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The Kent News.

PLUMMER & USILTON,..Editors.

Chestertown:

Saturday Morning, June 8, 1861.

FOR CONGRESS:

HON. EDWIN H. WEBSTER,

OF HARFORD COUNTY.

Election, Thursday, 13th of June, 1861.

Attention, Voters of Kent!!

FORWARD MARCH to the POLLS!

It is currently reported, as we go to press, that the Secessionists intend running a candidate for Congress against the Union candidate, E. H. Webster.

The whole matter is to be arranged as secretly as possible, and we have the name of the individual the Disunionists propose to put up, but not being able to ascertain whether he will consent to run or not, we do not feel at liberty to mention his name.

Let the Union men of Kent turn out and do their duty. Let every man be at the polls on Thursday next, so as to insure a Union victory.

THE ELECTION.

On Thursday next, the 13th inst., the voters of the Second Congressional District are called to cast their ballots for some one to represent us in the Congress of the United States. An extra session is to be held on the 4th July, and the election is to be in virtue of the Governor's proclamation. The candidate of the Union men of the District is EDWIN H. WEBSTER, of Harford county, who for two years has so satisfactorily represented his constituents in the U. S. House of Representatives.

We have not heard of any organized opposition to Mr. Webster, but as it is possible that a candidate may be started "at the eleventh hour," it is due to Mr. W., to the District and the country, that every Unionist should go to the polls, and vote on Thursday next. In such a crisis as that which is upon us, it behooves every man who loves his country more than party, to go to the polls and cast his ballot for the Union candidate. An issue has been made—that issue is the Union and the Constitution on the one side, and disunion, secession, and civil war, on the other.—That a State cannot secede and break up this Union is as clear from the Constitution, as the sunlight in a cloudless sky.—The framers of the Constitution, its expounders at the time, from General Washington and his cotemporaries, down to General Jackson, Webster, Clay, Clayton, Cobb, Douglas, Buchanan, and a host of others, the right to secede has been discarded and treated as a vile political heresy, gotten up by selfish politicians of a peculiar class, who, since the days of nullification in 1832, and General Jackson's celebrated proclamation against South Carolina, and his crushing out the rebellious spirit of that day, have been plotting to strengthen themselves and overthrow the Union. In 1832 all parties united around the old Chief. The Whig party of that day, with Clay, Webster and others of its great men, grounded the arms of party, and marched boldly up to the Constitution and Union of the country. They stood shoulder to shoulder with the old Hero, they had opposed on other grounds, and aided him to defeat the monster nullification, which is the first born of the principle of secession. Secession is the parent of nullification. Having destroyed the offspring, we, the patriots of 1861, are called upon to combat the stronger and more dangerous of all political monsters, Secession or Disunion.

Who can halt or hesitate in their duty on the 13th June? Shall the mere party prejudices, the little affairs of elevating one man above another be worthy of consideration, when the paramount and vital interests of the country are at stake? Be not deluded by politicians! There is a time when all party men must yield to the noble impulses of patriotism, rise superior to men and places, and take a high position by the Government and Constitution of the country, and prepare to battle under the National Banner of the "Stars and Stripes."

If the Government should now yield to secession, soon other and greater secessions will take place—the South will divide—the Middle States and the North also, and soon we may have many Confederacies. They may be half or quite as numerous as the States. Delude not yourselves with the idea that secession would stop with the present division. The ambition, cupidity, and imaginary interest of men would further divide and subdivide, until we should have no Nation, no Union! and be torn by intestine divisions and civil wars, like the States of South America have been for many years. Once suffer the cord to be cut, which binds these States into the Constitutional Union, under which we live, and the parts in their revolutions will fly asunder, and the great fabric of republican liberty be scattered into fragments, never to be re-united. What is a man worth who would suffer his limbs to be amputated without on effort to resist it? What is a Government worth, that will not resist the effort to dismember and destroy it?

