

THE EAGLE

SPENCER & SCHIRMEYER, PROPRIETORS

DECATUR, INDIANA.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUG. 1, 1862.

THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THOUGHT.

It is well that the American people are tenacious of the right to criticise the conduct of all public officers and to openly consider all questions or principles of government or general interest. Otherwise they would have been dumb to-day, would not have dared to say nay to the greatest crime felon ever committed; if that felon were an officer, would have with "bated breath" and whispering humbleness had to bow the knee to the almighty decree of the president and his whole train of overbearing tyrants. Let Adjutant General Thomas speak and say what he thinks of a man's right to speak in regard to any policy pursued by the administration, or even to think of that policy. The following is an extract from Gen. Thomas' letter:

"I was compelled to speak to the troops along the route—speaking one day some seven or eight times. During my tour I met with an Irish regiment, the 90th Ill., from Chicago—men who read the Chicago Times. After talking to them a while I proposed three cheers for the president of the United States. These were given heartily. Three cheers were then proposed for the settled policy of the United States with regard to the negroes. This was met by cries of 'No! No!' The Col. was absent, and the Lieut. Col. was in command. I inquired what such conduct meant! The Lieut. Col. endeavored to excuse the men by saying that they had no opportunity to think over the matter. I replied, 'you are not telling the truth, sir! I know that they have been discussing this question for a week past. I know the fact if you do not.'—The officer was considerably mortified—I ordered those who were opposed to this policy of the government to step forward and said I knew the regiment had seen considerable service and fought well; but I also knew there was but little discipline observed among them that I wanted a distinct recognition of this doctrine—that was the point with me. Several stepped forward they were instant seized and sent to the guard-house.

"They left the regiment, telling them I would give them a week to consider what they would do. At the next station I met the Colonel of the regiment, who begged that I would leave the matter in his hands, and he would see that the men were taught the duty of soldiers. I complied with the request. When I reached Memphis I was taken sick. When I left towards got up to Louisville, I was shown a long article from the Chicago Times, written by a Captain of the 90th Illinois, who was not on the ground at the time of their inordinate misconduct, but who saw fit to write a very inordinate article in reference to what he heard I had said, and in which he terribly distorted the facts. He was, of course, dishonorably dismissed the service."

Such was his treatment of a brave body of men who had fought gallantly for their country, and gained victories for it; and merely because they did not think to suit the administration. They were patriots when they volunteered, brave men when they fought; but then they wanted to think, and did think, and that was their crime.

Who, after this, can say that the administration does not bring a pressure to bear upon every soldier. One that feters not only his tongue but his very thoughts. One by which they put words into his mouth and principles into his mind, and force him to speak and execute them.

THE INCOME TAX.

This tax of three per cent. on the income of every person whose income is above six hundred dollars it was thought would not weigh heavy upon many men, especially farmers. But it does; and in many instances where the men themselves think their net income is not three hundred they are obliged to pay a tax on from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty dollars.

This arises from errors in levying the tax, and there are many cases where men are assessed who ought not to pay. Take for instance:

A man's total income is \$850 00

His expenses 200 00

State and national taxes 50 00

Exempt 600 00

Total 850 00

of course he has no tax to pay. But some men declare their total income to be not six hundred dollars and yet say they have to pay tax.

A man should give in the total income from all sources, he may then take out his expenses, as for instance, for a farmer the expense of planting, harvesting,

threshing, &c. He may then take out the amount he pays for National, State and local taxes, and after this he is entitled to have six hundred dollars exempt, and then upon all that is over and above that amount he must pay three per cent.

We are told that there will be held here this fall a court in which to adjust all those claims for tax in which any person may think they are assessed too high. It would be best in all cases where the assessment is not clearly right to appeal to this court.

ABOLITION OUTRAGE AT CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS.—The American Flag Dragged upon the Ground, spit upon and Burned.—A correspondent of the Chicago Times writing from Centralia, gives an account of a disgraceful outrage perpetrated by Abolitionists in that loyal-league-ridden town.

While the celebration of the capture of Vicksburg was going on, a few nights since, a lady, in honor of the occasion, waved a large American flag out of the second story window of the dwelling of Mr. L., close to the speaker's stand. Mr. L. has always been a democrat, and in the presumption that none but abolitionists have now the right to the star-spangled banner if possible to dispose of Mr. L.'s family of it. At their investigation a man wearing shoulder-straps of some kind—a stranger here—aided by some strong-minded women, seized the flag and tore it violently from the grasp of the lady. The soldier then dragged it on the ground, spit upon it, and, amid the cheers of the crowd, the American Flag was thrown on the bonfire in front of the speaker's stand, and entirely consumed.

