

# 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 24, 1864.

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## Important Rebel Opinion.

The Northern Election—Peace and Armistice Question Discussed—The Richmond Press on the Situation—Lincoln the best Friend of the South—The Proposal for an Armistice. [From the Richmond Examiner, 12th.]

Whatever may turn out to be the meaning of the fact, the fact itself begins to shine out clear that Abraham Lincoln is lost; that he will never be President again—not even President of the Yankee remnant of States, to say nothing of the whole six and thirty—or, how many are there, counting "Colorado," and "Idaho," and other Yahoo commonwealths lately invented? The obscure ape of Illinois is about to be deposed from the Washington purple, and the White House will echo to his little jokes no more. It is in no spirit of exultation we contemplate this coming event, for Abraham has been a good superior to us; he has served our turn; his policy has settled, established, and made irrevocable the separation of the old Union into nations essentially foreign, and we may be almost sorry to part with him. He was, in the eyes of all mankind, an unanswerable argument for our secession, for he stood there a living justification, even yet high, of the steadfast resolution of these states to hold no more political union with a race capable not only of producing such a being, but of making it a ruler and king.

Certainly his elevation to that position astonished the world, but it amazed nobody so much as the creature himself: he knew that he was neither rich nor rare, and wondered how the devil he got there, or, as he expressed it himself the other day, to a Canadian editor, "It seems to be strange that I, a boy born, as it were, in the woods, should have been drifted into the apex of this great event." Why strange? One may be drifted into an apex, if the only landmarks on a chain of circumstances, and those who swim at Abraham's feet are desired to do a feat that Noah's ark did actually drift to an apex; an I, contained, with every other beast of his kind, a pair of baboons. If they drifted to an apex, so may he. However that may be, he is certainly now about to come down, and even to be dragged or kicked down. The prognostications of last spring were fulfilled; that the "rebellion" must be crushed this year—at least very signal and decided success must be gained over it, or else the war would no longer be carried on under Lincoln's Government; let what might come of the war and the union, he would get no more armies to fling into the red pit of Virginia for slaughter.

Now to put aside for the present the total loss of what Yankees fondly believe to be their conquests in the transmississippi; pretermittent also the dead lock to which Sherman's army has been brought, with all Kentucky, Tennessee, and half of Georgia lying between him and his own country, and looking only to this most colossal invasion of Virginia with three large armies all bound for Richmond—the thing is over. Grant's army is rapidly going away from our front at Petersburg, and is returning to Washington or elsewhere. Of course Grant will not put up a notice on the shore of the Appomattox that he hereby abandons his enterprise; neither will Stanton officially notify that the armies of "the Union" are found wholly unable to advance one yard out of the protection of their ships, and therefore they discontinue the campaign with a loss of one hundred and fifty thousand, killed, wounded and missing. This would be unreasonable to expect, nevertheless the enterprise is abandoned; Richmond is no more to hear the roar of Yankee siege-guns under that potentate's reign.

One cannot arrive at this conclusion from several indications—from the greatly increasing excitement at the North, touching the Chicago convention, which is to nominate a Democratic President; from the daring violence with which some newspapers counsel resistance in arms against the draft of half a million of men, and from the singular movement of some of Lincoln's own black Republican supporters in the Washington Congress.—They waited for the moment when their sovereign's fortunes were declining from their "apex" to give him a treacherous shove down the hill. Two of his most vehement and efficient allies, Wade, of Ohio, and Winter Davis, of Maryland, give him the blow under the fifth rib.—They present, in their official capacity, what almost amounts to a legal impeachment, save in matter of form, against their fond and too indulgent master, tottering to his fall; charge him with arrogance, usurpation, knavery, in withholding his assent to a bill touching the future status of these Confederate States—a mat-

