

# The Potter Journal

Devoted to the Principles of True Democracy, and the Dissemination of Morality, Literature and News.

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## OUT ON PICKET.

Out on picket—  
Crouching, hiding 'neath the thicket,  
Scared at every twig that falls;  
Oh, confound me!  
I can hear them all around me—  
Hear those awful Minnie balls.

"Ping! ping! ping!"  
Oh, what a deadly song they sing!  
Why do they shoot at me, I wonder?  
"Say, old fellow!"  
You whose pants are striped with yellow,  
D'you you want to kill me dead as thunder?

"Louisiana,  
That's a kind of off-hand manner,  
Shooting men you never knew.  
Now, just stop that,  
Else you see I'll take a pop at  
All such larking men as you."

Past me rushing  
Another ball into the bushes.  
"Look out for a leaden pebble!"  
So exclaiming  
This to him while I was aiming—  
"Crack!" and dying lay the rebel!

So on picket,  
Peeping from behind the thicket,  
All day long we kept up shooting:  
How exciting,  
After once you're used to fighting,  
Taking rebels off their footing!

'Tis delightful!  
Though at first it seems so frightful  
Killing people in this manner:  
Just remember,  
It was only last December  
That they spat upon our banner!

## SETH STARK.

"It's no use torkin' 'bout it, dad. I'm goin' to fire into the enemy. The Union is in danger—Varmout is in danger, and Hardacreable in partickler is in danger, and I'm bound for to go. That's what I told the old man, Mister Officer, and that's what I tell you. If you won't list me, I'll find out another 'crutin' station darned quick."

This speech of a hard fisted, young Green Mountain Boy, with a rifle in his hand, was not long since made to an officer of a recruiting station in Montpelier, Vt., who had interposed some objections to the stout lad's enlisting, to wit: That his visual organs presented a strong case of strabismus, that his body was slightly angular, that his style of speech and manner rather shocked the eyes of the gentlemanly lieutenant, and who had thrown down Blackstone, Kent, Coke, and other law commentators for a sword and epaulettes; and also because the applicant was incurably left handed.

"How old are you?" asked the lieutenant.

"Twenty, last grass."

"What has been your business?"

"Cuttin' logs, and shootin' bars in winter and drivin' cattle and mowin' grass in summer."

"Shooting bears eh?"

"Yeas, shootin' bars."

"Then I suppose you would take aim at a tree in one direction and hit the bear in another," said the officer derisively.—"I am afraid, in battle you would be much less dangerous in the enemy's ranks than in ours."

"I know that I'm a little bit cock eyed, Mister Officer, but I've fished many a bar at more than a hundred rods, and at turkey shoots they allurs try to count me out."

"Count you out; what do you mean by that?"

"Waal, I ain't so profertable to the turkey match shooters as some of the rest of 'em, for when I get this 'ere rifle o' dad's on one of the birds, you can reckon that he's mine."

"Are you also a good shot with the musket?"

"Don't know nothin' 'bout that kind of shootin' iron."

"But ours is an infantry company, and we use smooth bores," suggested the officer.

"Waal, Captain if you don't kalkilate to go to kill, I'm not your man. If you dew, you'd better take me and my bar-killer."

"Oh, it's impossible that you should appear in our ranks with a dark barrelled weapon. You must leave that weapon behind."

"Can't dew it Captain. Where the bar-killer goes, there I goes. Never go no-where without it. You see it's a sure thing."

"I have no evidence of it beyond your word, said the officer, beginning to be interested in the somewhat uncouth individual. "But I'll put your shooting skill to the test, and if you can make three as good shots as three sharp shooters in my corps, I'll engage to enlist you bar killer and all."

"Give us your fist for that Mister Officer," returned the raw recruit, extending his rough, tan-browned, and freckled hand. "If you've got three men in your corps that kin out shoot Seth Stark, I'll go hum agin and help dad ker-ry on the farm."

The match was forthwith got, and three privates of the Ethan Allen Rangers

were selected for the trial. Each of them was famed as a sharp shooter, and particularly well skilled in the use of the rifle.

A target, representing an Indian chief, was placed at one hundred rods distant; at the appointed time, the three already recruiting rangers and Seth Stark took their positions in front of the company of Rangers to witness the apparently unequal contest. Two men were detailed to stand within six rods on either side of the painted Indian, to make a record of each successive shot, and before they left the ranks their comrades made many good natured but satirical remarks at the expense of the cross eyed volunteer.

"Bill Burton; be keeful where you stand when that chap blazes away," said a ranger to one of the target, "the safest place will be behind it."

