

THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

D. E. VANVALKENBURGH, : : : Editor

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY APRIL 15, 1863.



By an order from Gen. Carrington, citizens of Indiana who express sympathy for the rebellion are to be forwarded South, beyond our lines, and persons who commit acts for the benefit of the enemies of the country, upon conviction will suffer death, and all officers and soldiers are strictly charged with the execution of the order. "Treason, expressed or implied will not be tolerated in the department of Ohio and Indiana."

We condemn treason and applaud its punishment, and at the same time deplore and abhor the tyranny and usurpation that takes the execution of the laws of our land from the civil officers of the country and places it in the hands of officers and soldiers of the U. S. army. Indiana is not in rebellion, its citizens are as loyal and patriotic as any in the country, she has more than her proportion of soldiers in the field, battling for the Government, has uncomplainingly borne more than her share of the burdens of the war, and yet she is placed under more strict military surveillance than Tennessee or Virginia, and the personal liberty of her citizens placed at the discretion of "officers and soldiers" of the U. S. army.

Why has Indiana incurred the hatred of the Administration? Why is not this order issued in abolition Massachusetts, the hot bed of treason, whose Governor dictates the terms on which he will furnish troops to the Government, and who has failed to furnish her proportion?

Is the administration afraid of Democracy? Why does not the order apply to New York? That state is overwhelmingly Democratic.

How long does honest old Abe suppose we will quietly march at the order of "officers and soldiers"? How long submit to have "officers and soldiers" punish us for "implied" treason? Are we the slaves of abolition? If we are we deserve the lash. We are loyal, free-born, law-abiding American citizens, and will have every right belonging to us as such.

The intolerable, damnable yoke, sought to be placed upon our necks, will not be borne. If we disapprove of the acts of the party in power we will speak our disapproval, and we be to the power that seeks to punish us for thus speaking. The black infamy that will cover the hated graves of the murderers of freedom that are now despising our land, will mark the disapproval of the Christian world in ages to come, when none will be so base as to defend their memories.

Looking at the power with which the Democracy of Connecticut had to contend in the recent election, the result is one of the grandest achievements in the history of the Democratic party of the whole country. The power with which they had to contend was: 1. The civil and military patronage of the State government; 2. The civil and military patronage of the Federal Government; 3. The transportation into the State of three thousand Federal soldiers pledged to vote the abolition ticket and the exclusion of all soldiers from the State who would not vote the abolition ticket; 4. The requirement by the Federal government that the large manufacturers having and wanting government contracts should compel their operatives to vote it, to discharge them from employment; 5. The use of enormous sums of money, collected from government contractors, in the corruption of voters.

Against the combined power of these influences, to which they could oppose nothing but appeals to the reason of the people, did the Democracy of Connecticut have to contend. The wonder is, not that they did not do better, but that they did so well—not that they did not gain enough over the vote of last year to give them the victory, but that they did not fall behind the vote of last year. As it is, they have reduced the republican majority of last year six thousand votes, and gained fifty-two members of the lower branch of the Legislature.

In the face of these facts, nothing could be more unseemly, and we were going to say, nothing could be more shabby, than the allusions to the Connecticut election by Democratic journals in two of the western States which held elections on the same day as that in Connecticut, and in neither of which did the Democracy do as well as did the Connecticut Democracy whom these Democratic journals take to task for the peculiar structure of their platform. We allude, of course, to the States of Wisconsin and Michigan, and to the Democratic journals in those States which, with the New York World, are confident that the Democracy of Connecticut

could have carried the State on some sort of a mongrel platform. It strikes us that those journals, leaving the Democracy of Connecticut to manage their affairs in their own way, would find it profitable to make a somewhat critical examination of the fruits of their own labors.—*Chicago Times*.

LAST DAY.—We had the pleasure of passing an hour last Friday at the Plymouth Graded School; taught by Mr. A. C. Williams, Principal; M. Cummings, Mollie E. Ackerman and Miss Patterson, assistants. It being the last day of the winter term the exercises consisted of a general review of the several branches that had been studied during the term. We were much pleased with the proficiency shown by the scholars, as it not only testified that they had been faithful in their studies, but that they had been instructed by thorough teachers—which has been a great desideratum in our public school.

