

The North Branch Democrat.

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"TO SPEAK HIS THOUGHTS IS EVERY FREEMAN'S RIGHT."—Thomas Jefferson.

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LETTER FROM HON. REVERDY JOHNSON.

Scathing Review of Mr. Lincoln's Administration.

McCLELLAN THE HOPE OF THE NATION.

WHY SENATOR JOHNSON OPPOSED LINCOLN'S ELECTION IN 1860, AND WHY HE OPPOSES IT IN 1864.

WE MUST SWAP HORSES.

WHAT THE UNION HAS SUFFERED FROM THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19. HON. REVERDY JOHNSON FOR McCLELLAN.

Washington was electrified to day by the publication of the following letter from Senator Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, who was elected by his state Legislature opposed to the Democratic party, and who in the Senate acted not infrequently with the Republican portion of that body. Let him speak for himself, as the oldest Senator in Congress:

SARATOGA SPRINGS, September 14. GENTLEMEN: Your invitation to the meeting to be held in Washington on the 17th inst to ratify the nomination of McClellan and Pendleton is just received.

It will be out of my power to be with you my stay here for some days longer being unavoidable. Opposed as I was to the original election of Mr. Lincoln to the station he now occupies, from a conviction of his being unequal to his duties, the manner in which he has met them, has but confirmed me in that opinion.

With more than two millions of soldiers placed in his hands and an unlimited amount of treasure, his policy and his manner of using his power, instead of putting the rebellion down and bringing to our ranks the thousands of Union men who were then each of the seceded states, and who, in some, are believed to outnumber the rebels, have but served the double purpose of uniting them against us and of dividing the public opinion of the loyal states.

The effect, of course, is that notwithstanding the gallant deeds of our army and navy, and the manifest justice of our cause the Union is even more effectually broken now than it was when his administration commenced. Whatever of honesty of purpose may belong to him, and I am willing to admit that he has had it, his vacillation, his policy now conservative, now radical, his selection of military officers grossly incompetent, his treatment of those who were evidently competent, his yielding in this to what he has himself been often heard to say as an excuse, was, "outside pressure" his having not only not punished, but as far as the public know, unrebuked the vandal excesses of military officers of his special selection, shocking the sentiment of the world and disgracing us in the view of Christendom by the burning of private dwellings, and depriving their often exclusively female occupants of home and means of livelihood—all demonstrate that he is grossly incompetent to govern the country in this crisis of its fate.

How can an honorable man believe that one who has so signally failed for almost four entire years, can be successful if another four years be granted him? No one in Congress, certainly. Not twenty members believe him equal or at all equal to the mighty task. He has been tried and found wanting. Let us have a change, none, if loyal, can be for the worse. It is not that we wish to use his own classic figure to swap horses in the midst of a stream, but that when we are on a journey and safety depends on making our destination at the earliest moment, we should cast aside a spavined and thin horse, and secure a sound and active one.

In General McClellan we are furnished—in the history of his life, in the purity of his character, his refinement, his attainments, civil and military and, above all in his perfect loyalty—every assurance that, under his executive guidance, the war, now so exhaustive of treasure and blood, will be soon brought to a triumphant termination, and this Union which "at all hazards" he will never agree to surrender, will be restored.

With regard, Your obedient servant, REVERDY JOHNSON.

The workingman have been particularly blessed by Mr. Lincoln's Administration. While the price of all the necessities of life has increased to a fearful extent the wages paid them for labor by Mr. Lincoln's contractors have been greatly diminished. Before Mr. Lincoln became President they received seventeen and a half cents for making an army shirt—now the contractor pays them eight cents; they received forty two and a half cents for making infantry pants—now the contractor pays them from seventeen to twenty cents; they received forty cents for unlined blouses—now the contractor pays them from fifteen to twenty cents; and so on to the end of the dreary chapter.

Oh God! that bread should be so dear, And flesh and blood so cheap!

ADMINISTRATION GIVING EVIDENCE IN FAVOR OF GENERAL McCLELLAN.