"Better get under the bank, Bill, there's no calculating where his bullets may strike," said another.

"I think the only sure place is in the rear of the breech," said a third.

Almost every one of the corps volunteered a jocose opinion in reference to the crooked eyed, crooked framed, and otherwise crooked backwoodsman, some of which reached the ears of Seth, who suddenly facing the company, while they were at ease, said: "Perhaps as how some o' y'z wud like to bet a sum on them 'ere three sharp shooters?" said Seth, pulling out from his capacious looking pocket a greasy wallet, which seemed rather plethora of bank bills, considering the coarse, seedy gear of the rifleman. "I'll lay ye anything from a sheet of gingerbread to a tew dollar bill that I'll take the 'set out o' you or your sharp shooters at a rifle shootin', warrin', huggin', regular knock down and drag out fight."

"I'll bet you a dollar you don't hit the board once out of three times," said one of the rangers.

"Doubt—I'll take the bet, and double the stakes," replied Seth, drawing forth a one dollar note, and placing it in the hands of the orderly sergeant, while the ranger did likewise.

"I'll go you a five that you will be beaten at every round," said another ranger.

"Plank your sweet skin," said Seth.

"I'll lay a five that you don't put a single shot within the outer circle of the bull's eye," offered a third.

"Waal, I don't mind taking that 'ere bet tew," said Seth producing the money.

"I'll go fifty cents you don't hit the bull's eye once," said a more cautious member of the Ethan Allen corps.

"Plank your money, gentlemen—I'm good for a dozen or tew more just such wagers—hev 'em ail down, Mister Sergeant, so there can't be no mistake."

Seth's invitation was responded to by nearly half the members of the company and on figuring up the aggregate of all the stakes, it amounted to nearly two hundred dollars; but at each successive wager the chances of his winning were made much smaller, as the last one that he had offered him required him to hit the bull's eye twice out of three rounds, and to beat the antagonists.

"Naow, Gentlemen," said Seth. "I just want to make one more bet. I'll lay ten dollars that I'll hit the bull's eye three times providin' the winner shall go over to the tavern and spend the stades in treatin' the company."

"I'll take the wager," said the captain of the rangers, stepping forward and depositing the stakes. "If I win I shall not only cheerfully disburse it in the manner you suggest, but receive you in the corps, and furnish you with a uniform free of expense."

"Good on your head Captain" was the reply of the sharpshooter, "and if I don't win I'll be raound to-morrow and stand treat agin."

The three sharp shooters suggested the idea of having a rest for rifles as the range was long and the slightest variation of the aim would carry the shot wide of the mark. But Seth argued against it, and appealed to the commander.

"You see Captain," said he, "it's all very well at a turkey shoot, but it won't do in the woods, when the bars and wolves are about; and rather guess 'twouldnt do on the battle field, unless every solair could kerry a nigger as they do at the South to use as rests for their shooting irons."

This argument prevailed and he decided that the shots should be made off hand and that ten seconds should be allowed in taking aim, after the piece was at the shoulder.

The Indian chief was painted in gaudy colors, size of life, and the bull's eye was placed on the left side in the region of the heart, and three circles drawn around it, and it was understood that from the centre of the bull's eye each shot should be measured. The sharp shooters and the backwoodsman drew lots for the first fire, which fell to the former, who took his position, and in a ready and adroit manner opened the contest, and his shot

together with the others, were as follows, according to the report of the target markers:

Ranger No. 1.—Was two inches from the outer circle, grazing the left arm.

Ranger No. 2.—Ball struck within one inch of the inner circle to the right—a fatal shot.

Ranger No. 3.—Put a half moon in the bull's eye—fatal.

Seth Stark.—Shot perforated centre bull's eye.

There was a considerable huzzaring at the result of the first round, especially among the spectators, and those of the rangers who had not risked anything on the result.

On the second round the three rangers were scored as having made better shots than before but no score for the young backwoodsman.

It was now the better's turn to huzza, although several of them had lost at Seth's first shot.

The third round resulted even better for the rangers than either of the others, and the score was brought in accordingly but there appeared to be a score for the would be recruit, the shout was terrible, and many rude jests were made at Seth's expense.

"Mought you not as well wait till the umpires have decided before you begun to larf at a fellow?" ejaculated Seth. "I've seen many a turkey trial decided agin the scorers."

"Why, you don't suppose to say that you've hit the target but once?" asked a ranger who had a V staked on the result.

"Mebbe I don't s'pose so, and mebbe I dew," replied Seth.

"I'll go you two to one," said the confident soldier.

"Take my advice and don't you dew against ten!" ejaculated the fellow.

