Dean. Some one observed the "phrenologist" approaching, and it was concluded immediately that he should be called in, and that Clay Dean's head should be "felt." Accordingly he was hailed and complied. They proposed that he should "feel this old fellow's head." Dean was then sitting bowed down, in an arm chair, and a stonch old hat settled down over his eyes, his hair dishevelled as though not combed for six months and his feet hid in a pair of broken, musty boots, six inches too long and large accordingly in other respects, and mounted crosswise on the edge of a stove—taken in all with his common dirty shirt (open in front) and miserably close-worn clothes, and his natural "don't care" disposition, and you have certainly a character which no wonder would puzzle a Fowler or Wells aside from bringing down a simple upstart in the profession of "heads." Dean, understanding the business on hand, took good care to keep his "signs of character" well under cover. The Prof. proceeded to stir up among the leading bumps, and at the same time put on considerable of a professional air, quite to the amusement of the bystanders. Before I go any further I will here say that the Prof. had known Dean at one time, and heard him speak, but did not recognize him at this time. He is one of the most fluent speakers we have in our country. His powerful mind enables him to call up anything historical or otherwise in a twinkling. No man can be better read than he, and no one uses it to a better advantage. Nothing pleases him so well as an argument with his opponents in either religion or politics. Woe be to the person that dare assail him. It is a fact that not one of the Abolition leaders will venture to get in his way. He has decidedly the greatest powers in using scathing language, that will bring an op-

ponent to appear ridiculous, and make him feel for some place to hide, than, we believe belongs to any man on this continent. But to proceed to the Prof. as we left him. After searching for a fixed time, he made an explanation of what he could discover. Said he: "This head is a very ordinary one; the powers of recollection are very small; quite indolent and very slow; takes everything easy—and is not qualified for any high pursuit." Such was his style of "reading" throughout.

When he got through with the examination, in which he congratulated himself for having done justice to all interested, a bystander, one concerned in the "sell," asked the Prof. to "allow me to present you to the Hon. Henry Clay Dean." The fellow was thunder-struck and did not wait to make an apology for his ignorance, but left the house and the town, in as quick time as possible, and has not been seen in those parts since. Dean was very much amused, in thus being the subject used for the pleasure and satisfaction of the crowd, and the setting down into the ordinary, his intellect and information. We should think that the Prof. will be very careful how he decides on a case, where a rough outward appearance, seedy clothes and untidy at that, has to do with a future character. NORTHBURG.

Message of the President of the United States of the 8th of January, 1864.

January 9, 1864.—Read and referred, with instructions, to a select committee of five, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

At the opening of your present session I called your attention to the dangers which threatened the existence of this Union. I expressed my opinion freely concerning the original causes of these dangers, and recommended such measures as I believed would have the effect of tranquilizing the country and saving it from the peril in which it had been needlessly and most unfortunately involved. Those opinions and recommendations I do not propose now to repeat. My own convictions upon the whole subject remain unchanged.

The fact that a great calamity was impending over the nation was even at that time acknowledged by every intelligent citizen. It had already made itself felt throughout the length and breadth of the land. The necessary consequences of the alarm thus produced was most deplorable. The imports fell off with a rapidity never known before, except in time of war, in the history of our foreign commerce; the Treasury was unexpectedly left without the means which it had reasonably counted upon to meet the public exigencies; trade was paralyzed; manufactures were stopped; the best public securities suddenly sunk in the market; every species of property depreciated more or less; and thousands of poor men, who depended on their daily labor for their daily bread, were turned out of employment.

I deeply regret that I am not able to give you any information upon the state of the Union which is more satisfactory than what I was then obliged to communicate. On the contrary, matters are still worse at present than they then were. When Congress met, a strong hope pervaded the whole public mind that some amicable adjustment of the subject would speedily be made by the representatives of the States and of the people, which might restore peace between the conflicting sections of the country. That hope has been diminished by every hour of delay; and as the prospect of a bloodless settlement fades away, the public distress becomes more and more aggravated. As evidence of this it is only necessary to say that the Treasury notes authorized by the Act of 17th December last were advertised, according to the law, and that no responsible bidder offered to take any considerable sum at par or at a lower rate of interest than twelve per cent. From these facts it appears that, in a Government organized like ours, domestic strife, or even a well grounded fear of civil hostilities, is more destructive to our public and private interests than the most formidable foreign war.

In my annual message I expressed the conviction, which I have long deliberately held, and which recent reflection has only tended to deepen and confirm, that no State has a right by its own act to secede from the Union, or throw off its Federal obligations at pleasure. I also declared my opinion to be that, even if that right existed and should be exercised by any State of the Confederacy, the Executive Department of this Government had no

authority under the Constitution to recognize its validity by acknowledging the independence of such State. This left me no alternative, as the Chief Executive officer, under the Constitution of the United States, but to collect the public revenues and to protect the public property so far as this might be practicable under existing laws. It belongs to Congress, exclusively, to repeal, to modify, or to enlarge their provisions, to meet exigencies as they may occur. I possess no dispensing power.

I certainly had no right to make aggressive war upon any State, and I am perfectly satisfied that the Constitution has wisely withheld that power even from Congress. But the right and the duty to use the military force defensively against those who resist the Federal officers in the execution of their legal functions, and against those who assail the property of the Federal Government, is clear and undeniable.

But the dangerous and hostile attitude of the States toward each other has already far transcended and cast in the shade the ordinary Executive duties already provided for by law, and has assumed such vast and alarming proportions as to place the subject entirely above and beyond executive control. The fact cannot be disguised that we are in the midst of a great revolution. In all its various bearings, therefore, I commend the question to Congress, as the only human tribunal, under Providence, possessing the power to meet the existing emergency. To them, exclusively, belongs the power to declare war, or to authorize the employment of military force in all cases contemplated by the Constitution; and they alone possess the power to remove grievances which might lead to war, and to secure peace and union to this distracted country. On them, and on them alone rests the responsibility.

