# The Potter Journal.

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

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THE
POTTER JOURNAL
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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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June 8, '64.-1y.

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[From the St. Paul Press.]

## NOT SO EASY, LITTLE MAC.

"Thus conducted, the work of reconciliation would have been easy."—*See McClellan's Letter of Acceptance.*

No, not so easy, Little Mac,
For I was there to see:
*You* may have had an easy time,
But it was hard for *me*.

I shall remember, Little Mac,
E'en to my dying day,
How in Virginia's miry swamps
Week after week we lay.

*Your* stars shone brightly, Little Mac,
*Your* gloves were white as snow;
But *we*, poor soldiers in the mire,
Were floundering to and fro.

The Rebs. laughed at us, Little Mac,
Who could their mirth condemn?
We toiled like muskrats in the mud,
The negroes toiled for them.

'Twas k'ndness in you, Little Mac,
To set no negro free,
'Twas kindness to your *Southern friends*,
But rather hard on me.

'Twas manly in you, Little Mac,
To leave our foes their slaves,
They doubtless needed them to dig,
Their trenches and their graves.

But 'twas not so easy, Little Mac,
For us, worn out with toil,
To meet such foemen as we met
Upon the sacred soil.

They fought us fiercely, Little Mac—
Had nought to do but fight;
Our *guns* were rusty with neglect;
Our *spades* alone were bright.

And you remember, Little Mac,
That famous "change of base;
To us who fought that seven-days' fight,
It was no pleasant race.

*You* say 'twas *easy*, Little Mac;
But *I* remember well,
'Twas *hard* to see friends fall so fast,
And leave them where they fell.

And all who fought there, Little Mac,
Will tell, and tell you true,
That it's no easy thing to save
*Freedom and Slavery too.*

No, not so easy, Little Mac,
For I was there to see;
And when you try that work again,
Pray do not call on me.

Shakopee, Minnesota, Sept. 12, 1864.

## Sayings of Josh Billings.

It iz highly important that when a man makes up hiz mind tew bekum a raskal, that he should examine hizself clusly, and see if he ain't better konstrukted for a phool.

I argy in this way, if a man iz right, he kant be too radikal, if he is rong he kant be too consarratiff.

When you pra, pra rith at the bulls i.

"Tell the truth, and shame the Devil;" i kno lots ov people who kan shame the devil eazy enuff, but the tother thing bothers them.

If you dont beleaf in "total depravity," buy a quart ov gin, and studdy it.

There iz one advantage in a plurality ov wifes, tha fite each other, instead ov their husbands.

It iz a verry delikate job tew forgive a man, without lowering him in his own estimashun, and yures too.

Az a gineral thing, when a woman wares the britches, she haz a good rite tew them.

It iz admitted now bi everyboddy, that the man who kan get fat on berloiny sassage, has got a good deal of dorg in him.

I am poor, and i am glad that i am, for i find that wealth makes more people mean than it does genrous.

Woman's influence iz powerful—espeshila when she wants eunything.

Sticking up your noze don't prov enny thing, for the sope biler when he iz away from hum, smells evrything.

No man luvs tew git beat, but it is better tew git beat, than tew be rong.

Awl kind ov bores are a nusance, but it iz better tew be bored with a 2-inch orger, than a gimblet.

It iz ced "that a horse don't know hiz strength"—and i really suppose that a skunk does huther.

"Be sure you are rite then go ahed;" but in kase ov dout go ahed enny wa.

Sekts and creeds ov religion, are like pocket compasses, good enuff tew pinte out the direcshun, but the nearer the pole yu git, the wuss tha wurk.

Men aint apt tew git kicked out ov good society for being ritch.

The rode tew Ruin, iz alwas kept in good repair, and the travelers pa the expens ov it.

If a man begins life bi being a fust Lutenant in his familee, he need never tew look for promoshun.

The onla proffit thare is in keeping more than one dorg, iz what you kan make on the board.

I havn't got as mutch munny az sum folks, but i have got as much impudense az enny ov them, and that is the next thing tew munny.

Don't mistake arrogance for wisdom; menny people hav thot tha was wize, when tha waz only windy.

## Soldier Stories.

The following small batch of anecdotes well illustrates the varied spirit of the war:

"Yesterday week Morgan's brigade of Davis's division were on picket, when a squad of rebels, mounted, came up within three hundred yards of our pickets and called out, "Will you exchange coffee for tobacco?" "Yes," was the reply. "Fort Pillow, d—n you, as the pickets leveled their guns and discharged a volley into them, wounding one man. The rebels not liking leaden coffee retreated, exclaiming as they ran "are you niggers or white men, to treat us this way?""