"Oh, ho! don't dare, eh? can't go oue against ten!" ejaculated the fellow.

"Waal, you kin put up as many tens as you please, and if I can't kiver 'em why you kin pick up your change agin, that's all."

"Try him! try him! he's only tryin' the brag game!" cried several of the ranger's comrades.

"I'll go my pile on that," said the confident one, and he forthwith produced sixty dollars which Seth covered with only six, but then it must be remembered that odds was terribly against him; inasmuch as the scorer's report, if confirmed, would of course give the stakes to his antagonist.

The umpires, consisting of an officer of the company, who had no special interest in the result, and two civilians, who were experts in the sports of rifle shooting, forthwith visited the targets, and examined the several hits, and on comparing them with the record of the scorers it appeared there was no mistake.

"That hit in the bull's eye," remarked one of the civil umpires, is a magnificent shot, "but how so small a slug as that greeny's rifle carries could make so large an orifice as that, is quite a mystery to me."

"I agree with you there," said the other civilian.

"It is a remarkable perforation, certainly," remarked the officer of the rangers, examining the hole with scrutiny, and then turning the target around they were all struck with the fact that the shot of the smallest bored rifle had really pierced much the largest hole through the board.

"See here, too," he continued, the corresponding hole in the trunk of the tree against which the counterfeit semblance of the savage chieftain had rested, "can it be possible that two bullets have passed through this orifice?"

The suggestion was improbable, but somewhat startling. It was again examined with more scrutiny than before; and for the purpose of solving the least doubt in the matter, it was agreed to cut around the corresponding perforation in the tree, and to the depth of the spot where the bullet had lodged. A carpenter was forthwith sent for with instructions to bring the proper tools for the job. In a few minutes one was produced, and he went to work with mortising chisel and mallet under the direction of the umpires, and after toiling some ten or fifteen minutes he removed a cube of wood from the tree of about five inches in depth, which on being split open carefully, three slugs pressed firmly against each other with but little variation from a true line, were taken therefrom, to the wonder and surprise of the umpires. The doubt was solved. Seth Stark's bullets had traversed the same line and lodged together.

The huzzas and laughs were now upon our side, but the contest was so complete and decisive—the victory so complete that even those who had lost money in the result, joined with the others in rendering all homage to the eccentric backwoodsman. Seth was forthwith enrolled in the ranks of the company, and though he appeared very awkward at first in the ranks he is fast requiring the positions and bearing of a well drilled soldier.—The greatest difficulty he has to encounter

is his left handedness, while his crooked eye only troubles his drill officer.

"Eyes front" appears always "eyes left," and "eyes right" always seems to be "eyes front."

The Ethan Allen Guards have been recently mustered into the service of Uncle Sam; and if they ever get into an engagement, woe be to the rebel who becomes targets of Seth Stark the Green Mountain Sharp Shooter.

### Secretary Chase's Report.

The following is the substance of the Report of Secretary Chase. We commend it to our readers for the encouraging statements it contains of the financial affairs of the country.

Mr. Chase begins by stating the several expedients resorted to to meet the estimates made last Summer for the year ending June 1862, of \$318,519,581 87. With these the public are familiar. To provide, first, for immediate exigencies, Treasury notes for \$14,019,034 66, payable in two years, at 6 per cent. interest, and another amount of \$12,877,850, at the same rate of interest, but payable in 60 days, were issued. Next an arrangement was made with the Banks, by which two loans of \$50,000,000 each in August and October, and the loan of November 10, on twenty years six per cent. bonds of \$45,795,478 48 were effected; and in addition to these the demand Treasury notes in circulation and on deposit of \$24,560,325, made an aggregate sum of \$197,242,588 14.

The receipts from the Customs have not been so large as the Secretary had estimated by about \$25,500,000. But the appropriations now asked for making all due allowance, from the experience of the last six months are \$213,904,427 68.

The Secretary recommended economy, retrenchment and reform. Unnecessary offices should be abolished, and salaries reduced wherever it is practicable. The property of Rebels, he thinks should be made to pay, as far as possible, for the war they have provoked, and be confiscated to that end. Slaves, he suggests, may be put to a better use than mere confiscation, by being emancipated and put to useful labor on wages.