Several citizens were present and all seemed well pleased with the manner in which the school was conducted. The several schools being called to room No. 1 they listened to remarks by Dr. Sherman, H. G. Thayer, H. B. Pershing and A. C. Williams. The exercises of the day were closed by dismissing one school at a time, each scholar shaking hands with their teacher as they passed out. We understand Mr. Williams intends commencing a select school on Monday next; we hope he will receive a liberal patronage. T. G. H.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Mr. Editor.—The above disease which has prevailed with such fatal effect, recently, in our county, having been pronounced incurable by some Physicians, I wish to state that I have had thirty-three cases of it in my practice, and have effectively cured them all, and refer among others to the following persons—all of whom are of undoubted respectability—Daniel Ringle, Henry Eyer, John D. Vincent, Jacob H. Donsman, Christopher Hepler, Josiah Gieselman, John B. Kitch, Jonas Miller and W. Knoblock in German Township, and John Coyle and John Pinkerton in Center Township.

As it has been published that the disease in question is incurable, I state as publicly that it can be cured—and do so that the public may not be misled by men pretending to be Physicians, who hardly know a pill-box from a lancet; and who call the disease "hog cholera." I contend that no human being can be affected by the hog cholera, unless he be a hog himself.

I refer all interested to Norwood's and Wood's works on the theory and practice of Medicine, and the different authors to whom they refer.

O. BAIRD,
Bremen, Marshall Co., Indiana, April 10th, 1863.

THE NEWS.

WASHINGTON, April 14.

In the attack upon Charleston, the Federal vessels passed the northeast face of Fort Sumter, but, meeting with obstructions, were compelled to return. The Keokuk and Passaic were entirely disabled (the former subsequently sinking), and the Patapsco, Nahant, and Nantucket received serious damage. A Federal report states that there are eleven large holes in the side of Fort Sumter. The Charleston Mercury says that fort was hit thirty-four times, and one gun dismounted, but makes no mention of any breaching. The latest date from Charleston is the 9th, when the fleet was still off the bar. The rebels expected that there would be renewal of the attack on the 10th. There was a rumor at Port Royal that the rear of Charleston was being rapidly gained by the Federal troops.

The story that Admiral Porter was preparing to run the Vicksburg blockade is pronounced to be unfounded. Gen. Grant has ordered the suppression of two Memphis papers for publishing contraband intelligence.

It is stated in a Richmond paper that Grant and Rosecrans are about to form a junction at Jackson, Miss., and that the combined forces are to move thence upon Vicksburg.

Every thing confirms my former impressions concerning the result of this expedition. Every attempt to get past Vicksburg has thus far failed, and no one counsels a direct attack on it. The new canal cannot be built in a month, and the army cannot wait. That Gen. Grant will be compelled to abandon his undertaking of reducing it this side, and transport his army up the river again, is certain, to my mind. Others are beginning to admit the possibility of failure who ridiculed it a few weeks ago. We hear also that Adjutant General Thomas will be here in a day or two from Washington on a visit of inspection. This bodes no good to Gen. Grant.

"If Grant would abandon operations here at once, make Memphis his base, and push by land towards Jackson, Miss., he might get a new lease of power and authority. Without it, I look for his removal to follow failure here; and the latter seems inevitable. Yours truly."

The public mind has been settling into the same conviction which impresses our correspondent. Our very full and careful correspondence from that quarter—existing in those respects the correspondence of any other public journal—has established that conviction, not by reason of opinion expressed by our correspondents, for

WASHINGTON, April 15. The Port Royal News South says that the attack upon Charleston was renewed on the 10th; but, by an arrival from Charleston, we have intelligence that nothing had transpired up to the evening of the 11th. Gen. Hunter's forces were returning to Port Royal. The rebels have destroyed an armed Federal steamer in Coos River.

The rebels are about to make another invasion of Kentucky. Twenty thousand of their troops are crossing the Cumberland near Lebanon, Tenn., three thousand are marching on Glasgow, Ky., and Morgan is preparing for a raid on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

Banks is fortifying New Orleans, in apprehension of an attack by the rebels, who are said to have a force of 70,000 in the vicinity. Fears are also entertained of a raid upon Ship Island from Mobile.

There is nothing new from Gen. Foster.

His reported surrender is not credited at Washington.

Longstreet attacked Keyes, near Yorkton, on Saturday, and was repulsed. An engagement near Suffolk is considered as probable.

It is reported that the execution of the conscription law will be indefinitely postponed. It is also reported that preparations are being made for a draft to fill deplated regiments.

Secretary Seward is said to have declared, in a recent dispatch to Minister Adams, that, if any more vessels for the rebel navy were allowed to be fitted out and depart from British ports, it would be regarded by the United States as a belligerent act.

European dates are to the 21 inst. Lord Palmerston had declared that the British government would not depart from its neutrality as to America. The Polish insurgents are reported to be disbanding, given up the contest. A son of Prince Christian of Denmark has been proclaimed King of Greece.

The British steamer Peterhoff seized by Admiral Wilkes, is to be released. Lord Lyons has made a demand for her release.

At Peoria, yesterday, the democracy elected their entire city ticket by a hand-some majority. At Springfield, each party elected half of the officers.