Side by this is a story told of two men of the 20th Massachusetts. It says that:

"In the battle of the Wilderness the 20th were in the thick of the fight, and one color bearer after another was shot down almost as fast as the men could be replaced. But such was the eagerness to keep the flag aloft that at one time two men—Irish—caught hold of the standard at once, as it was about to fall, and struggled for it. Just then a shot struck the staff cutting it in two, leaving one man with the flag, and the other with the broken stick. Bedad, said the man, with the short end of the staff, the rebels have decided for us this time, and went to loading and firing again, as cool as if nothing had happened.'

A correspondent from Butler's army likewise gives the following account of a heart rending incident happening in the course of the fight of the 14th inst:

"During the progress of the battle the woods caught fire, spreading with the rapidity of a burning prairie. A large number of rebel wounded, as well as some of our own, lay in the thicket. The frantic yells of these poor sufferers, as the flames reached them, were heart rending and agonizing. In order to rescue a few who could be reached, a flag of truce was sent and excepted, proposing time to bury the dead and save the living. One hour was the time stipulated, and in that time all the work was effected. The rebel officers appeared despondent, reports of defeat had reached them from all quarters. A large number of prisoners were captured who were mostly from South Carolina and Richmond. Every civilian in the rebel capital is impressed to work on the defenses of Richmond, which are strengthened to receive Grant's attack."

The folowing is a very affecting incident:—

"A rebel prisoner asked for a clean shirt for his young comrade whose fresh but blood stained bandages told of an amputation just above the knee.

"One of the Sanitary Commission gave the shirt but said the boy must first be washed. Who will do that?

'Oh, any of those women yonder.' A kind looking woman from Philadelphia was asked if she was willing to wash a rebel prisoner. Certainly! was her prompt reply. 'I have a son in the Union army, and I would like to have somebody wash him.'

"With a towel and water in a tin basin, she cheerfully walked through the mud to the tent. Careful not to disturb his amputated leg, she gently removed the old shirt and began to wash him, but the tenderness of a mother's heart was at work, and she began to cry over him, saying that she imagined she was washing her own son. This was more than he could bear. He, too began to weed, and to ask God to pless her for her kindness to him. The scene was too much for the bystanders, and they left the Northern Mother and the Southern son to their sacred grief, wishing that tears could blot out the sin of this rebellion, and the blood of this unnatural war."

The following incident occurred at Spottsylvania, and is thus narrated by a correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial:*

During the lull in the strife I rode back to 2d corps hospital to see the wounded

"How goes it, boys?" was the question.

"All right," said one.

"Rather rough," said another.

"They niver will get through the 2d corps." said Hibernian.

The lull had become a storm. How fearfully rolled the musketry. It is utterly useless to attempt the description or comparison. It was volley after volley, surge after surge, roll after roll!

Maurice Colins, of the 12th Massachusetts, was brought in with an ugly wound through his shouder. He was a catholic and the priest was shewing him the crucifix.

"Will it be mortal?" he asked.

"Perhaps not, if you can lie still and keep quiet; but you may have to lose your arm."

"Well, I am willing to give an arm to my country," was the reply of one who, though born in the evergreen isle, while loving the harp and shamrock, adores the stars and stripes of his adopted country.

The same narrator adds, "while this fierce contest was going on a body of rebels marched out on the Catharpen road and came down upon the rear of the 2d corps, probably not to attack the troops, but to cut out the trains which were packed in the rear. Gen. Grant's and Gen. Mead's headquarters were on the Piney Grove Road.

A signal officer who had been stationed on the right flank came upon a gallop, evidently much excited. "You must pack up quick," he shouted. Preparations had already been made for a removal of head-quarters nearer to the center, and in a few moments the trains were in motion. Orders were sent to the rear to be ready for an emergency. Two or three batteries went out and took position, but that was all that came of the movement. The rebels gained nothing for their trouble.

## ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

HIS VIEWS OF PEACE AND A NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The following letter from "Vice President" Stephens was written in answer to a letter addressed to him by citizens of Georgia:

CRAWFURDSVILLE, Ga. Sept. 22, '64.

Gentlemen: You will please excure me for not answering your letter of the 14th instant sooner. I have been absent nearly a week on a visit to a brother in Sparta, who has been quite out of health for some time. Your letter I found here on my return home yesterday. The delay of my reply thus occasioned I regret.

Without further explanion or apology allow me now to say to you that no person living can possibly feel a more ardent desire for an end to be put to this unnatural and merciless war upon honorable and just terms than I do. But I really do not see that it is in my power or yours, or that of any number of persons in our position, to inaugurate any movement that will even tend to aid in bringing about a result that we and so many more desire.