ter which, though of small importance to us, is of the deepest moment, it seems, in that country; inasmuch as he has a plan of his own for remitting states to the Union, on the application of one-tenth of their population; and this would, they say, give him the control of the presidential election. So they inform him that an election carried by this artifice must be resisted, and that he is inaugurating a civil war for the Presidency. If Grant had only taken Richmond, would they have dared to have set their names to such a document as this? "All the world suddenly, within one week, in short, since the blow-up of the campaign at Petersburg, seems to feel instinctively that Abraham's game is played; and the New York 'Herald' at once calls for a new National Convention at Buffalo to nominate some other man instead of the baboon of Illinois and the tailor of Tennessee, and finds out that "the very winds have been whispering it for weeks"—that is, for two weeks, since the Petersburg blow-up. Ah! the Emperor, is a fallen tree; no bird of the air will ever again feather its nest under his branches; a dying gorilla against whom the smallest cat can lift up its leg. \* \* \* The most interesting matter to us is the keen and active agitation in the two branches of the "Democratic party." The peace Democrats openly avow that they will labor in the Chicago Convention of this month to get a "platform of instant and absolute peace. We learn that the War Democrats an armistice. \* \* \* Leaving the military lines of each party where they now are, the Confederate States should be invited to send delegates to meet the Yankee States in convention. \* \* \* Let there be not only an "armistice," but a formal renunciation of all right and pretence to coerce these states; and of course an entire withdrawal of all land and sea forces which occupy any portion of our soil, or blockade any of our ports; and then the Northern States will be in a position to propose to us reconstruction of the Union, or a negotiation of States for the purpose of negotiating that. \* \* \* With such change in the existing relations, no doubt there may come also a great change over men's minds.—We do not answer favorably result of this policy, but the Chicago Democrats will find it worth while to try it, seeing that it is the only chance they have.

## General Sherman on Negro Recruiting.

If General Sherman ever runs for President, he is tolerably sure not to receive the vote of Massachusetts. He has just written a letter to an agent of that State, who was running after negro recruits within the lines of his army, which must make the cheek of every son of that once honored State redden with shame. He says to the agent: I do not see that the law restricts you to black recruits, but you are at liberty to collect white recruits also. It is a waste of time and money to open rendezvous in Northwest Georgia, for I assure you I have not seen an able-bodied man, black or white, there, fit for a soldier, who was not in our army, or the one opposed to it.

You speak of the impression going abroad that I am opposed to the organization of colored regiments. My opinions are usually very positive, and there is no reason why you should not know them.

Though entertaining profound reverence for our Congress, I doubt their wisdom in the passage of this law.

1st. Because civilian agents about an army are a nuisance.

2d. The duties of citizens to fight for their country, is too sacred a one to be peddled off by buying up the refuse of other states.

3. It is unjust to the brave soldiers and volunteers who are fighting as those who compose this army do, to place them on a par with the class of recruits you are after.

4th. The negro is in a transition state, and is not the equal of the white man.

5th. He is liberated from bondage by act of war; and the armies in the field are entitled to all his assistance in labor and fighting, in addition to the proper quotas of the States.

6th. This bidding and bantering for recruits, white and black, has delayed the re-inforcement of our armies at the times when such reinforcements would have enabled us to make our successes permanent.

7th. The law is an experiment, which, pending war, is unwise and unsafe, and has delayed the universal draft, which I firmly believe will become necessary, to overcome the wide-spread resistance of our men; and I also believe the universal

draft will be wise and beneficial; for, under the providence of God, it will separate the sheep from the goats, and demonstrate what citizens will fight for their country and what will talk.

No one will infer from this that I am not a friend of the negro as well as the white race. I contend that the treason and rebellion of the master freed the slave, and the armies I have commanded have conducted to safe points more negroes than those of any general officer in the army; but I prefer negroes for janitors, cooks, teamsters and servants; others gradually to experiment in the art of the soldier, beginning with the duties of local garrisons such as we had at Memphis, Vicksburg, Natchez, Nashville and Chattanooga; but I would not draw on the poor race for too large a proportion of its active, athletic young men, for some must remain to seek new homes and provide for the old and young—the feeble and helpless.

These are some of my peculiar notions, but I assure you they are shared by a large proportion of our fighting men.

General Sherman was deposed from the control of a department, some two years since, because he was supposed to be crazy; but from the above it will be seen that there is some method in his madness.

## Southern View of the Burning of Chambersburg.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Aug. 5.] The feeling of magnanimous forbearance is at length exhausted. Overwrought humanity has quitted the merciful seat and given place to the spirit of revenge. We are Christians, long suffering and forbearing Christians. We are soldiers, educators and humanists; but we are also men, with the feelings, moral obligations and rights of men. Like a father, we have wept over Chambersburg; twice before have we wept over Chambersburg; twice ere this have we had the opportunity to retaliate upon Pennsylvania the ten thousand cruel and inhuman atrocities committed by the Federal troops in the South.

