

THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

J. G. OSBORNE, : : : Editor.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY, MAR. 3, 1864.



Coercion or Secession.

In the year 1861 the M. C. Republican (I. Mutually editor) speaking with reference to the adjustment of the difficulties between the North and the South, used the following language:

"If no compromise can be agreed upon that will be satisfactory to the South, we would prefer peaceable secession to a bloody and desolating war."

"We do not counsel concessions that would be degrading to the North, but still, we cannot but regard a war with our Southern brethren with horror; not but that we think the North would be victorious in the end, but while we are conquering them many valuable lives would be lost, and the business and prosperity of the country destroyed. Are we willing to endure these evils for the sake of compelling the Slave States against their will to remain in the Union? Would they be any better satisfied after they are conquered? We think the South has no sufficient cause for desiring a dissolution of the Union, but if all the Slave States think they have and resolve in their conventions to secede, we are for letting them go peaceably. * * * We are, in short, in favor of Congress calling a convention to settle the difficulties in some way, either by amending the constitution, or providing for a peaceable separation."

Mr. Mattingly never gave utterance to a more humane or patriotic sentiment in his life than those contained in the above extracts from his paper in January, 1861. Had the Republican leaders then been influenced by similar sentiments, we should to-day be in the full tide of National prosperity instead of being as we now are, on the verge of National bankruptcy and ruin; but alas! for the prosperity of the country, other counsels prevailed, and the consequences are a loss of half a million of brave men in the fratricidal conflict, which could and should have been avoided. This is not all, the land of one half our people has been laid waste, and the whole country is filled with lamentation and sorrow. The Good Book assures us that "when the wicked rule the people mourn," and we see its truth fully demonstrated every day. The present incumbent of the White House said in the spring of 1861 that when fighting and conflict had lasted for a time, still the difficulties must be settled by concession and compromise. Yet the radical wing of his party, by the use of apt appliances, brought such a pressure to bear upon him that he ignored all his former protestations and launched the bark of State upon the tumultuous sea of civil war, where she is now foundering amidst the breakers with little prospect of relief until the pilot and crew are displaced, and men loyal to the Constitution are put in charge of the gallant craft.

We have some curiosity to know what our "loyal" neighbor thinks now, after three years of "bloody and desolating war" about "Congress calling a convention to settle the difficulties," which still continue to exist between the North and the South. We should also like to know whether he still "regards a war with our Southern brethren with horror," and whether he thinks "They will be any better satisfied" to remain in the Union now, since the humane (?) leaders of the present administration have well nigh destroyed their country, killed their fathers, and trampled upon every vestige of their rights as States, to say nothing of their rights as citizens of the United States under the Constitution.

Quite a number of our exchanges speak in very flattering terms of the Hon. Geo. S. Brown of Wells County as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor at the ensuing election.

We have but little personal acquaintance with him but his reputation as an able debater, sound logician and good parliamentarian give ample assurance of his fitness for the position. He would make good race, and if elected would, we have no doubt, do honor to the Democracy of the State.

Captain Matt. Boyd of the 73d Ind. Regt. recently escaped from Libby Prison, arrived at home last week looking remarkably well. He gives some very interesting relations of the manner of his escape and his passage through the rebel lines, as well as his experience in Prison at Richmond. He brings word that the boys yet there from this vicinity are, or were when he left, doing as well as could be expected. Of the four who composed his squad in the escape two were retaken, and will undoubtedly be placed in irons as a penalty for their attempted escape. The Captain's version of the modus operandi of their escape does not differ materially from that published by us last week. Of the 110 who got out of the prison only 52 up to this time are known to be within our lines.

Negro Equality.

Under the above caption the Logansport Journal, by far the ablest abolition paper in this Congressional District, speaks as follows:

"In the first place, then, the question of negro equality is one belonging solely to the States. The General Government having no authority or control in the matter, can not prescribe the qualifications of electors, nor decide who shall or who shall not be eligible to the right of suffrage."

"Should the requisite majority of the people of any State choose to so amend its Constitution as to place the black man upon an equal political footing with the white, no man has a right to call that action into question. It is in accordance with the spirit of a Republican form of Government that the majority must rule and it is clearly within the province of each State to designate the qualifications of voters in such State, as well as to regulate its other domestic affairs, so far as is sanctioned by the Constitution of the United States and the laws made in pursuance thereof."

Is not the Journal a little out of place in taking the position that the General Government "can not prescribe the qualifications of electors, nor decide who shall, or who shall not be eligible to the right of suffrage?" What does the Journal say to the "one tenth" proposition of the "Government" in his amnesty proclamation? How will the Journal dispose of the instructions issued by the "Government" relative to the elections in Arkansas and Louisiana? Of course the General Government has no right to "prescribe the qualifications of electors," but who ever expected to hear an administration paper avowed so just a sentiment? Evidently the Journal was off its guard when it gave place to the article from which we have quoted, or else it is making common cause with the German radicals of its party to prevent if possible the re-nomination of Mr. Lincoln. The Journal as also other papers of its party, thinks that the majority of the people of any state have the right to place the black man upon an equal political footing with the white and "no man has a right to call that action into question."