Be not deceived by the cry of politicians, that this is a war of conquest or subjugation? This is one of the tricks of partizans; it is like the cry of *secede* to "*reconstruct*," by those who never intended to reconstruct, if they could once get loose. Our efforts are only to maintain the Government—the supremacy of the Laws—to open the Courts, and collect the revenue. It was boasted by Secretary Walker, of the new Confederacy, after the fall of Fort Sumpter that in sixty days their flag should float over the dome of the Capitol at Washington! They commenced to raise troops and it was not till the Capital was threatened and menaced, that troops were called for by the Executive from the States. The heights in Virginia command the Capital, and from them it could be bombarded and destroyed. The safety of the city requires that those heights and the surrounding country should be occupied and defended as a protection to Washington. While large bodies of Confederate troops are concentrating at Richmond, Harper's Ferry and other places, ready to be combined and precipitated upon the city or other points of the country, as a matter of necessary and prudent self-defence, the Government must employ and station forces to oppose and resist, and even to dislodge the opposing ones from places where they might become dangerous to the Government. Hence, one of the resolutions of the late Union State Convention, that "the people of this State will support the Government of the United States in all legal and Constitutional measures, the adoption of which may be necessary to *resist* the revolutionists in the States aforementioned."

Fellow citizens, there is no middle ground between the Union and the Constitution on the one hand, and Secession and Revolution on the other! There is no margin on which a true patriot can place himself between them. It is but a *line* that divides them, and *he who is not for the Union is against it*. The cry of *State Rights* is a fallacy now! It is gotten up by Politicians, to delude and mislead. The true question is as we have stated. We all desire a peaceful settlement; we are all opposed to war and battles, but when the life of our Government is threatened, when the revolutionists have seized it by the throat, and are ready to destroy it, is it not folly to cry non-resistance, and a peaceful adjustment, until they shall unloose their hold, let go the vitals of the Government, disband their forces, and call for a National Convention to adjust all differences.

To the friends of the Union, the Constitution and the Laws, we again say, go to the Polls, and vote for the trusty, faithful, loyal, talented WEBSTER!

THE ANTI-COERCIONISTS.

The secession party in Maryland, finding Disunionism below par, have turned a sharp corner and come out as "Union men opposed to Coercion." This is an artful device of the Disunionists to catch the timid Unionists, and bring them into their schemes of secession; and we caution them in advance against these insidious snares.

We are as much opposed to Mr. Lincoln as any of our readers, and we have as little respect for him as for the bogus President, Jeff Davis. Mr. Lincoln is, however, the legally elected President of the United States, chosen agreeably to the forms of the Constitution and laws, and in virtue of his position is entitled to the support of all loyal citizens, in his defence of our Government. To that extent we support him, and for any further schemes beyond this, we are as utterly opposed to him as we are to the traitors in arms against their country.

If we understand the true meaning of Coercion, it is to subjugate and overrun the Cotton States, lay waste and hold them as provinces. Now we are satisfied that no sensible man thinks the United States Government contemplates the adoption of a course so utterly repugnant to common sense, and to a spirit of liberty which, we trust, has not yet entirely fled from our land; and if we thought this was the policy of our Government, we should be among the foremost in its denunciation. It is but justice to the United States Government to say, that, so far from adopting a coercive policy, it has been forbearing to an extent which has not only caused surprise in our own, as well as foreign countries, but actually submitted us to the humiliating reflection that we have no Government at all. To the extent alluded to we are, therefore, anti-coercionists, which is a very different principle from that now attempted to be inaugurated by the secessionists, and which they are endeavoring to impose upon the Union men.

The anti-coercion of the Disunionists is to tie the hands of the U. S. Government, and to break up a great and glorious Government for selfish and wicked purposes—to let Jeff. Davis and his rebels take the City of Washington—pillage the mints and custom houses of the country, seize all U. S. property wherever they can—repudiate all debts due citizens of the loyal States, and break up the Government of our country—imprison and proscribe all loyal Union men at the South, and confiscate their property; issuing commissions to privateers legalizing depredations upon property, and authorising piratical acts—firing upon and humbling the flag of our glorious Republic; raising large armies at the South months before the Government had brought a soldier into the field, and committing insults and aggressions upon our Government until forbearance ceased to be a virtue. To oppose these traitorous schemes of the South, is to be a Coercionist—to uphold them is to be a good "Union anti-coercionist." To break down this glorious country, and put in power the Breckinridge Democracy, is the object of the Union anti-coercionists, disguise it as they may; and we warn the Union men of Maryland of their purposes. They want you to let Jeff. Davis and his rebels alone in their attempts to destroy the Government, upon the same principle that a forger, robber, or murderer wants to be let alone in his acts of villainy.