In view of the attempts of the Republican papers to circulate slanders against General McClellan, we give the following testimony respecting his abilities and services from various members of the administration:

WASHINGTON, July 2, 1862.

MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE B. McCLELLAN: I am satisfied that yourself, officers, and men have done the best you could. All accounts say better fighting was never done. Ten thousand thanks for it. A. LINCOLN.

Two days afterwards, when Mr. Lincoln had fuller information, General McClellan received the following:

WASHINGTON, July 5, 1862.

MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, COMMANDING ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

A thousand thanks for the relief your two dispatches of 12 and 1 p. m. yesterday gave me. Be assured the heroism of yourself, officers, and men is, and forever will be, appreciated. A. LINCOLN.

In August, 1862, Mr. Lincoln made a speech at the White House, in which he said:

There has been a very wide-spread attempt to have a quarrel between General McClellan and the Secretary of War. * * * Gen. McClellan's attitude is such that in the very selfishness of his nature he cannot but wish to be successful, and I hope he will.

* * * I know Gen. McClellan's wishes to be successful. * * * General McClellan is not to blame for asking what he wanted and needed.

* * * I believe he is a brave and able man and I stand here, as justice requires me to do, to take upon myself what has been charged on the Secretary of War as withholding from him.

Here is Gen. Halleck's testimony: WASHINGTON, Aug. 31, 1862.

MAJ. GEN. GEO. B. McCLELLAN: I beg of you to assist me in this crisis with your ability and experience. I am entirely tired out.

H. W. HALLECK, General in chief.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Sept. 30.

MAJ. GEN. McCLELLAN, COMMANDING, etc.

GENERAL: Your report of yesterday, giving the results of the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, has been received and submitted to the President. They were not only hard fought battles, but well armed and decided victories.

The valor and endurance of your army in the several conflicts which terminated in the expulsion of the enemy from the loyal State of Maryland, are credited alike to the troops and to the officers who commanded them.

A grateful country, while mourning the lamented dead, will not be unmindful of the honors due to the living. H. W. HALLECK, General in Chief.

Says Mr. Lincoln, referring to Antietam: WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Sept. 15, 1862.

Your despatch of to-day received. God bless you and all with you. Destroy the rebel army, if possible. A. LINCOLN.

To MAJ. GEN. GEO. B. McCLELLAN.

But the Republican Congress also gives its testimony. On the 16th day of July, Mr. Edwards (Rep.) of New Hampshire, offered the following resolution in the House of Representatives, and it was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this House be presented to Major General George B. McClellan and the officers and soldiers of his command, for the series of brilliant and decisive victories which by their skill and bravery they have achieved over rebels and traitors in arms on the battle fields of Western Virginia.

On the 9th of May, 1862, after the victories of Yorktown, Williamsburg, and West Point, Owen Lovejoy, the most ultra radical in the House of Representatives offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That it is with feelings of devout gratitude Almighty God that the House of Representatives, from time to time, hears of the triumphs of the Union army in the great struggle for the supremacy of the Constitution and the integrity of the Union.

Resolved, That we receive with profound satisfaction intelligence of the recent victories achieved by the armies of the Potomac, associated from their localities with those of the Revolution, and that the sincere thanks of this House are hereby tendered to Major General George B. McClellan for the display of those high military qualities which secure important results with but little sacrifice of human life.

Let Democrats bear this testimony in mind, and when efforts are made to belittle Gen. McClellan's great services to the State, let their significant testimony of Mr. Lincoln, Gen. Aaslock, and the Republican Congress, be produced.

The following named societies of tradesmen are getting up addresses to Mr. Lincoln, thanking him for his "Whom it may concern" letter, beseeching him to stand by it and assuring him of their cordial support:—The Embalmers, the Artificial Limb Makers, the Surgical Instrument Makers, the Coffin Makers, the Mourning Store Keepers, and the Grave Diggers.

THE CASE STATED.