All this may be quite consistent with the principles and conduct of the party whose leading organ—the New York Tribune—published, with approval, a piece of poetry, addressed to the American flag, commencing with the line: "Tear down the flaunting le;—and one of whose prominent leaders in the State of Illinois at a public meeting a few years since showed his contempt for the same flag by throwing it down on the platform and spitting on it but it will be strange if the circumstances just narrated does not open the eye of some of the more conservative men, who, for the present, act with that party."—[Fort Wayne Sen.

A NEW MONARCHY—The second act in Louis Napoleon's grand Mexican drama was made public by the fast arrival from Vera Cruz. He has declared Mexico a monarchy and through the fare of a vote of the nobility has named Arch duke Maximilian, brother of the Austrian Emperor, a king. This is one of the crafty tricks by which the famous intriguer paves the way to his own ends. A few years since showed his contempt for the same flag by throwing it down on the platform and spitting on it but it will be strange if the circumstances just narrated does not open the eye of some of the more conservative men, who, for the present, act with that party.

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New York Mercury

FOR THE NEW YEAR.

It is with no fears of war's effect upon their literary fortunes, that the publishers of the New York Mercury acknowledge the unwavering loyalty of their two hundred thousand subscribers, and announce to them, and to all, that the New York Mercury for this year will be richer in every luxury of polite literature than ever before. It is no upstairs speculation, no temporary sensation; but a first class literary weekly, which been familiar to the United States for a quarter of a century; and while the wishy-washy mushroom prints of yester day are cutting down their talent even while they raise their subscription price, the Mercury maintains all its great staff of Romancers, poets, humorists, essayists, story tellers, and editors, and promises to make it still greater for 1863.

It is the one paper for every home. Its forty columns of reading matter per week constitute an unparalleled Cyclopedia of the ENTERTAINMENT, and its novels, miscellaneous tales, beauties of verse, Gossips, Feuilletons broad-sides of humor and polished editorials, combine to epitomize all the charms of wit and sentiment! The husband reads it to his wife, the mother to her children, the lover to his sweetheart, the soldier to his comrades, and the wife school master to the circle around the stove. It is familiar to every man woman and child in this country, and has regular subscribers in several countries in Europe. The Mercury is also identified with the grandest patriotism of the age, for several members of its brilliant staff are for several months in our noble army, and have held high rank in our noble army, and have made themselves as famous with the sword as with the pen. The great illustrating artist of the Mercury, the inimitable Darley, gives the paper the highest attributes of fine art; and yet this largest literary weekly of the day promises to surpass itself in all these respects during the new year!

The first New York Mercury novelette for the new year, to be commenced in the issue of January 3, 1863, is called VICTORIA; OR, THE PRINCESS OF CASTLE CLIFF. By CORINNIE MAX CARMICHAEL, author of Gipsy Gower, Sybil Campbell, Erminie, La Masque, etc., etc.

The administration at Washington was as wrong in its arrangements for and the commencement of the draft in New York as it has been in its conduct of all other affairs. It had not settled the question of the quota of the State and of the different counties. It had not advised the Governor of the State, or of its arrangements, of the quota, required, or of the time the draft would begin. It began the draft, when all the uniformed State militia, was away in Pennsylvania, in pursuit of the rebels. These are specimens of its conduct. It is an open question whether it did these things wilfully, with the design of producing a popular outbreak, so it might have an excuse, for declaring martial law and subordinating the civil authority, or, thoughtlessly, and bunglingly, as it does most things. If the former, Gov. Seymour, nipped its purpose in the bud; if the latter it is impossible, to estimate the criminality of such thoughtlessness and blundering.

[Fort Wayne, April 11, 1863.]

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Poor! Poor!

The Boston Courier says there is a

good deal of alarm lest the skill of our

Generals and the valor of our troops

should bring the war to a termination

much sooner than is agreeable among the

John Brownites and shoddy patriots who

in the words of General Ewing, are stealing

themselves rich in the name of fib-

er.

Notice is hereby given, that the undersigned

Trustee and Overseer of the Poor will receive

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ship, Adams county, Indiana, from this date till

the first Monday in May, 1863, for the main-

tenance, during one year, of James R. Tucker, a

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