Another device of the anti-coercion Unionists is to recognize the rebels, and let them alone. This is the first step to the secession of Maryland, for when they have broken up the Government and been recognized, they will then draw Maryland after them, and chain her to the car of South Carolina and the Cotton States.

Union Men of Kent!

We hope every Union man in Kent will be at the election on Thursday next, so as to show the full Union vote of our county.

We wish to impress this fully upon their minds, for all who neglect to vote will be set down by the secessionists as belonging to them. We know no true Union man wishes to be thus classed, and we hope to see them at the polls on Thursday.

UNION OR DISUNION.

PEACE OR WAR.

We wish every reflecting man to look at the condition of Maryland, and contrast it with Virginia, and it will satisfy him thoroughly of the benefits of Union, and the evils of Disunion.

In Maryland, things are moving on quietly and peacefully, and all pursuing their usual avocations with perfect liberty—thanks to the Union men of our State. In Virginia, the blasts of war are sounding throughout her borders, provisions are scarce and high; the liberty of speech, the freedom of the press and the people, totally prostrated; farming and all other business neglected and made subordinate to military necessity—money scarce and her currency worth about fifty-two cents in the dollar, whilst heavy taxation is hanging over all her people, and her entire community kept in a continual state of excitement and alarm, whilst property in that State has fallen fifty per cent. below what it was worth a year since. This is the fruit of Disunion, and in deciding for ourselves in Maryland on this matter, it simply resolves itself into a question of whether we shall surround ourselves with civil war and all its attendant horrors, by secession, or shall we have peace and all its blessings by our continuance in the Union.

Look to this when you cast your vote at the election on Thursday next.

"UNION ANTI-COERCIONIST."

The true definition of a *Union anti-coercionist*, is one who is a disunionist at heart, but bides his time to strike a blow for secession—one who glories in the prospective downfall of his country, and rejoices in her humiliation—a man who prefers the success of party to the interests of his country, and who appears incapable of appreciating the blessings of a free, glorious and enlightened Government. Such men are generally found among the Breckinridge Democracy, and are largely in the ascendant in our Legislature.

Rally, Union Men!!

Not only go the polls yourselves, on Thursday next, but get your neighbors to go also. *Go round among our friends in every district, and urge them to go out and vote for E. H. Webster, the Union candidate.*

PROBABLE EVACUATION OF HARPER'S FERRY.—It is the opinion of individuals who have watched the movements of the Confederate troops at Harper's Ferry for the last few days, that that place will be given up with little or no fighting. A letter from that vicinity, of June 5th, says: "The Rebels will find themselves utterly unable to get away if they remain a few days longer, and are afraid they will be starved into submission instead of a battle being made. They have nothing except their arms and ammunition there, and to convey these things away there are two hundred wagons in the town already.

HUMILIATION OF MARYLAND.

The Secessionists affect to think that our State is humiliated by the passage through and occupation by the United States troops. No sensible or patriotic man can seriously entertain such sentiments. They are our troops, for, thank Heaven, our good old State is still in the Union, and they have a legal right to be in our State, and none but a disunionist or rebel would question the right.

These same Secessionists, however, see no humiliation in the invasion of Maryland by foreign troops, as Virginia now assumes to be a foreign State. Virginia troops have not only invaded our soil, but have committed gross depredations upon citizens of our State, and not one word of rebuke from the 'Union anti-coercionists.' What hypocrisy!!

THE TRUE ISSUE

ON THURSDAY NEXT.

Look at the question of secession in any light you please, it is a matter of Revolution, civil war, violence, fraud, tyranny, heavy taxation, military despotism, and evils of every imaginable kind, whilst remaining in the Union ensures domestic quiet, peace, prosperity and the blessings of liberty and good government.

This is the real issue involved in the election on Thursday next.

A Northern View of our Difficulties.

We ask the attention of our readers to the annexed letter from Bishop Potter to a Southern friend of his.