As the canvass progresses, discussion clarifies the issues. The speech of one able man, on either side, does much to hasten the process. The recent effort of Mr. Greeley, before a campaign club in this city, has eliminated from the record upon which popular judgment is to be pronounced in November much of useless chaff. He states the issue to be, "Union, peace, and slavery," on one side; "Union, peace, and liberty," on the other side. The former he declares to be expressive of Democratic, and the latter of Republican faith. We quote Mr. Greeley's words, as reported in his own journal. The only difference between McClellan and Lincoln is declared by the leading elector on the New York national ticket to grow out of slave holder. Both candidates and both parties are for Union first; Peace afterward.

Mr. Greeley misstated the formula of Republican faith as announced by Mr. Lincoln. The latter proclaims it to be "Abandonment of Slavery, Union and Peace;" not "Union, Peace, Liberty." To the latter formula taken in its broadest sense, all Democrats, would, and do, unhesitatingly subscribe.

If we were asked to state, in briefest phrase the general Democratic doctrine in respect to the issues of the hour, we should say; Constitution, Union, Peace. If asked for the republican dogma, we should say; Abandonment of Slavery, New Union, Peace.

In a word, the Democratic party propose to make peace, if the rebels will submit to the Constitution, as expounded by the highest judicial tribunals of the land. The Republican party says, No peace, unless the rebels consent to give up slave-labor forever.

Mr. Greeley will not, in a speech or written letter, deny that we state the issue between McClellan and Lincoln fairly, when we say that the former is willing to make peace with the rebels upon the basis of the Constitution as it stands, leaving the fate of slave-labor and all minor questions to the courts, and that that the latter is not.

Mr. Lincoln's purpose is fixed by his Niagara letter. Postmaster-General Blair, in his speech at Cleveland, confirms the fact that destruction of slavery is, with the Republican leaders, a condition precedent to Union and peace. He says:

The people once slaves in the rebel states can never again be recognized as such by the United States. No judicial decision, no legislative action, state or national, can be admitted to re-enslave a people who are associated with our own destinies in this war of defense to save the government, and whose manumission was deemed essential to the restoration and preservation of the Union and to its permanent peace.

Mr. Greeley declares, in substance, that, as between McClellan and Lincoln, there is no war issue, except that the former will only fight to enforce the Constitution, and the laws duly enacted thereunder; while the latter deems it his duty to continue the fighting till slave-labor is abandoned. Lincoln proposes to usurp the power of the Union, and use it to control the domestic relations of the states, and thus not vindicate, but violate the Constitution. Mr. Greeley is distinct in his statements. "We have," he says, "resolved to put down slavery and restore the Union. On that platform we stand, 'by that we act, and, if there is ever a restored Union, it will be a free Union from the Aroostook down to the Rio Grande.—'To this consummation every Union man is pledged."

McClellan is pledged to restore the Union, and stop the war when that blessed consummation is attained!

As to slave-labor, northern Democrats have no interest in protecting that, any more than any other interest declared by the Supreme Court to be under the shelter of the fundamental law. Democrats may regret that there is a slave to be free, or a master to pursue; but yet they know and feel that to use the power of the Union to put down an interest protected by the Constitution is not right, but is flagrantly wrong. Democrats know and feel that to take an oath to support the Constitution and then destroy an interest which the Supreme Court has declared cannot be lawfully destroyed by the federal arm, is perjury, and nothing less.—They know and feel that, under the Constitution, there is no power of authority given to presidents or cabinets to carry on a war to compel the people of a state, willing to submit to the fundamental law on all other points, to abandon slavery. Such is Democratic opinion, and upon it Democrats must act. They follow the flag and keep step to the music of the Union!—World.

A CRUEL JOKE.—As President Lincoln was proceeding up Seventh street yesterday evening, escorted by his body guard, he met some distance above the Northern Market, a squad of cavalry coming down the street. Perceiving His Illustrious Highness, and recognizing his familiar features the cavalry men rose in their stirrups and gave three hearty cheers for "Little Mac." The commander of the faithful, had food for reflection in this little incident.

