The Potter Journal.

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

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***Devoted to the cause of Republicanism, the interests of Agriculture, the advancement of Education, and the best good of Potter county. Owning no guide except that of Principle, it will endeaver to aid in the work of more fully Freedomizing our Country.

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REFERENCES.—Hon. ISAAC BENSON, Hon. A. G. OLMSTED, J. S. MANN, Esq., F. W. KNOX, Esq.
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jy13 1864.

A LETTER.

I got a letter not long ago,
Three close pages the letter filled,
Telling me how in a recent fight
A gallant friend of mine was killed;
And it bade me tell the woman he loved—
There the words seemed somehow to blend—
For as I read it my heart was moved
With grief for her and the loss of my friend,

That night was the night of a brilliant ball,
And I knew that I should meet her there:
Oh! how stately and grand she looked,
With milk-white pearls in her shining hair!
How like a queen she moved through the rooms
Mid the hum, and heat, and gaslight's glare,
Where the mingled odors of rich perfumes
Hang heavily on the indolent air!

"Ah, where are her tho's?" I asked of myself,
As past she whirled in the mazy dance,
Her bright eyes sparkling, her cheeks aglow,
And a smile on her lip as she met my glance.
"Does she ever think of the battle-plain,
Of the terrible cannon's fiery breath,
Has never a white face, fraught with pain,
Chilled her heart in a vision of death?"

I took her hand for the last quadrille,
And in the pauses we talked of the past,
Talked of her lover, our old school-days;
Yet ever the bugle's ringing blast
Sounded to me in the cornet's strain. [light,
And in place of that scene with its flood of
Wrecks of battle and heaps of slain
Loomed like shadows before my sight.

The dull dance ended; the music ceased;
The night waned close on the morning hours,
A languor lurked in the women's eyes;
And an oder of crushed and withered flowers
Had chased from the air its rich perfumes,
As I drew her jeweled arm through my own;
And led her out of the lighted rooms,
That we might speak together alone.

We stood where the failing moon looked in
Through the dim conservatory's shade—
There I told her the sad, sad news,
And saw the rose on her young cheek fade,
Saw her droop like a blighted flower,
With her white hands clasped on her heaving breast:
"O God!" I said, in thine own good hour,
End this strife as to thee seems best!"

In a soldier's hospital, nursing the sick,
But a week ago I saw her last,
Wearing the "sister's" plain black garb
(O how different she looked in the past!)
And the poor lad's followed her with her eyes,
Moving among them from bed to bed—
As though she was a saint from Paradise,
And there shone a halo around her head.

ADDRESS
OF THE
UNION STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

To the People of Pennsylvania:

FELLOW CITIZENS:—The result of the recent election on the amendment to the Constitution of the State, allowing our soldiers in the field to vote, is gratifying, inasmuch as it shows that the great heart of the Commonwealth is right in the fearful and bloody struggle now going on to preserve the Republic, and that these brave men are worthy to help govern the country for which they make so many sacrifices and suffer so many privations.

The friends of the Union have brought about this result, while the opposition have used their powerful organization to prevent it, with the evident object of weakening the Union armies by disfranchising the soldier, and thereby strengthening themselves at the approaching Presidential election; and in connection with this election let us reason together.

The campaign of 1864 is now fairly opened. The issue upon which the campaign is to be made is clearly indicated. The enemies of the Government have publicly and authoritatively declared their purpose in the contest. There is no mistaking either the spirit or the object of our opponents; it is the same that impelled the chiefs of armed treason to attempt the overthrow of free government on this coninent in 1860–61. Neither time, nor reflection, nor the regard for the peace of society in the loyal States, nor the desolations which have devoured the prosperity of the South in the grip of war, have wrought any modifications of their hatred for a Government founded upon the opinions of the people expressed through the ballot-box.