Bishop Potter is one of the most pure and consistent men in the Episcopal Church, and when he speaks, he utter[s] what he knows to be true. It is wort[h] of attention, as developing the true vi[ews] sentiments and purposes of the Nor[th] people in the present war. We a[sk the] "Union anti-coercion men" to read [care]fully—the majority of the Brec[kin]ridge men can pass it by, as they bel[ieve] nothing but what is calculated to ad[vance] their party interests:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Potter, [a] learned, able and pious Bishop of the [P.] E. Church of Pennsylvania, being inf[orm]ed by a friend in Alabama as to a [let]ter touching the war, the language o[f] the inquiry is quoted in the following r[epl]y of the Bishop:—

PHILADELPHIA, May 13, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR:—Yo[u] beg me to explain how it is possi[ble] that (I) could, under the circumstances, give so much sanction and encouragement to those engaged in this *unholy, unprovoked, wanton attempt to destroy* [the]*s and all that is dear to us.*"

Your misconception is so radical that [I] almost despair of correcting it. Wha[t] you regard as an "attempt to destroy yo[u]" and all that is dear to you," is considere[d] by us as simply an attempt to defend our[]selves and the Capital of our country fro[m] threatened invasion, our Constitution fro[m] destruction, and even our Southern bret[h]ren from that which is the surest prote[c]tion of themselves and their peculiar ins[]tutions. From the secession of South C[a]rolina to the storming of Fort Sumter, [the] General Government remained all [] passive. It then became indispensa[ble] that we should know whether it wa[s] Government, whether it could retain [its] hold of Washington and whether the wh[ole] system that Washington and his comp[anions] inaugurated in 1789 was not a delu[sion] and imposture. This, my dear sir, is [the] whole story. Your theory not only d[is]gards your own obligations under the [Con]stitution, but it leaves us no Gov[ern]ment, except in name—opening the [door] for perpetual discord and for sece[ssion] without end.

I do not believe that at the Nort[h a] man in fifty desires an invasion of [our] soil or the destruction of your socia[l sys]tem. They simply desire that you s[hall] not break up the Union by your m[ode] of leaving it, but refer all subjects of [com]plaint to a Convention of all the S[tates] which will be competent either to r[emove] all grievances, or to provide a w[ay by] which you can retire from the Union [] out dissolving the whole fabric [of] General Government.

Under the present exasperated [state of] the sections, it is impossible to say [what] length this conflict may go. But I [tell] you that in the few lines above y[ou have] the whole *animus* of the loyal St[ates] of Union men everywhere. O[n the] smallest number of fanatics think [] of slavery. The whole question [is] self defence, and of *Government* [and] *Government*. Yours sincerely,

ALONZO PO[TTER].

THE LEGISLATURE

In the Maryland Legislature [many] were presented from a number o[f] recommending the Legislature t[o] *sine die*. A memorial was pres[ented] the Senate from merchants of [] asking the repeal of the law for [] the State Tobacco Warehou[se]. Whitaker introduced an order [] to the removal of the State arm[s] McHenry. In the House Mr. [] presented an order in relation [to] rest and imprisonment of citizen[s of] land by the military authorit[ies of] General Government. Mr. [] presented a resolution instruct[ing the] presentatives of Maryland in th[e Con]gress to vote for the recognit[ion of] independence of the Confedera[cy].

Election Thursday

Let every Union man reme[mber] he fails to vote, the Seces[sionists] ill claim that he is with them.

Jeff. Davis has issued a pro[clamation] at Richmond, ordering the fede[ral troops] to leave Virginia within ten da[ys].

DEATH OF SENATOR DOUGLAS.

The Hon. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS died at Chicago, Illinois, on Monday morning at nine o'clock. The announcement of his serious illness had somewhat prepared the public mind for the reception of the melancholy intelligence, but the great heart of the nation throbbed with increased sadness when the unwelcome tidings of his death were finally received.