The only change he proposes in the tariff, is to augment the duty on brown sugar 23 cents per pound; to three cents on clayed sugar; to twenty cents per pound on green tea, and five cents on coffee. The income tax he advises be increased, so that with that and duties on stills, distilled liquors, tobacco, bank notes, carriages, legacies, &c., a sum of \$50,000,000 may be realized. And still more important suggestions, in the issue of Treasury Notes, as currency, is made by the Secretary. The circulation of the Banks of the United States, he estimates at something over \$200,000,000, of which \$150,000,000 is in the loyal States. This he considers a loan without interest, from the people to the banks, and it is deserving of consideration, whether this advantage may not be transferred to the Government. There are two ways of doing this; first a gradual withdrawal of bank notes from circulation, and issuing in their stead United States notes, payable in coin in amount sufficient for currency. The other is the preparation and delivery to institutions and associations of United States notes, convertible into coin on the pledge of United States bonds and under other needful regulations. The first plan he thinks liable to the hazard of panics, and all their evil consequences, and therefore objectionable. The second he approves of, as giving a uniform and sound currency, safe against depreciation, protected against losses in discounts and exchanges, and affording an alleviation to the burdens of the war in the increased facilities for obtaining the loans required. Such notes would be the safest currency the country ever had, available in all parts of the Union, as the notes would be receivable for everything but duties. The plan is recommended with the greatest confidence. Of the power of Congress to put such a plan in operation he has no doubt.

The total receipts for the year are estimated at \$229,501,094 38, of which amount \$213,904,427 68 must be provided for by loans. The estimate for July, 1863, should the war last so long, is \$654,980,920 51. Add to this the interest on what we already owe, and our debt will be about \$900,000,000. Of our ability to raise that sum there can be no question, and, according to the time it has hitherto taken the nation to pay off its debts, this will be liquidated in about 30 years.

Such are the main points of the Report, with an additional recommendation in favor of opening trade as fast as we penetrate into the South. The document bears the high character which Mr. Chase has earned as a financial officer since the portfolio of the Treasury has been in his hands.

### Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

The report of the Hon. Caleb B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior, occupies eight and a half closely printed octavo pages. A great decline in the business of the Department has taken place during the fiscal year, attributable to the national difficulties. The decline has most sensibly affected the operations of the General Land Office. In all the Northern States in which any of the public lands are situated the war has almost entirely suspended sales.

On the 30th September, 1861, there were 55,555,595,025 acres of the public lands which had been surveyed but not proclaimed for public sale. The lands surveyed and offered at public sale previous to that time, and then subject to private entry amounted to 78,662,735,64 acres, making an aggregate of public lands surveyed and ready for sale of 134,218,330,89 acres.

Since the last annual report no proclamation for a public sale of lands has been made, as the quantity already subject to private entry is more than sufficient to meet the wants of the country. During the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1861, and the first quarter of the current year, ending 30th September, 1861, 5,289,532.31 acres have been disposed of. Of this amount 1,021,493.77 acres, have been certified to the States of Minnesota, Michigan and Louisiana, under railroad grants made by Congress; 606,004.47 acres have been certified to States as swamp lands; 2,153,940 acres have been located with bounty land warrants, and 1,508,004.07 acres have been sold for cash, producing \$925,299.42.

From this statement it will be seen that the public lands have ceased substantially, for the present at least, to be a source of revenue to the government. During the year there has been certified to the States for railroad construction 9,998,407 acres. The grants of swamp and overflowed lands cover an aggregate of 57,895,577 acres.

The bounty land warrants and scrips issued under different acts of Congress, previous to September 30, 1861, embrace an aggregate of 71,717,172 acres of land. Unless Congress shall authorize the issue of additional warrants, this drain upon the public lands will soon cease.

The Secretary does not favor the issuing of bounty land warrants to the volunteers engaged in the present war, on the ground that a warrant for one hundred and sixty acres to each volunteer would absorb over one hundred millions of acres, which would deprive the government of all income from this source, and would afford but little benefit to the volunteers. The warrants are now sold in the market at about fifty cents per acre, and if this large additional quantity was thrown in the market the prices would be reduced to a merely nominal sum. The bounty to the government, dispensed to the volunteers in this form, would fail to realize to them the advantages intended. All the best lands would fall into the hands of speculators, who would be enabled to purchase them at a nominal price and sell them to settlers at full prices as fast as emigration to the West would require them for settlement. If additional compensation for the volunteers beyond the amount now authorized by law, shall be deemed just and proper, the Secretary suggests that it will be better both for the government and the volunteers to make such compensation by a direct appropriation of money, or of government securities. This would give them the full benefit of the appropriations made, while the government would, by keeping the lands until they shall be demanded for settlement, realize their full value.