It is the part of wisdom to anticipate evil, and so prepare to destroy it before it grows too formidable to overthrow. The attitude of the parties to the Prosidential contest gives rise to a serious question—the most serious of any which can engage the attention of the true patriot and good citizens. That question is briefly stated: "Shall we have lasting peace, through a vigorous prosecution of this war for national life, or interminable war through a peace based upon disunion?"

The issue is sharply defined. The utterances of the Baltimore Convention decisively declare for peace through effective war; the utterances of the Chicago Convention as decisively pronounce for the alternative presented in the question stated. They mean that, or they are without meaning. The opposition to Mr. Lincoln contemplates disunion as a cure for the ills under which we lie. His defeat would divide the continent into factious States. Nor is this mere assertion. The political history of the country for the last four years is a mass of overwhelming evidence in support of its entire, its disgraceful truth.

And first, in evidence of its truth, we have the declaration, informal, but not the less weighty, (because reiterated and unvarying,) of the rebel chiefs, that the South will not treat for peace save upon the basis of a recognition of its independence. The press of the South omits no opportunity to impress upon us, and upon the world, that peace can only come thro' recognition. Recognition is but another name for separation. And finally, every European nation has come to regard the result of this war as certain to be one of two things—either subjugation or disunion. It is the clear conviction which truth brings to every rational, enlightened mind. It is, therefore, entitled to great weight, second only to the resultant fact.

It is due to the opponents of Mr. Lincoln to state teat they pretend to believe in the probability of peace and union through some compromise, the terms of which are not clearly stated.

It will be easy to show the futility of such hopes, if it has not already been done. It will not be a difficult task to show that such a belief does not take root in conviction. The leaders of the opposition are men of great ability, and more than ordinary sagacity. They cannot, therefore, be ignorant of the facts which are of public record. Those facts effectually preclude the possibility of peace and Union through any compromise, unless the terms involve recognition, and that would be disunion.

But let us thoroughly consider this question of peace through compromise. It is reasonable to suppose that the chiefs of the rebellion would have accepted terms in the outset, if at all. It is alleged by our opponents that Mr. Lincoln hurried the nation into war, not only without constitutional warrant, but even against the wishes of the rebel chiefs themselves. They reproach the Congress then in session with having refused to adopt the Crittenden compromise measure, and thus forced the South into rebellion in exercise of the right of self defence and self preservation. It is unnecessary to pause to show that all this transpired while the reins of power were held by Southern men, most of whom are now in arms against the Government. Let that pass. The question hinges upon the responsibility of the rejection of the Crittenden compromise. It was rejected.—By whom? Reference to page 199, part first, of the *Congressional Globe* of the second session of the thirty-sixth Congress will place the responsibility for the rejection of that compromise where it properly belongs. It will be seen that the Crittenden compromise was defeated by the substitution (in effect) of what is known as the "Clark amendment." The record shows that the vote on the motion to substitute was—yeas 25, nayes 30. The vote on the adoption of the Clark proposition, taken directly afterwards, was—yeas 55, nays, 23. The presumption would be, naturally, that if the South had votes enough to reject the substitute, it would also have had enough to reject the proposition when offered independently. There was a falling off in the negative vote on the proposition, as compared with that on the first motion to substitute, of *seven* votes. This is accounted for by the fact that Senators Benjamin and Slidell, of Louisiana; Wigfall and Hemphill, of Texas; Iverson, of Georgia, and Johnson, of Arkansas—*six Southern Senators—sat in their seats and refused to vote.* Had these six Southern men voted "no," the Clark proposition would have been defeated by a majority of four votes, and the Crittenden compromise could have been taken up and carried by the same majority. It appears of record, then, that the Crittenden compromise was rejected because six of the leading Senators from the South virtually refused to vote for it. A motion to reconsider was carried some months later, and a direct vote upon the compromise was taken. The proposition was lost by a single vote. But one of the six Senators referred to voted on that occasion, nearly all of them having withdrawn on the secession of their respective States. Had they remained to vote for the compromise, it would have been adopted.