The movement by our legislature at its last session, at the suggestion of the Executive, on this subject, was by authority properly constituted for such a purpose.

That movement, in my judgment, was timely, judicious and in the right direction. Nor has it been without results. The organization of that party at the North, to which you refer, may justly be claimed as a part of the fruits of it. These, it is to be hoped, will be followed by others of a more marked character, if all in both sections who sincerely desire peace upon correct terms will give that movement thus inaugurated all the aid in their power.

The resolutions of the Georgia legislature, at its last session, upon the subject of peace, in my judgment embodied and set forth very clearly those principles upon which alone there can be permanent peace between the different sections of this extensive, once happy and prosperous, but now distracted country.

Easy and perfect solutions to all present troubles and those far more grievous ones which loom in prospect, and portentiously threaten in the coming future, is nothing more than the simple recognition of the fundamental principle and truth upon which all American constitutional liberty is foundsd, and upon the maintenence of which alone it can be preserved—that is, the sovereignty, the ultimate, absolute sovereignty of the states. This doctrine our legislature announced to the people at the North and to the world. It is the only key-note to peace—permanent, lasting peace—consistent with the security of the public liberty.

The old confederation was formed upon this principle. The old Union was afterwards formed upon this principle. No league can ever be formed or maintained between any state, north or south, securing public liberty upon any other principle.

The whole framework of American institutions, which in so short a time had won the admiration of the world, and to which we were indebted for such an unparalleled career of prosperity and happiness, was formed upon this principle. All our present troubles sprung from a departure from this principle, from a violation of this essential law of our political organization.

In 1776 our ancestors and the ancestors of those who are waging this unholy crusade against us together proclaimed the great and eternal truth for the maintenance of which they jointly pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, that governments are instituted amongst men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, and that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of those ends for which it was formed, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powess in such a form as to them may seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

It is needless here to state that by "people" and "governed" in this annunciation is meant communities and bodies of men capable of organizing and maintaining a government, not individual members of society. The consent of the governed refers to the will of the mass of community or state in its organized form, and expressed through its legitimate and properly constituted organs. It was upon this principle the colonists stood justified before the world in effecting their separation from the mother country. It was upon this principle that the original thirteen co-equal and co-sovereign states formed the federal compact of the old Union in 1787. It is upon the same principle that the present co-equal and co-sovereign states of our Confederacy formed their new compact of union.

The idea that the old Union or any union between sovereign states, consistently with this fundamental truth, can be maintained by force, is preposterous. This war springs from an attempt to do this preposterous thing. Superior power may compel a union of some sort, but it would not be the Union of the old constitution or of our new. It would be that sort of union that results from despotism.

The subjugation of the people of the South by the people of the North would necessarily involve the destruction of the constitution, and the overthrow of their liberties as well as ours. The men or party at the North, to whom you refer, who favor peace, must be brought to a full realization of this truth in all its bearings, before their efforts will result in much practical good. Any peace growing out of a union of states established by force will be as ruinous to them as to us.

The action of the Chicago Convention, so far as its platform of principle goes, presents, as I have said on another occasion, a ray of light, which under Providence, may prove the dawn of day to this long and cheerless night, the first ray of light I have seen from the North since the war began. This cheers the heart, and towards it I could almost exclaim, "Hail, holy light, offspring of Heaven, first born of the eternal co-eternal beam. May I express thee unblamed, since God is light."

Indeed, I could have quite so exclaimed but for the sad reflection that whether it shall bring healing in its beams or be lost in a dark and ominous eclipse ere its good work be done, depends so much upon the action of others who may not regard it and view it as I do. So at best it is but a ray, a small and tremulous ray, enough only to gladden the heart and quicken the hope.

The prominent and leading idea of the Convention seems to have been a desire to reach a peaceful adjustment of our present difficulties and strife through the medium of a convention of the states. They propose to suspend hostilities, to see what can be done, if anything, by negotiations of some sort. This is one step in the right direction. To such a convention of the states I should have no objection, as a peaceful conference and interchange of views between equal and sovereign powers, just as the Convention of 1787 was called and assembled.

The properly constituted authorities at Washington and Richmond, the duly authorized representatives of the two confederacies of states now at war with each other, might give their assent to such a proposition. Good might result from it. It would be an appeal on both sides from the sword to reason and justice. All wars which do not result in the extinction or extermination of one side or the other must be ended sooner or later by some sort of negotiation.