Affairs with the Indian tribes are in a very unsettled and unsatisfactory condition. The large tribes of Cherokees, Chickasaws and Choctaws, situated in the southern superintendency, have suspended all intercourse with the agents of the United States. The superintendent and agents appointed since the 4th of March last have been unable to reach their posts or to hold any intercourse with the tribes under their charge. The superintendent and some, if not all, of the agents of the southern superintendency, who were in office on the 4th of March, have assumed an attitude of revolt to the United States, and have instigated the Indians to acts of hostility.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs expresses the opinion, in which the Secretary concurs, that Congress should make the usual appropriations to comply with the treaty stipulations of the United States, that the means may exist to pay them, if circumstances and the condition of the tribes shall hereafter render it proper and expedient to do so.

The whole number of pensioners of all classes on the rolls of the pension bureau on the 30th of June, 1861, was 10,700, requiring for their payment an aggregate of \$957,772 08.

### Report of the Postmaster General.

The Postmaster General's report states that the whole number of post offices in the United States on the 30th of June, 1861, was 28,586; and that the entire number of cases acted upon during the same period was 10,638, including appointments made by the Postmaster General was 9,235, and the number by the President during the same period 337.

The aggregate earnings of the different trans-Atlantic steamship lines during the year ending June 30, 1861, were \$302,887 63.

The expenditures of the department in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1861, amounted to \$13,696,759 11.

The expenditures were 14,874,772 89, showing a decrease in 1861 of \$1,268,013 78.

The gross revenue for the year 1861, including receipts from letter carriers and from foreign postages, amounted to \$8,349,296 40.

The estimated deficiency of means for 1861, as presented in the annual report for this department December 3, 1859, was \$5,988,424 04.—Deducting the actual deficiency, \$4,651,966 98, and there is an excess of estimated deficiency over actual deficiency of \$1,436,457 06.

The revenue from all sources during the year 1860, amount—	\$9,218,067 40
The revenue from all sources during the year 1861, amount—	9,049,296 40
Decrease of revenue for 1861,	\$168,771 00

The net proceeds from post offices in the loyal States for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1860, of \$3,688,690 56, and in 1861, \$3,301,483 08, showing an increase in 1861 of \$112,706 52; and in the disloyal States in 1860, \$820,546 57, and in 1861, \$677,706 70, showing a decrease in 1861 of \$142,839 81.

The decrease in 1861 from the net proceeds of 1860 in all the States appears to be \$30,043 29.

Statement of the receipts and expenditures of the disloyal States and amount pledged to be due to contractors; also, the amount actually paid to contractors from July 1, 1860, to May 31, 1861:

Total expenditure	\$3,699,150 47
Total gross receipts	1,241,220 05
Excess of expenditures over receipts	\$2,457,930 42
Amount alleged to be due to contractors for transportation	3,135,637 12
Amount actually paid for transportation	2,323,061 63
Leaving amount alleged to be due and unpaid	\$812,595 49

The estimate of the total expenditures for 1862 is somewhat less than those of previous years heretofore submitted. This difference arises from the fact that only partial estimates are made for the cost of postal service in states where it is now suspended.

The appropriation for defenses in 1862 was \$5,391,350 63, while the amount estimated to be required from the Treasury for 1860, is \$8,145,000.

The whole number of ordinary dead letters received and examined during the year was about 2,550,000. The number of these letters containing money, which were registered and sent out during the year ending June 30, 1861, was 10,580.

The number of dead letters returned unopened to foreign countries during the fiscal year was 111,147, which added to the number of domestic letters (103,880), sent out as above, gives the whole number sent out from the dead letter office for the year, 215,033. The result of successful investigation in 7,560 cases, confirms the past experience of the department, that the failure of a letter to reach its destination is, in the vast majority of instances, the fault alone of the writer or sender. Out of the above 7,560 valuable dead letters, 3,095 were directed to the wrong office, 467 were imperfectly addressed; 612 were directed to transient persons; 257 to parties who had changed their residences; 821 were addressed to fictitious persons or firms; 83 were uncalled for; 10 without any directions; 2,136 were not mailed for want of postage stamps; 79 were mis-sent; and for the failure of postmasters to deliver 133, no satisfactory reason was assigned. The department therefore can justly be held responsible for the non-delivery of but 212 of these letters. Much other valuable data is given on this subject, and it is worthy of remark that out of 76,769 letters, before alluded to, originating in the loyal States, and addressed to residents of disloyal States 40,000 could not be returned, either because the signature of the writer was incomplete, or because the letter contained no clue to his residence. The experience of the Department shows that a large proportion of domestic letters written by educated persons, and particularly women, are deficient in one or both of these respects. In view of these and other facts the Postmaster General suggests that valuable dead letters, when returned to their owners, should

Why is a palm-tree like chronology?—Because it furnishes dates.

Why is the world like a piano?—Cause it is full of sharps and flats.