The chief object in alluding to this matter is to show that when, before the overt act of war was committed, the South had the election of compromise or war, she, through her highest dignitaries, deliberately chose war.

The South would not have compromise then. Is it reasonable to suppose that it would accept such an accommodation now? Her rulers have the Southern masses by the throat, and can mould them to their imperious will. They are playing for a great stake. They could not withdraw from the contest now unless forced into withdrawal. Pride, love of power—both inbred and fostered by the institutions of slavery—would force them to elect, as they declare they do elect, extermination rather than submission and Union.

Early in the struggle, before the Government had taken the aggressive, President Lincoln offered peace on the most liberal terms. The terms were, briefly, the laying down of arms and the abandonment of their hostile attitude. The world knows how these terms were met. It need not be repeated here. The desolation of Southern fields, and the vacant seats in thousands of homes, both North and South, bear the record. Still later, amnesty and pardon have been offered by the President; still the chiefs of the rebellion abate not a tittle of their energy to maintain themselves in their wrong. They demand recognition and independence of a Government they hate. Intimate knowledge of the directing minds of the rebellion teaches that they will never abandon their wicked scheme until obliged to do so by the sheer force of such iron circumstances as control the results of war.

There is no ground, then, for hope of peace through compromise; no hope of permanent peace. There is no such discharge in this war. Those who go before the country upon such vicious pretexts are not deceived themselves, however much they may deceive the ignorant and unsuspecting. To charge self-deception upon them in a matter so unmistakably clear would be equivalent to charging them with imbecility. They do not deceive themselves. This pretext of seeking the defeat of Mr. Lincoln that peace may return to our borders, covers a sinister purpose. If they wish peace they can have it but in two ways—in a cowardly abandonment of the struggle, followed by disunion, or by a more vigorous (if possible) prosecution of the war.

Thus the true issue upon whice the campaign is to be made, becomes sharply defined. None can deprecate the horrors of war or desire the return of peace more than do the warmest supporters of the National Union nominees. But they ask for and will acquiesce in no peace that is not founded upon the principles of the Declaration of Independence. They recognize greater evils than war, such as this is in which the nation is plunged.—Divide the nation geographically, and to what end do we inevitably gravitate? With the precedent and justice of secession established and acknowledged, who can presume to say that we shall not repeat the humiliating history of Mexico and the South American States? United, the common danger was, and would continue to be, our common security. Divided, the land would groan with the wreaking out of individual vengeance.—Divided, the torch and brand would never be idle along the line of division. The country would at last awake to the bitter knowledge that open, vigorous war, prosecuted with a high purpose, is a thousand times less to be dreaded than an armed peace.

As an example, a little more than a year since, when Lee, with his rebel army, invaded Pennsylvania, and when the fate of the Republic was decided by the battle of Gettysburg, how prompt wicked and designing men were to inaugurate the insurrection in New York city, trusting in the hope that the Government was not able to maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and the laws. It will be long before the blackness of the crimes committed by that conspiracy will be obliterated.

As another example, take the recent conspiracy discovered in the Northwest—the banding together in secret of a large number of men, the concentration of thirty thousand stand of arms and a large supply of ammunition. The papers of this conspiracy, which were seized, evidence too clearly that their design was, and is, the overthrow of the Republic, trusting that division and anarchy would shield them from harm, but in utter disregard of the concomitant wrongs to the people—murder, robbery, arson—in a word, desolation for the time.

Now, fellow-citizens, in both these examples, the moving spirtts are prominent men in the opposition, and controlled the nomination and platform of Chicago.

Can we hesitate—can there be any trust or confidence in men placed in nomination by such men? Men of family, hesiate; men of property, hesitate; young men, who hope to enjoy both these blessings, hesitate before you cast your votes for nominees made by such agencies.