On each occasion, in pursuance of a just retaliation and without violating the laws of war, we might have burned her cities and laid waste with fire and sword the rich and beautiful valley of the Cumberland. In this densely populated, highly improved and fertile valley we might have destroyed and carried off more private property, burnt more houses, turned out of doors to starve, more women and children, and inflicted, in every form, more human misery and wretchedness in a week than could the Federals in a month in any section of like extent in the South.

We magnanimously forbore to do so, as we do not war upon women. The piteous appeals of the weak and defenseless melt and unnerve the sternest and grimmest soldiers, and we yield to pity what we would not surrender to force. We are too proud to be cruel, too proud to tread upon the worm; to break the bruised reed, to insult and oppress the weak and downfallen. On each of the former occasions we should, as an act of even-handed justice, have retaliated on Pennsylvania the savage atrocities she has helped to inflict upon the South.

We should thereby have taught the North the salutary lesson that savage warfare is a game that two can play at. Had we done it is probable that she would have abstained in some measure from perpetrating the murders, rapes, and robberies that still mark with infamy the march of her armies through the South. We may operate on her fears, but not on her humanity or sense of justice. We no doubt hoped that the example of our generous and Christian forbearance, our chivalry and humanity, our respect for the usages of civilized warfare and national law, would not be lost upon them; and that, in future, they would imitate our example, and conduct the invasion of the South more like civilized men and Christians, and less like demons and savages—but we hoped in vain.

Their subsequent course has been more un-Christian, more openly violative of the laws of war, the injunctions of Christianity and the feelings of humanity than it was before we thus spared them. A course of duty—duty no longer to be neglected or delayed—accounts for, and will forever justify the burning of Chambersburg. This is but the beginning of the end. We know that this burning will render you more cruel than ever—that you will try to lay waste the entire South, to subjugate it, to confiscate our lands; to make your negro soldiers a police guard to insult, watch and rule the native whites. Nine out of ten of our men and all of our women, would prefer death to such subjugation. You have not made us des-

perate, for we are full of hope, and become the more hopeful as you become more cruel.

Yes, if the worst comes to the worst, we will leave the South as a field for you to devastate—if you can find anything to devastate—for you to plunder and thieve in, where you have left anything unstolen, with none to oppose your onward march but women and children and aged men; while our regiments, who would in such cases number almost, or quite a million—say half a million at least—divided into many separate commands, all breathing vengeance, and thirsting for blood, booty and retaliation, will march into the North and Northwest, where there is a rich town or village at every five miles; where munitions of war and provisions of all kinds abound; where more than Asiatic wealth invites the raider and plunderer; where no lack of operations, no wagons or other means of transportation will be needed.

We will leave the South for you to glean in, while we gather rich harvests in the North. You cannot invade, subjugate and hold the South, and at the same time defend the North. Our armies would meet but little opposition unless you gave up the South, and to give up all your possessions in the South would end the war, and that is all we ask. There are several other articles in these papers which I would like to send you, as I cannot get leave to send the papers, but must defer them till to-morrow. I have just learned that by explosion of the ammunition boat at City Point to-day, about two hundred persons are supposed to have been killed; at least that number are known to have been missing.

## "Banning the Churches"—Banishment of the Catholic Bishop of Natchez.

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer.] We publish below a portion of a private letter written by a gentleman of Natchez to a friend in this city. It discloses the fact that the War Department is banning other churches South than that of the Methodist. The Catholic Bishop of Natchez was required to go under arrest, and was placed in the small town of Vidalia, for refusing to pray as the General Commandant ordered:

"The greatest excitement was on yesterday (July 29). You are aware that some time ago there was an order issued here for all the clergy to read prayers for the President of the United States in their respective churches, on every Sunday, under pain, if not complied with, that offenders were to be sent out of their lines, and their churches closed and taken possession of by the military. This order caused some correspondence between the Bishop and the Gen. Of course the Bishop could not comply with the order; the result was an order issued yesterday, banishing the Bishop from Natchez, and requiring him to report by 12 o'clock to the Provost Marshal at Vidalia, to remain until the matter is heard from, from Washington. The part of the order that closed the church is, by order of the General, suspended. The church is opened as usual.