Judge Douglas is best known to the people of his country, as Senator from Illinois. In that once illustrious body he achieved his proudest distinction. It was there he was "The Little Giant." Impartial men of all parties who are familiar with the Senate for a quarter of a century say that he has had no equal in that time as an off-hand debater, and his more elaborate efforts were always most overwhelming manifestations of forensic power. His great trait of character as a statesman was that he thought out his course for himself, and nearly always pursued his object by some original, bold, and striking course. In debate he was ever ready, and never at a loss for an expedient. Indeed, his fertility of resource was wonderful, and woe to the unfortunate adversary who, being right as to the main point, would permit himself to be drawn aside into an ambush of collateral issues, for from that moment his defeat was certain.

He dies at a critical period for his country. He has in the present troubles, with the instinct of a patriot, and with the sagacity of a statesman, espoused the cause of the Government with all the fervor and energy of his nature. Just at this juncture when boldness and courage and dauntless resolution are most needed by his country, he is lost to her service through the inscrutable providence of God.

War News.

The First Battle in Virginia.

VIRGINIA SECESSIONISTS ROUTED BY VIRGINIA UNIONISTS.

Two columns of troops, commanded by Colonel Kelley, of the First Virginia Union Volunteers, of Wheeling, and Colonel Crittenden, of Indiana, left Grafton early Monday night, and after marching about twenty miles through a drenching rain surprised a camp of two thousand Confederate troops at Philippi, Virginia, a town in Barbour county, on Tigart Valley river. The surprise was complete, the Confederates fleeing and leaving fifteen dead bodies on the field. The Union troops captured a large amount of arms, ammunition, horses, provisions and camp equipage.

At the last advices the Federal troops were in hot pursuit of the Confederates, and there will probably be many of them taken prisoners.

Colonel Kelly was severely wounded in the breast, but the ball has been extracted, and hopes are entertained of his recovery. Several others of the Federal troops were slightly wounded.

Skirmish at Fairfax Court House.

Company B, of the Second Cavalry, left their encampment, near Arlington, at 10 o'clock on Friday night on a scouting expedition. They went as far as Fairfax, about 12 miles distant, where they found several hundred men stationed. A skirmish then took place, in which a number of the enemy were killed. The Cavalry had one killed, four wounded, and two missing. Five prisoners were captured, one of whom is a son of the late Colonel Washington, of the U. S. Army. Lieut. Tompkins, who commanded the company, had two horses shot under him, one of which fell upon his leg, bruising it considerably.

Skirmish at Hagerstown.

A party of Secession troops attempted again on Saturday morning last to take possession of the ferry boat lying opposite Williamsport. The Union company at that place ordered them to desist, which they refused to do; whereupon the Union men opened fire, which was as briskly returned, and the fire was maintained on both sides for about an hour. One of the secessionists was killed and several wounded while on the boat, at the commencement of the fight. The boat was soon abandoned, and the secessionists fled.

The Second Action at Acquia Creek.

On Friday of last week the steamers *Anacostia* and *Freeborn* engaged the batteries at Acquia Creek for two hours, and renewed it the next day, continuing twice that length of time.

The lower, or beach battery, which had been so essentially damaged the day previous, had, in the meantime, been repaired by the secessionists, whose force is supposed to be about 2,000 strong. For the first two hours the fire from the shore batteries was very brisk, but was returned with more expedition by the Pawnee, which had been despatched to the scene of conflict. During the expedition she fired one hundred and sixty shells, one of which was seen to explode immediately over the heads of those who were working the battery. The observer, through a telescope, saw a number of the dead carried away in wagons. The Freeborn lodged three shells in succession in the breast battery, perceptibly damaging the works, which had also the effect of greatly diminishing the fire.

The Freeborn received two shots, one of which passed through the cabin, damaging some of the crockery, but not the vessel, except making a passage through the bulwarks of slight consequence.

The Pawnee received eight or nine shot but all too high to inflict much damage. It is the opinion of the officers on board that had the Secessionists been provided with good gunners the vessels would probably have been sunk. Some of their shots passed over the masthead to the Maryland shore.

To the Polls, Union Men!!

The Secessionists may, secretly, run a candidate for Congress against the Union candidate, E. H. WEBSTER. Do not be taken by surprise, but not only go and vote, but get all others to do likewise.

For the Kent News.

GALENA, June 5th, 1861.