The Union is a sacred trust left by our revolutionary fathers to their descendants; and never did any other people inherit so rich a legacy. It has rendered us prosperous in peace and triumphant in war. The national flag has floated in glory on every sea. Under its shadow American citizens have found protection and respect in all lands beneath the sun. If we descend to considerations of purely material interest, when, in the history of all time, has a confederacy been bound together by such strong ties of mutual interest? Each portion of it is dependent on all, and all upon each portion, for prosperity and domestic security. Free trade throughout the whole supplies the wants of one portion from the productions of another, and scatters wealth everywhere. The great planting and farming States require the aid of the commercial and navigating States to send their productions to domestic and foreign markets, and to furnish the naval power to render their transportation secure against all hostile attacks.

Should the Union perish in the midst of the present excitement, we have already had a sad foretaste of the universal suffering which would result from its destruction. The calamity would be severe in every portion of the Union, and would be quite as great, to say the least, in the Southern as well as in the Northern States. The greatest aggravation of the evil, and that which would place us in the most unfavorable light before the world and posterity, is, I am firmly convinced, that the secession movement has been chiefly based upon a misapprehension at the South of the sentiments of the majority in several of the Northern States. Let the question be transferred from political assemblies to the ballot box, and the people themselves would speedily redress the serious grievances which the South has suffered. But, in heaven's name, let the trial be made before we plunge into armed conflict upon the mere assumption that there is no other alternative. Time is a great conservative power. Let us pause at this momentous point, and afford the people, both North and South, an opportunity for reflection. Would that South Carolina had been convinced of this truth before her precipitate action! I, therefore, appeal through you to the people of the country to declare in their might that the Union must and shall be preserved by all constitutional means. I most earnestly recommend that you devote yourselves, exclusively, to the question how this can be accomplished in peace. All other questions, when compared with this, sink into insignificance. The present is no time for palliations; action, prompt action is required. A delay in Congress to prescribe or to recommend a distinct and practical proposition for conciliation may drive us to a point from which it will be almost impossible for us to recede.

A common ground on which conciliation and harmony can be produced is surely not unattainable. The proposition to compromise by letting the North have exclusive control of a territory above a certain line, and to give southern institutions protection below that line, ought to receive universal approbation.— In itself, indeed, it may not be entirely satisfactory; but when the alternative is between reasonable concession on both sides and a destruction of the Union, it is an imputation on the patriotism of Congress to assert that its members will hesitate for a moment.

Even now the danger is upon us. In several of the States which have not yet succeeded, the forts, arsenals and magazines of the United States have been seized. This is by far the most serious step which has been taken since the commencement of the troubles. The public property has long been left without garrisons and troops for its protection, because no person doubted its security under the flag of the country in any State in the Union. Besides, our small army has scarcely been sufficient to guard our remote frontiers against Indian incursions. The seizure of this property, from all appearances, has been purely aggressive, and not in resistance to any attempt to coerce a State or States to remain in the Union.

At the beginning of these unhappy troubles, I determined that no act of mine should increase the excitement in either section of the country. If the political conflict were to end in civil war, it was my determined purpose not to commence it, nor even to furnish an excuse for it by any act of this Government. My opinions remain unchanged, that justice as well as sound policy requires us still to seek a peaceful solution of the questions at issue between the North and the South. Entertaining this conviction, I refrained even from sending reinforcements to Major Anderson, who commanded the forts in Charleston Harbor, until an absolute necessity for doing so should make itself apparent, lest it might unjustly be regarded as a menace of military coercion, and thus furnish, if not a provocation, at least a pretext for an outbreak on the part of South Carolina. No necessity for these reinforcements seemed to exist, I was assured by distinguished and upright gentlemen of South Carolina that no attack on Major Anderson was intended, but that, on the contrary, it was the desire of the State authorities, as much as it was my own, to avoid the fatal consequences which must inevitably follow a military collision.

And here I deem it proper to submit for your information, copies of a communication, dated December 28, 1860, addressed to me by R. W. Barnwell, J. H. Adams and J. L. Orr, "Commissioners," from South Carolina, with the accompanying documents, with copies of my answer thereto, dated Dec. 31.

In further explanation of Major Anderson's removal from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, it is proper to state that after my answer to the South Carolina "Commissioners," the War Department received a letter from that gallant officer dated Dec. 27, 1860, the day after this movement, from which the following is an extract:

"I will add, as my opinion, that many things convinced me that the authorities of the State designed to proceed to a hostile act."
Evidently referring to the orders dated Dec. 11, of the late Secretary of War: "Under this impression I could not hesitate that it was my solemn duty to move my command from a fort which we could not have held probably longer than forty-eight to sixty hours to this one, where my power of resistance is increased to a very great degree."

It will be recollect that the concluding part of these orders was in the following terms: "The smallness of your force will not permit you, perhaps, to occupy more than one of the three forts, but an attack on, or attempt to take possession of either one of them, will be regarded as an act of hostility, and you may then put your command into either of them which you may deem most proper to increase its power of resistance. You are also authorized to take similar defensive steps whenever you have tangible evidence of a design to proceed to a hostile act."

It is said that serious apprehensions are, to some extent, entertained, in which I do not share, that the peace of this District may be disturbed before the 4th of March next. In any event it will be my duty to preserve it, and this duty shall be performed.

In conclusion it may be permitted to

(Continued on Fourth Page)