There is a report that Gen. Corcoran has shot and killed a Lieutenant Colonel of his command, for using insulting language to him.

CINCINNATI, April 13, 1863.

The principal topic of interest to-day is order No. 33, issued by Gen. Burnside, which says that "Hersafter, all persons found within our lines who commit acts for the benefit of the enemies of the country will be tried as spies or traitors, and if convicted, will suffer death. This order includes the following classes of persons: Carriers of secret mails; writers of letters sent by secret mail; secret recruiting officers within our lines; persons who have entered into an agreement to pass our lines for the purpose of joining the enemy; persons found concealed within our lines, belonging to the service of the enemy, and, in fact, all persons found improperly within our lines who could give private information to the enemy; all persons within our lines who harbor, protect, conceal, feed, clothe, or in any way aid the enemies of our country. Persons committing such offences will at once be arrested, with a view to being tried as above stated, or sent beyond our lines, into the lines of their friends. It must be distinctly understood that treason, expressed or implied will not be tolerated in this department. All officers and soldiers are strictly charged with the execution of this order."

Benjamin, writing on the 15th of January, says:

"It is published for the information of all concerned, as serving to show the prudent and significant reserve which the Confederate authorities prescribe to them, will be tried as spies or traitors, and if convicted, will suffer death. This order includes the following classes of persons: Carriers of secret mails; writers of letters sent by secret mail; secret recruiting officers within our lines; persons who have entered into an agreement to pass our lines for the purpose of joining the enemy; persons found concealed within our lines, belonging to the service of the enemy, and, in fact, all persons found improperly within our lines who could give private information to the enemy; all persons within our lines who harbor, protect, conceal, feed, clothe, or in any way aid the enemies of our country. Persons committing such offences will at once be arrested, with a view to being tried as above stated, or sent beyond our lines, into the lines of their friends. It must be distinctly understood that treason, expressed or implied will not be tolerated in this department. All officers and soldiers are strictly charged with the execution of this order."

The Failure of the Vicksburg Expedition.

We subjoin an extract from a private letter which we have received from a gentleman who has been for some time past staying in the vicinity of Vicksburg, and whose means of information and whose judgment are superior. He writes under date of the 6th instant:

"Every thing confirms my former impressions concerning the result of this expedition. Every attempt to get past Vicksburg has thus far failed, and no one counsels a direct attack on it. The new canal cannot be built in a month, and the army cannot wait. That Gen. Grant will be compelled to abandon his undertaking of reducing it this side, and transport his army up the river again, is certain, to my mind. Others are beginning to admit the possibility of failure who ridiculed it a few weeks ago. We hear also that Adjutant General Thomas will be here in a day or two from Washington on a visit of inspection. This bodes no good to Gen. Grant.

"If Grant would abandon operations here at once, make Memphis his base, and push by land towards Jackson, Miss., he might get a new lease of power and authority. Without it, I look for his removal to follow failure here; and the latter seems inevitable. Yours truly."

The public mind has been settling into the same conviction which impresses our correspondent. Our very full and careful correspondence from that quarter—existing in those respects the correspondence of any other public journal—has established that conviction, not by reason of opinion expressed by our correspondents, for

they have cautiously avoided the expression of opinions,—but by reason of the facts of the progress of affairs narrated by them. From the first there has been scarcely any faith felt by the public in the projected canals, and as to the side-expeditions, what ever hope might have obtained at their outset was quickly dissipated in their progress. They have returned, and their cost is counted by millions of dollars and many lives. As to a direct assault upon Vicksburg, we presume no sane man believes it could be successful even with a force two or three times greater than that now held by Gen. Grant.

We have good reason to believe that Gen. Grant has not at any time since he was ordered to Vicksburg felt any considerable confidence in the success of the undertaking. If we are not ill-advised, the plan which he has pursued was not his plan, but the plan of the Washington incompetents, who have directed him in the most minute particulars. His plan we believe to have been that which our correspondent suggests he should now adopt, and which, had he been left free to pursue it, must have brought some substantial results.

Since the war began every considerable movement, without exception, which has been directed from Washington, has failed, as every movement thus directed will fail hereafter. If as is true of the history of all warfare, few of the ablest Generals have succeeded in campaigns directed from their closets, what but disaster upon disaster are we to expect in campaigns directed from their closets by the wretched charlatans at Washington?

The Mississippi will not be opened this year. Less than two months remain in which our northern soldiers can operate in the climate of Vicksburg, and this brief space of time will not suffice for a change of base by Gen. Grant's army and the prosecution of any effective campaign.