Let us see how that doctrine will work. The Journal and indeed all the leaders of the Republican party recognize the negroes as "people" now suppose that the "people" of Louisiana, or Georgia for instance, a majority of whom are black "choose to so amend the Constitution of their State" as to place the black man upon an equal political footing with the white, why may they not do so if the doctrine of the Journal be true?

Suppose that the negroes in any State where they are in the majority, should so amend their constitution as to prohibit white men from voting, will the Journal still say that "no man has a right to call that action into question?" But the Journal may say that by the constitution of those States, negroes are not now allowed to vote, and hence no such action can ever take place. True enough it cannot so long as ever the forms of law are observed, but still the negroes are "people," and have the right to do that very thing according to the logic of the Journal; and again with the present administration constitutions amount to nothing, as witness the action of the "Government" relative to the States of Arkansas and Louisiana—whatever it chooses to do, it does, and its adherents declare that "no man has a right to call that action into question."

At the next turn of the wheel moved by the radicals to make "pressure" upon the "Government" why may he not issue a Proclamation investing all the negroes in the United States with the elective franchise? There is nothing to prevent his doing so except only the Constitution of his country which he solemnly swore to "maintain, protect and defend," and that has already been so often violated and disregarded that its most sacred provisions have long since, in the eyes of administrationists, become a dead letter; or as Beecher would say "a mere dead sheep skin parchment."

The Court to investigate the conduct of Major-Generals McCook, Crittenden, and Negley, has adjourned sine die, and from what we can learn of the evidence, not a shadow of blame can be attached to either of the Generals. Gens. Hunter, Wadsworth, and Cadwallader left this city yesterday for the East.

The evidence elicited will be promptly sent on to Washington by Judge Advocate Tria. This trial has cost the Government no doubt \$50,000 or \$100,000, to say nothing of the injury done by the withdrawal of corps and other commanders from their respective commands, and all because of the reports put in circulation by some newspaper scribbler.

When is this thing to cease? is the inquiry made by every Union man. That a good officer is to be laid aside and brought to trial because he does not exactly suit the whim or caprice of malicious men is not only injustice to some of our best Generals but detrimental to the service.—[Louisville Journal.]

Congress isn't done with the whisky question yet. It seems to be a cherished subject. Every member has to relate his experience.

Another Mill Blown to Pieces

On Monday last the Saw Mill of Mr. Ely about a mile and a quarter North East of Bourbon in this county was almost totally destroyed by the explosion of the boiler. One man named Myers, was killed another crippled breaking his arm and leg and scalding him badly so that his recovery is doubtful. We learn that the boiler was thrown a distance of more than 40 rods, breaking down in its passage several small trees. The mill is a total wreck but amount of the loss to the owners we are unable to state. We expect to be called on from time to time to chronicle such occurrences as this, until mill owners learn to employ competent Engineers instead of picking up the cheapest hand they can get to take charge of their engines.

Clerk of the Supreme Court.

We learn that Major John P. Dunn of LaPorte County will be a candidate before the Democratic State Convention in July, for nomination for the office of Clerk of the Supreme Court.

Maj. Dunn is a sound democrat of the Jeffersonian-Jackson school, and if elected would make an excellent officer. Should he receive the nomination, we could labor to secure his election, with a hearty, free good will.

Sales of real estate in this County are now more frequent than at any time during the last six years. Lands unimproved, and cultivated, as well as village property, now command higher prices than formerly. "Greenbacks" and other currency, are plenty and there has never been a time since we have been a resident of the County that so little regard was paid to saving money as at present. High prices prevail, in every department, the people spend more money, buy costly more outfits of every sort than formerly, extravagance in living is on the increase, and unless curbed within much smaller bounds than at present must ultimately prove the ruin of many. We say to all, lookout for breakers ahead.—the time will come, and it may be soon, when the business of the country must return to a hard money basis, and when that time comes, they come suffering to thousands.

The present property of the country is only apparent, not real. The large public debt already incurred, to say nothing of the constant increase at the rate of \$2,000,000 per day, is of itself sufficient to weigh down the energies of the people, and bring in its train all that class of evils of which the poorer classes in England have been and are complaining. Our indebtedness is already equal to over half of the entire value of all the property both real and personal, in the country. The day of settlement must come and when it does the people will look back to the days of their prosperity with longing eyes and disappointed hearts. Let all prepare as well they may for the evil to come.