"I went to see the Bishop early in the morning. I never witnessed such a sight as when the orphans came to bid their father good-by. About 11 o'clock, the Bishop, Father Granite, and Father Charles, got into a carriage, and Mr. Quigley, Mr. Owen and myself stepped into another and drove down to the ferry. When we reached Mr. Grant's store, I was surprised to see all the ladies, old and young, waiting for the Bishop to take a last farewell. We got to the ferry, but the boat was not over; so the ladies had time to get to the landing. They all gathered around the Bishop, and when the boat came and rang the bell to leave they all fell on their knees, and for the last time the poor Bishop gave them his blessing. O, I wish you could have witnessed that scene. I cannot describe it.

"We then got on the boat, and the Bishop reported to the Provost Marshal. He was assigned quarters at the hotel for the present, until other quarters were provided. The Bishop is to have the full freedom of the city of Vidalia, but not to go out of the lines. He is not to hold other than verbal intercourse with any one. He was allowed to take any clothing he wanted, and also a servant.

"The Bishop was the only person, during all the time, that seemed in good spirits. He will have a very lonely time of it, as there are no troops in Vidalia but colored ones."

The Abolitionists are mourning over the colored troops killed in the assault on Petersburg. We advise them not to go in black for the negroes, as they can do it themselves.—Prentice.

## The Coming Draft—Important Information.

We find in one of our contemporaries, the following full and comprehensive synopsis of the requirements of the conscription law. It contains full and reliable information concerning volunteers, substitutes and drafted men:

1st. The exemptions of the original act, to fathers of motherless children under twelve years of age, to some members of families in which others are in service, to sons who are the support of aged and destitute parents, and for other similar causes, are no longer allowed.

2. The commutation clause, by which a person who is drafted might be released upon the payment of three hundred dollars is repealed, with a single exception in the case of persons conscientiously opposed to bearing arms, who may commute upon the payment of three hundred dollars, or otherwise be considered as non-combatants, and if drafted, be held to serve for hospital duty, or in the care of freedmen. Persons physically incapable of duty are exempted upon surgical examination.

3. The division of citizens into two classes, the second class not being liable to serve until the first class was exhausted is abolished, and all citizens liable are enrolled in the same class, and may be held to similar service.

4th. The age of liability to the draft is between twenty and forty-five years.

5th. Volunteers may be received who are between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years. Youth between sixteen and eighteen years may be received with the consent of their parents or guardians. The enlistment of boys under sixteen years of age, is a military offense in the officer who recruits them, who may be punished therefor.

6th. Volunteers, white or colored, receive the Government bounty, according to the time for which they agree to serve. For one year, \$100, for two years, \$200 for three years, \$300. These amounts are paid in installments. To a one year's volunteer, when mustered in, \$33.33; to a two year's recruit, \$66.66; to a three year's recruit, \$100. Two other installments are to be paid to the volunteer or his representative during his term of service.

7th. The monthly pay of a private, either volunteer, substitute, or drafted man, is sixteen dollars a month. Non-commissioned and commissioned officers receive an increase pay beyond the rates which were allowed before the last session of Congress.

8th. Drafted men receive no bounty from the Federal Government, and we presume they will not receive any from the town or county to which they belong.

9th. Substitutes for drafted men, or men liable to draft, furnished in advance of the draft, receive no bounties from the government.

10th. Representative substitutes for persons not liable to draft, are considered as volunteers, and receive the Federal and municipal bounties, and whatever their principal agrees to pay them.

11th. Volunteers and representative substitutes may be mustered in for one, two or three years, as they may elect.

12th. Substitutes for drafted men, or men liable to draft, may be accepted for one, two or three years, according to the time that the principal would have to serve, or as he may engage them.

13th. Representative substitutes for persons not liable to draft, may be persons who are liable to draft.

14th. Substitutes for persons liable to draft, furnished before drafting, must not themselves be liable. They may either be aliens, veterans or sailors who have served two years and been honorably discharged, or the citizens of the States in rebellion, or slaves of rebel owners.

15th. The principal shall be exempt from draft during the time that the said substitute is not liable to draft, not exceeding the time for which the substitutes shall be accepted.

16. The United States no longer pays premiums for the procurement of recruits.

17. Men furnished under the call of July 18th, 1861, whether enlisted for one, two or three years, as well as all excess or deficiency of three years' men on calls heretofore made, will count as man for man. The equalization of the amount of military service rendered by the different States and parts of States will be effected hereafter.

18. A substitute for an enrolled man is credited, and, therefore, deducted from the quota of the locality he enlists in.

19. An enrolled man furnishing an alien as a substitute, is exempt for the time of service of the substitute, unless the alien becomes a citizen, or declares himself a citizen.—(Continued on Fourth Page.)