From the discussion or interchange of views in such a convention, the history as well as the true nature of our institutions and the relation of the states toward each other and towards the federal head, would doubtless be much better understood generally than they now are; but I should favor such a proposition only as a peaceful conference, as the Convention of 1787 was. I should be opposed to leaving the questions at issue to the absolute decision of such a body.

Delegates might be clothed with powers to consult and agree, if they could, upon some plan of adjustment, to be submitted for subsequent ratification by the sovereign states whom it affected, before it should be made obligatory or binding, and then binding only on such as should so ratify it. It becomes the people of the South, as well as the people of the North, to be quite as watchful and jealous of their rights as their common ancestors were.

The maintenance of liberty in all ages, times and countries, when and where it has existed, has required not only constant vigilance and jealousy, but it has often required the greatest privations, and sufferings and sacrifices that people of states are ever subjected to. Through such an ordeal we are now passing.—Through a like and even severer ordeal our ancestors passed in their struggle for the principles which it has devolved upon us thus to defend and maintain.

But great as our sufferings and sacrifices have been and are, to which you allude, they are as yet far short of the like sufferings, and sacrifices which our fathers bore with patience, courage and fortitude in the crisis that tried men's souls, in their day. These are the virtues that sustained them in their hour of need. Their illustrious and glorious example bids us not to under-estimate the priceless inheritance they achieved for us at such a cost of treasure and blood.

Great as are the odds we are struggling against, they are not greater than those against which they successfully struggled. In point of reverses our condition is not to be compared with theirs. Should Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, Augusta, Macon, Montgomery, and even Petersburg and Richmond fall, our condition would not then be worse or less hopeful than theirs was in the darkest hour that rested on their fortunes.

With wisdom on the part of those who control our destiny in the cabinet and in the field, in husbanding and properly wielding our resources at their command, and in securing the hearts and affections of the people in the great cause of right and liberty for which we are struggling, we could suffer all these losses and calamities, and greater even, and still triumph in the end.

At present, however, I do not see, as I stated in the outset, that you or I, or any number of persons in our position, can do anything towards inaugurating any new movement looking to a peaceful solution of the present strife. The war on our part is fairly and entirely defensive in its character. How long it will continue to be thus wickedly and mercilessly waged against us depends upon the people of the North.

Georgia, our own state, to whom we owe allegiance, has with great unanimity proclaimed the principles upon which a just and permanent peace ought to be sought and obtained. The Congress of the Confederate States has followed with an endorsement of these principles. All you and I, and others in our position, therefore, can do on that line at this time, is to sustain the movement already inaugurated, and to the utmost of our ability, to hold up these principles as the surest hope of restoring soundness to the public mind of the North, as the brazen serpent was held up for the healing of Israel in the wilderness.

The chief aid and encouragement we can give the peace party at the North is to keep before them these great fundamental principles and truths, which alone will lead them and us to permanent and lasting peace, with possession and enjoyment of constitutional liberty. With these principles once recognized, the future would take care of itself, and there would be no more war so long as they should be adhered to.

All questions of boundaries, confederacies and union or unions would naturally and easily adjust themselves, according to the interests of parties and the exigencies of the times. Herein lies the true law of the balance of power and the harmony of states. Yours respectfully,

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

TRUE RICHES.—A rich gentleman once said to a day laborer, "Do you know to whom these estates belong, on the borders of the lake?" "No," replied the man. "They belong to me," said the rich man. "And the wood, and the cattle, do you know whose they are?" "No." "They are mine also," continued the rich man. "Yes, all that you can see is mine." The peasant stood still a moment, and then pointed to heaven, in a solemn tone asked "is that also thine? If that be thine, though poor, thou art truly rich; if that be not thine, however rich, thou art poor indeed."

A SHARP RETORT.—The La Crosse Democrat is responsible for the following good thing: At one of the hotels in our city, landlord said to a boarder—

"See here, Mr.——, the chambermaid found a hair-pin in your bed this morning, and it will not answer.

Well," replied the boarder, "I found a hair in the butter this morning but it did not prove you had a woman in it."

The two looked at each other for about ten seconds, when each smiled and went his way, no doubt pondering on the peculiaritics of circumstantial evidence.

A CHANCE FOR SOMEBODY.—A young lady advertises in the Cleaveland Plaindealer for a young gentleman to act as an amanuensis. He must be able to write in ciphers, and when not thus engaged, he will be expected to read poetry with feeling, converse with ease, and be able to play cribbage and backgammon. He must expect to be kissed when she is pleased, cuffed when she is not; but as her temper is acknowledged to be good, there will probably be more kissing than cuffing. There's a chance for somebody.—