The beautiful residence of the widow of John Selton near Richmond was lately burned by order of Ben Butler.

THE TRUTH OF HISTORY

It is a well known fact that General McClellan opposed the withdrawal of the Army of the Potomac from the front of Richmond, in the campaign of 1862, in the most earnest manner. When, on the 3d of August, the order to withdraw it from its position on the James River to Aquia Creek, was made, he, in a manly and earnest protest, opposed it. His views were given at length, and no man familiar with the position of affairs can fail to see their soldierly sagacity. Said he: "Clear in my convictions of right, strong in the consciousness that I have ever been, and still am, actuated solely by the love of my country, knowing that no ambitious or selfish motives have influenced me, from the commencement of this war, I do now what I never did in my life before, I treat that this order may be rescinded."

What were some of the reasons given by General Halleck for the withdrawal of the Army from James River to Aquia Creek? First and foremost, was the very cogent one, that the enemy's forces in and around Richmond were estimated at two hundred thousand, while the effective force of this Army of the Peninsula was only ninety thousand. This is not mere assertion. The official correspondence between General Halleck and General McClellan clearly proves it. And yet the Abolitionists, who are fanatically assailing General McClellan, unblushingly declare that he had more than enough men there were required to accomplish the purposes of the campaign.

It is not necessary to give, in detail, the masterly manner in which the order of withdrawal was executed. It stands without a parallel in the history of warfare. Neither is it necessary to refer to the disasters which followed the policy of the Administration.—The complete overthrow of the bragart Pope the demoralization of the grand Army of the Potomac, the threatened capture of Washington, the terror of the Administration, the invasions of Maryland, the earnest beseechings and entreaties of Mr. Lincoln that Gen. McClellan would again assume the command of the army the almost marvellous reorganization of our defeated and disheartened troops, the victory at South Mountain, the great victory of Antietam, and the shameful removal of Gen. McClellan by the very men who, less than two months before, were indebted to him for the preservation of the army and the capital of the nation—are all matters of painful record. Thread by thread history is unravelling the tangled meshes of Abolition duplicity, and a deceived people are beginning to fully comprehend the gross impositions that are attempted to be practiced upon them by wicked and unscrupulous partisans.—Age.

JOHN VAN BUREN FOR McCLELLAN AND PENDLETON.—At an immense ratification meeting at Albany on Wednesday evening, a letter was read from John Van Buren in which he says: "There are two men who obviously can never make a peace that will receive the sanction of the American people. They are Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis; and unless we are prepared for an eternal war and the slaughter, debt, taxation and suspension of constitutional liberty attend it, Abraham Lincoln must be made to retire on the 4th of March next, and a President must be chosen in his stead who will consent to peace on the basis of the Union and Constitution. Such a man is General McClellan, and I cannot allow myself to doubt that the loyal people of the United States will call him to the discharge of this as well as the other grave duties that belong to the chief magistracy."

Tom Thumb and wife has reaty got a baby

The Release of Howard.

From the New York Evening Post.

We learn that Mr. Howard, father of the forger of the President's Proclamation, obtained the order for his son's release yesterday. He took it down to Fort Lafayette, and the forger reached Brooklyn during the afternoon. Multison, the man who acted as amanuensis for Howard, is still in confinement, having no powerful friends to secure his release.

This is a fair illustration of the way justice is administered by the system of military arrests, which is a part of the policy of this Administration. The chief offender is set at liberty, simply because he has powerful friends who can bring a "pressure" to bear on the President, while the subordinate, the mere amanuensis, is left to rot in one of the Government Bastilles. Shame on the men who perpetrate such outrages, and if the people having the opportunity to strip them of the power they have abused, neglect to do so, then shame on the people.

HOLD HIM TO HIS WORD.—The friends of the Union must remember that Mr. Lincoln has distinctly announced that he will entertain no propositions for peace and restoration that do not embrace the "abandonment of slavery." This is his ultimatum. What right has he to call himself a Union candidate, when he refuses even to discuss the question of reconstruction, unless the rights of the States, under the Constitution, are yielded by the people thereof to the central despotism at Washington?