Mitchell's New General Atlas, published the present year is a desideratum to all who desire to keep posted up in the geographical condition of the world. It contains 53 quarto Maps, embracing a series of 84 Maps and plans, among which are plans of 8 of the principal cities of the U. S. finely colored; the Gold Mines of California, Colorado, and Idaho, with the routes leading to them; the principal Battle fields of the present war; a list of the Post Offices in the U. S.; the population of the several States by counties in 1850 and 1860 showing the increase of population in each; the form of Government, and population of the different countries on the Globe; a table of distances between the principal points in the United States, &c., &c.

Price \$7.50 per copy on delivery by J. W. Linn who is agent for this county.—Buy one and verify the truth of our statements.

THE NEWS.

From the Chicago Times March 3d.

In the Senate yesterday, resolutions of thanks to re-enlisted troops were adopted. The bill providing for \$200,000,000 of 5-40 bonds was passed. The Senate insisted upon its disagreement to the whisky bill and referred the matter to the House for its action.

In the House a resolution was offered for the adjournment of Congress on the 31st of May. The bill establishing a Bureau of Freedmen's Affairs was passed. The House insisted on its disagreement to the Senate amendment of the whisky bill, requested another committee of conference, and declared in favor of an additional tax upon spirits on hand of not less than 20 nor more than 40 cents per gallon.

Heavy firing was heard on Monday in the direction of the Rapidan, west of Culpeper. No information as to the nature or extent of the contest has yet been received.

It is reported that Thomas, having been reinforced, moved upon Dalton from Tunnel Hill, and found that Johnson was moving to meet him. A bloody engagement is anticipated to-day.

A Dalton dispatch of Feb. 26th says that "Longstreet has withdrawn his army to a point not prudent to mention." Our Cincinnati special says that Longstreet has turned his front towards Pound Gap, and is believed to design a movement into Kentucky. Schofield is close in his rear.

An Atlanta dispatch of Feb. 26th says that Sherman's advance has reached "Pentley Dear"—wherever that may be.—The Richmond Examiner of Feb. 27th intimates that "Sherman's force is dispersed or withdrawn." A Washington letter states that Logan's cavalry had joined Sherman at Salem.

In the recent battle in Florida, the Federal force was about 5,000, with 20 cannon. The rebel force is reported at 13,000, and was commanded by Gen. Gardner.

The nomination of Grant as Lieutenant General has been sent to the Senate by the President, and been referred to the Military Committee.

Rebel papers think that Farragut can accomplish nothing with his fleet at Mobile.

What Congress is Doing.

In an article entitled as above, the Goshen Democrat speaking of the recent debate in the U. S. Senate relative to the election of a Negro Major from the street cars in Washington says:

We ask our readers to look over this debate, and note a few of the outcroppings of abolitionism, of demonism, and Negro-Equalityism. Mr. Sumner characterizes this pushing a negro off the cars as a worse outrage than would have been the pushing off a white Senator of the United States; and he says: "An incident like that is worse for our country at this moment than a defeat in battle." A nigger is pushed off the cars, and a Senator declares that he would have preferred to see a defeat of our armies in battle! Is it possible that the American people can longer look upon these "architects of ruin" with anything but a horrid contempt at their utter devilishness?

And again he says: "It is a mere offshoot of slavery, which happily we have banished from Washington." Yes, slavery is "happily banished from Washington," and what have we in its stead? A city filled with dying, starving "freedmen"—overflowing with filth and corruption, licentiousness and crime, before which Solomon and Gomorrah must "pale their ineffectual fires." But "slavery is happily banished from Washington." Aye, and so is Peace from the land, and Liberty from the nation!

But Mr. Wilson says: "The country will yet be abolitionized, and humanized, but it must be abolitionized before the high civilization or the high humanity will come. It is all going well and right." Yes, the "high civilization" which abolitionism brings, is witnessed in the wasted fields, burning villages, the flowing blood, the ravished women, the weeping widows, and the disconsolate mothers all over the land; and the humanity it brings is evidenced by the bones of a half a million freedmen bleaching upon their own soil.

"It is all going right and well," is it?—"It may be going right and well for the bloated and debauched fanatics at Washington, rolling in corrupt wealth and looking down upon the suffering and dying agonies of the people with supreme indifference and fiend-like delight. It may be going right and well for the Shoddy contractors and the government officers, but it is not going right and well with the people who have to pay the taxes and furnish the blood and muscle, as these cursed vampires will yet find out to their cost, unless honesty and intelligence have fled from the country, and the old adage is to be again verified, that, "those whom the gods would destroy they first make mad."