Yet it is to such a peace as this that our opponents invite you. They ask your suffrages for a man who either is pledged to such a peace, if elected, or who is determined on a war grander in scale and bloodier in results than the world has yet witnessed. There can be but two issues out of the present difficulty. The intelligent freemen of Pennsylvania need not to be led like children. They will not fail to comprehend the nature of these issues, and to choose between them. In so choosing they choose for their children and their children's children. They can do nothing of a public nature in these pregnant times that shall not cause coming generations either to revere or despise them. The re-election of Mr. Lincoln and the election of Andrew Johnson as his associate, will indicate to the chiefs of the rebellion that the war for Union and permanent peace must go on until these ends shall be attained. It will also signify to the nations of Europe that the people of the whole United States will, soon or late, become a united people, and the Government remain, as it has heretofore been, a star of hope to all the oppressed people of the civilized world, and an everlasting monument to the wisdom of the grand old heroes who achieved it. If we could basely afford to abandon the struggle now, the world, mankind, could not afford the sacrifice. If *we* could afford to bear the shame, and wear the shackles of defeat so craftily invited, our children could not stand erect under the deathless reproach of our behaviour. As men, as freemen, as patriots, we have no choice but to stand by the Government as administered. The alternative presented by our opponents is disunion and dishonor, which is national death. If a man recognizes the existence of the principle of eternal justice he cannot despair of the Republic. There may be some in whom the principle of hope maintains but a feeble existence, unless stimulated by uninterrupted success. Such must be encouraged and sustained by the example of the more hopeful and enduring. They must be assured of what the philosophy of history and of events teaches, that danger lies in turning back, as security lies in pressing forward. The desolations, and bereavements, and burdens of war may be, nay, are, terrible, but the tempest which ravages forest and field, destroying the increase of labor, and human life, is also terrible. Yet it is beneficent. With unvarying calm the atmosphere would degenerate into putridity and the earth would revolve in endless night. So war involves nations in its fearful vortex that social and political renovation may follow. As a fire sweeping over the fields licks up the chaff and stubble, yet affects not the solid earth, so the fiery trial which we are called upon to endure is consuming the notorious crimes of society. The nation will issue out of this struggle stronger and purer than before. Wrong, such as confronts us, cannot drive right into exile. Craft and villainy are not to be the subjugators of wisdom and virtue. And whatever crimes may have been, or may yet be, perpetrated in the name of civilization, it is not now to be proved either a farce or a failure. But these calamities are not to come upon the American people for the reason that the masses are to remain true and stedfast in this great effort to establish their liberties upon a surer foundation than the anomalies upon which they have hitherto rested.

The victory is to be won by unremitting labor, and a watchfulness that shall be proof against the surprises planned by traitors at home or abroad. We are to look for no fortuitous happenings, no miraculous interpositions. The friends of the Government, working together, cannot be overthrown by any combination possible among their opponents. They may seek to divide and distract, as they have done, and they may partially succeed. But not if the people remain firm, calm, and self-contained. United, we are invincible against any force that can be brought against us. Divided, we should invite defeat, and attach to ourselves the name of having rejected the counsels of experience and enlightened reason. Our victorious armies are bravely doing their duty in the field.

What is required of the loyal men of Pennsylvania, is a great victory at the polls in October and November. It is not only essential that the Federal Government and the policy inaugurated to crush rebellion should be endorsed by the re-election of Abraham Lincoln; but at the coming contest in October, it is important that in the election of Congressmen and members of Legislature, as many districts as possible should be carried by the loyal candidates now in and to be put into the field. We want the moral effect of overwhelming majorities as well as the prestige derived from military power and force. We expect to close the war as much by the influence of the ballot as the bullet. We hope to stop the effusion of blood by the unmistakable demonstration at the polls that the war is to be waged till the rebellion is ended, and that hostilities will not cease while there is an armed traitor in the field. Such a cessation of hostilities cannot be obtained by compromise or negotiation. It must be achieved by the stern influence of force—by the unmistakable, clear, and well-defined proofs of the ability of the Government to cope with and conquer all or any of its foes.