GREELY GIVES IT UP!—The New York Tribune of Monday last contained an article on "Gen. McClellan's position," which is remarkable for the candor with which it confesses that Gen. McClellan's Letter of Acceptance has greatly strengthened his prospects of election. Indeed, in the following paragraph, which comprises the substance of the Tribune's remarks, it virtually gives up the contest and concedes McClellan's election:

"Running on his Letter as a platform, he will poll a good vote in nearly every State and probably carry five or six."

The States are not named; but the Tribune doubtless meant New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky—six States that are more than enough to elect McClellan, to wit:

New York.....33 | Illinois.....16
Pennsylvania.....26 | Indiana.....13
Ohio.....21 | Kentucky.....11

Total.....120

Only 116 electoral votes will be required to make "Little Mac" the next President; so that, when the Tribune gives him six States, it makes his election as sure as anything in the future can be made. When our opponents are thus compelled to admit McClellan's strength, what should discourage our friends?

"LITTLE MAC.—Everywhere the name "Little Mac" is creating an enthusiasm never before witnessed in the history of American politics. The republican press are forced to admit that the Chicago Convention made the best possible nomination. Forney's press says: "He is the most popular candidate the convention could have chosen," and although Forney is in the habit of lying, he for once in his life unwittingly told the truth, but he couldn't help it, whilst the glad shouts of joy were being heard from hundreds of thousands of throats all over the land. "Little Mac" stands vindicated from base aspersions and calumnies of his foes, and if he lives to the 4th day of March next, he will be duly installed as President of the United States, and Peace and Union will again bless this war weary-tax ridden as oppressed people."

Under Democratic Administration the laboring man could afford to drink tea and coffee and use sugar in his family. Since Mr. Lincoln came into power, thousands have been compelled to give up their use, on account of their enormous price. But the laboring man should not grumble. While he and his dear little ones are naked and starving, Mr. Lincoln is setting the negro free and placing him upon an equality with the white man.

The Baltimore Abolition platform sanctions all the crimes and follies of the present Administration. It approves of arbitrary arrests—the suppression of free speech and free press—and military interference in elections. It makes slavery, not the Union, the only real issue before the people. It does not extend any sympathy to our brave soldiers now in Southern prisons. Can the Unionists of the country conscientiously give their support to the candidates who stand upon such a platform?

HON. C. L. VALLANDIGHAM.—The Cincinnati Enquirer of the 13th inst., says: "As the Lincoln papers appear to be somewhat concerned as to Mr. Vallandigham's position since the letter of acceptance, we will relieve them by stating that we have good authority for saying that he will vote for McClellan and Pendleton."

The Democratic State Convention of New York, which assembled at Albany on Wednesday last, nominated yesterday Governor Seymour as a candidate for re-election to the office he now holds. After the transaction of other business of a similar character the Convention adjourned sine die.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?—A telegram from St. Louis, under date of September 10, says: "The gallows on which the alleged guerrillas Moore and Smith were hung yesterday was of new invention, and designed to make short and sure work of all who are made to mount it. The name of the invention is not known, but it is understood that government has adopted the machine for purposes of military executions, after the example of the Terrorists who adopted the guillotine in the French revolution."

This is suggestive. It shows what we have to expect in the event of Mr. Lincoln's re-election. After Mr. Seward's "bell," naturally enough, will come the "guillotine."

Every man who agrees with the following sentiment, uttered on the floor of the Connecticut House of Representatives, by Rev. Mr. Gilbert, an Abolition member, Jan. 15, 1864, will vote for Lincoln:

For one, I am not afraid to say, that I had rather lie down and die in my tracks to-day, than to see any restoration of the Union as it was.

This Reverend gentleman supports Mr. Lincoln, because he is opposed to the old Union, and refuses to negotiate unless upon the basis of "abandonment of slavery," and, of course, opposed to Gen. McClellan, who says that "the Union is the one condition off peace."