Andrew Jackson, in his Farewell Address, March 4th, 1837, said:

"The Union cannot be preserved and the Constitution maintained by the mere coercive power confided to the General Government, and if ever such a struggle is begun, and the citizens of one section of the community are arrayed in arms against those of another, in doubtful conflict, let the battle result as it may, there will be an end of the Union, and with it an end to the hopes of freedom. The victory of the victors would not secure to them the blessing of liberty. It would avenge their wrongs, but they would themselves share in the common ruin.—Each State has the unquestionable right to regulate its own internal concerns according to its own pleasure; and, while it does not interfere with the rights of the Union, every State must be the sole judge of the measures proper to secure the safety of its own citizens and promote their happiness. All efforts on the part of the people of other States to cast upon them their institutions, and all measures calculated to disturb their rights of property, or to put in jeopardy their peace and internal tranquility, are in direct opposition to the spirit in which the Union was framed, and must endanger its safety."

The Progress of our Indebtedness. The census returns of 1860 show that the value of all the real and personal property of all the inhabitants of all the United States, slaves included, as assessed for taxation, was \$5,997,947,525. But as for the purpose of taxation the full amount is not always given, the true or full estimated value is given at \$7,124,556,200.

Taking this larger amount as the value of all the property of every kind in the United States, we find the proportion of it, situated in the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana, amounts to \$2,048,941,931, leaving for the remaining States \$5,075,614,269.

The present Administration has already incurred in the prosecution of the present war a public debt somewhere between \$2,000,000,000 and \$3,000,000,000. The exact amount is not known, but it is probably nearer the latter sum than the former. Thus we have already incurred a public debt equal to more than one-third of all the property in all the United States, and more than one-half of all the property in what are called the loyal States, to say nothing of the debt incurred by the rebel government in the other States.

This vast debt has all been incurred within three years, chiefly within the last two, and it is still increasing at the rate of about \$3,000,000 per day.

At the same rate of progression, in less than two years more the public debt will be more than equal to the value of all the loyal States, and it will not be much longer, if the war continues, before the debt will more than equal all the property in all the States.

Taking these figures as a basis, we would suggest to those who are fond of historical research, the inquiry whether any people upon the face of the earth ever paid any such debt, or even the interest upon a public debt bearing such a proportion to the whole amount of their property?—[New Albany Ledger.]

To Adopt Another Name.

The Republican members of Congress recently held a caucus at Washington in which some definite action was taken in regard to the future movements and maneuvers of their party. It seems from what has transpired of their doings and sayings that there is a manifest desire to change the name of the party. They now want to call it the "National Union," "Unconditional Union," or as some of the speakers said, any other name except its present one. A California member stated, with candor, that "if the Convention was organized as a Republican organization it would fail." Mr. Doolittle was also frank enough to say, that they "needed the war Democratic vote. Mr. Colfax, speaking in the same strain, declared that there were many present, including himself, who were indebted to the war Democrats for their election, and that "the next contest would be a sharp and severe one," adding that "the darkest hour was yet in store for them and they must be in union if they expected to succeed in any nomination." The matter of the name of the party was not settled at the caucus but we presume that the suggestion of a change, with the view of drawing in Border State men and war Democrats, will be adopted, and the old conceit about "winning the partisan in the patriot," only two parties, patriots and traitors, &c., be repeated. U. S. the device will not spring from any sacrificing spirit, but from the considerations hinted at by Speaker Colfax and others.—[Corydon Democrat.]

Captured by a Negro.

The Richmond Examiner gives a rather exciting account of the recapture of one of the escaped Libby prisoners by a negro.—The editor says:

"One of the captures of Wednesday was made by an 'American citizen of African descent.' The dusky captor was engaged in a maternal 'dig' in his potato patch, when he observed the fugitive officer straggling across the field. Seeing that he wore suspiciously blue garments, the darkey, hailed him and asked him where he was 'gwine.' 'Something to the effect of 'nowhere' being the reply, the darkey, with courage and patriotism worthy of immortality, brought his hoe to a 'charge,' and responded, 'yes you is, do—you done broke out o' one o' dem prisons—come along, you got to go along wid me.' He marched him to the house, handed him over to his master, and returned to his potato patch, covered with glory. The Yankee arrived under due guard yesterday morning."

The regalia of a chaplain of the loyal league is a shirt, a revolver, and a dirk. For this was the condition in which a Rev. Chaplain was found in a lady's chamber in Massachusetts. On being asked as to the use he intended to make with the pistol and dirk, he replied, "I belong to the loyal league, and every member has to be thus armed."

It is said that Sumner is about to introduce a resolution in the House to change the name of the United States to New Africa.

Paper money meetings are being held in San Francisco. The people are being terribly indignant at the idea of introducing greenbacks. They are willing to support the Administration, but they won't take its money.

They strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. The shipplasters are in keeping with every other part of the Administration. It is a shipplaster concern from Alpha to Omega.

A republican exchange thinks that "government paper money will go up to par after the next Presidential election." It will go up a good deal higher—it will go up like a balloon.

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