Men of Pennsylvania, the issues are now before you for consideration and decision. You must abide the result as you establish it for good or evil. We ask you to support Abraham Lincoln because we believe his reëlection will fully vindicate the authority of the National Government, and fully establish the fact that the freemen of the loyal States are able to sustain the existence of the Union and the Government against the hazard of opposition from abroad or at home. We ask you to assist not only in the reëlection of Abraham Lincoln, but in the election of all loyal candidates for State and Federal offices, because their triumph will recognize our nationality—a result which must contribute to the maintenance of the national Government. It needs no argument of our own to establish this position, because our political opponents now antagonize us to achieve entirely the opposite result.

By order of the Union State Central Committee.

SIMON CAMERON, President.
A. W. BENEDICT, WIEN FORNEY, } Secretaries.

The Judge's Saw Log.

In the village of W— lived a man who had once been the judge of the county, and was known all over by the name of judge L—. He kept a store and saw mill, and was always sure to have the best of the bargain on his side, by which means he gained an ample competence, and some did not hesitate to call him the "the biggest rascal in the world." He was very conceited withal, and used to delight in bragging of his business capacity when any one was near to listen. One rainy day, quite a number were seated around the stove in the store, and he began, as usual, to tell of his great bargains, and wound up with—

"Nobody never cheated me nor they can't neither."

"Judge," said an old man in the company, "I have cheated you more than you ever did me."

"How so?" asked the Judge.

—"If you'll promise you won't go to law about it, nor nothin', I'll tell, or else I won't; you are too much of a law character for me."

"Let's hear! let's hear!" cried half a dozen voices. "We'll bear you out in it—go on."

"I'll promise," said the Judge, "and treat in the bargain, if you have."

"Well, do you remember that wagon you robbed me of?"

"I never robbed you of any wagon!" exclaimed the Judge; "I only got my own."

"Well, I had made up my mind to have it back, and—"

"But you never did!" cried the Judge.

"Yes, I did, with interest, too"

"How?" thundered the now enraged Judge.

"Well, you see, Judge, I sold you one day a very nice pine log, and bargained with you for a lot more. Well, that log I stole off your pile, down by your mill, the night before, and sold it to you. That night I drew it back home, and sold it to you again the next day; and so I kept on until you bought your own log from me twenty-seven times!"

"That's a lie!" cried the mad Judge, running to a book, and examining his log accounts; "you never sold me twenty-seven logs of the same measurement."

"I know it," said the vender of logs. "For by drawing it back and forth, the end wore off; and as it wore, I kept cutting the end off, until it was only ten feet long—just fourteen feet shorter than it was when you first bought it; and when it got so short, I drew it home, and worked up into shingles, and then I concluded I had got my money back—and in my pocket."

The exclamation of the Judge was drowned in the shouts of the bystanders, and the log drawer found the door without the promised treat. To see a mad man you have only to ask the Judge if he was ever shaved.

A clergyman had two daughters who were much too fond of dress, which was a great grief to him: He had often reproved them in vain; and preaching one Sabbath day on the sin of pride, he took occasion to notice among other things, pride in dress. After speaking some considerable time on this subject, he suddenly stopped short and said, with feeling and expression: "But you will say look at home! My good friends, I do look at home till my heart aches."

A little girl, after returning home from church, where she saw a collection taken up for the first time, related what took place, and among other things she said, with all her childish innocence, "That a man passed around a plate with some money on it, but I didn't take any."

A down cast girl being bantered one day by some of her female friends, in regard to her lover, who had the misfortune to have but one leg, she replied to them very smartly—"Pooh, I wouldn't have a man with two legs; they're too common."

"Stockings I can do without so long as I wear fashionable dresses," said a village belle somewhat straightened in her financial resources, "but a bosom pin and kid gloves I must have."