We trust therefore that no unnecessary discussions on this matter will be introduced in your negotiations. If unfortunately, this reliance should be ill founded, you will decline continuing negotiations on your side, and transfer them to us at home, where, in such event, they could be conducted with greater facility and advantage, under the direct supervision of the President.

"With great respect, your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN.

"Hon. L. Q. C. Lamar, Commissioner, etc, St. Petersburg."

NEWSPAPER WRITING.

Every body thinks it is an easy matter to write for a newspaper. And yet few have excelled in the sort of composition required by the daily or weekly press.—Even clever magicians have failed here, and none have made worse work with editors than able historians and elegant stylists—except first-rate and brilliant debaters.

The London Examiner has handled this topic with much ability in the following paragraphs:—"Newspaper composition is a distinct and difficult art. Its principles must be somewhat carefully studied by those who would succeed in it. The disregard of those principles is the cause of the prolixness which characterizes so much of our newspaper literature.—The newspaper is not a thing to be studied—glanced over. The articles, then, must be written so as to attract and hold attention. Processes of thought and reasoning are to be shut out; results are to appear. Argument is to be suggested, rather than stated. Usually one point is enough for an article. Some single rail should be struck fair upon the head, and then left at once. Introductions are a nuisance. Inferences are always skipped. Too sentences should be short. Every word should leap with life. Condensation should be extreme. Subordinate thoughts should be thrown away. The object is, not to treat a subject in full, but to produce a certain effect. All that is not necessary to that effect should be discarded.

"You are well aware how firmly fixed in our constitution is the policy of this Confederacy against the opening of that trade, but we are informed that false and insidious suggestions have been made by the agents of the United States, at European courts, of our intention to change our constitution as soon as peace is restored, and of authorizing the importation of slaves from Africa. If, therefore, you should find in your intercourse with the cabinets to which you are accredited, that any such impressions are entertained, you will use every proper effort to remove them, and if an attempt is made to introduce into any treaty which you may be charged with negotiating, stipulations on the subject just mentioned, you will assume in behalf of your government, the position which under the directions of the President, I now proceed to develop.

"Benjamin's arguments is that the sovereign States of the Confederacy have decided that the slave trade shall not be opened, and put it in the constitution, and that, therefore, the Confederate government has no authority to negotiate on the subject. Benjamin says:

"It is published for the information of all concerned, as serving to show the prudent and significant reserve which the Confederate authorities prescribe to them, will be tried as spies or traitors, and if convicted, will suffer death. This order includes the following classes of persons: Carriers of secret mails; writers of letters sent by secret mail; secret recruiting officers within our lines; persons who have entered into an agreement to pass our lines for the purpose of joining the enemy; persons found concealed within our lines, belonging to the service of the enemy, and, in fact, all persons found improperly within our lines who could give private information to the enemy; all persons within our lines who harbor, protect, conceal, feed, clothe, or in any way aid the enemies of our country. Persons committing such offences will at once be arrested, with a view to being tried as above stated, or sent beyond our lines, into the lines of their friends. It must be distinctly understood that treason, expressed or implied will not be tolerated in this department. All officers and soldiers are strictly charged with the execution of this order."

The printers throughout the country are demanding an increase in pay. At Chicago they are making from \$3 to \$4 per day, and at Indianapolis have made a "strike."

Publishers are coming to grief with paper at an increase in price of 80 per cent, the expenses of living 100 per cent higher than formerly, and compositors rates 35 per cent. higher; with subscription, job and advertising charges at the old figure, many will be compelled to suspend. Benjamin says:

"This government unequivocally and absolutely denies its possession of any power whatever over the subject, and cannot entertain any proposition in relation to it."

"While it is totally beneath the dignity of this government to give assurance, for the purpose of vindicating itself from any unworthy suspicion of its good faith on this subject that may be disseminated by the agents of the United States, it may not be improper that you should point out the superior efficacy of our constitutional provision to any treaty between the States of such binding force that it cannot be changed or abrogated without the deliberation and concurrence of nine out of the thirteen States that compose the Confederacy. A treaty might be abrogated by a party temporarily in power in our country, at the risk of disturbing am-

icable relations with a foreign power. The constitution, unless by approach to unanimity, could not be changed without the destruction of this government itself; and should it even be possible hereafter to procure the consent of the number of States necessary to change it, the forms and delays designedly interposed by the framers to check rash innovations would give ample time for the most mature deliberation and for strenuous resistance on the part of those opposed to such a change.

"After all, it is scarcely the part of wisdom to attempt to impose restraint on the actions and conduct of men for all future time. The policy of the Confederacy is as fixed and immutable on this subject as the imperfection of human nature permits human resolve to be. No additional agreements, treaties or stipulations can commit those States to the prohibition of the African slave trade with more binding efficacy than these they have themselves devised.

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