Messrs. Editors:—The Military Company of this place seems to have quite an unenviable notoriety, and I would respectfully beg a little space in your paper to say a few words about said company. I am a member of it, and have been from its organization; I have attended regularly the meetings and drills from its very first formation and have never heard the question of Union or Disunion discussed in the company; if there is an officer who is not a sound Union man, he has never intimated his principles to the company, which is composed of as good and honest a set of young men as can be found in any company of its size in the State, many of them consistent professors of religion, into whose brains a wish for disunion I am confident never entered, and whose moral lives it would be well for the traducers of the company to imitate. The following reports have been secretly but industriously circulated by some individual in this neighborhood, viz: one, that our company had put up a secession flag; such a flag was put up in this place one night about two months since but was suffered to remain only a few hours, and the individual who was induced to hoist it, was not and never had been a member of our company, neither was the flag hoisted at our drill room; another, that our company intended going to Chesapeake City to let the water out of the canal; another, that we threatened to go to Middletown to capture the arms of a company there because it was a Union company; another, that we were going to Towns End for some desperate purpose, which I have not learned; another, that the arms of the company were to be placed exclusively in the hands of disunionists, and that there were but two Union men in the village, neither of whom belonged to our company. Each and every of the above reports are known by every one acquainted with the members and officers of the company to be vile, unqualified falsehoods. Our officers have never been commissioned, I suppose on account of the above reports. A month or two ago you may remember a report was current that the negroes of the county were to rise against the whites; our company had no arms and this portion of the county was entirely unprotected; a public meeting was called, all eyes seemed then to look to our little company, and it was deemed of the highest importance that we should have guns, and a committee was appointed by the meeting to raise funds with which to buy arms for the company, if they could not be had any other way; money was liberally given by the most unconditional Union men, and by all irrespective of party or principle, and when the arms were obtained before they could be placed in the hands of the company, intelligence was sent to Elkton, where some Federal troops were stationed, that arms were to be placed in the hands of a disunion company, whose officers were not commissioned. We heard that the officers of said troops intended sending down and seizing our arms and quartering treops among us—we sent to Elkton to learn the truth of it, and found we had heard correct. A public meeting was again called, when it was thought advisable to prevent troops from being stationed in our quiet village, that the arms should be given to some commissioned company; our company like peaceable, good citizens as they are, willingly complied with the wishes of their friends, and their guns were so disposed of, and the military authorities at Elkton were notified of the same.

That so many false reports could get in circulation without an author, whose aim is to injure the company, is unreasonable; there is doubtless some one who has something against the company, or possibly an old grudge against some one of the officers, who has taken this cowardly plan for revenge. It is said that the names of several of our citizens have been sent to the officers in command of the troops in Elkton as disunionists; doubtless the same individual who got up the other reports, have sent or carried these names, expecting some personal reward or favor. How contemptible is the man who would seek favor for himself by secretly giving false testimony against his fellow citizens toward whom he openly professes sincere friendship!

Now, Messrs. Editors, my sole object is to place this company in its true light before the public. It was organized last year, as such companies have been usually got up—no pledge of party or principle was asked—our purpose was only for a home guard and amusement; we didn't dream of fighting even for the government, much less a Southern Confederacy, for such a Confederacy was not in existence. Now we are entirely without arms and can fight for nobody; a half dozen wild negroes out of the adjoining forest, acting in concert, with guns, could murder nearly the whole of our inhabitants any night.

Yours, truly, X. Y. Z.

COLONEL JOHN C. FREMONT.—This accomplished officer, who has recently been appointed a Major General in the United States Army, is expected home from Europe in a few days. He had previous to his appointment offered his services to the Government in any capacity that they might need them. A late letter from Paris says that he was engaged in negotiating for 20,000 stand of arms, principally Enfield rifles, which he will take with him on board the steamer, and within a week after his arrival will be ready to take the field. He went to Europe for the purpose of organizing a joint stock association for the working of his Mariposa mines, in California. Col. Fremont is said to be the most wealthy man in America.

LARGE UNION MAJORITY IN CECIL.—An election was held in Cecil county last week to fill a vacancy in the House of Delegates. Mr. McIntire, the Union candidate, received 2,229 votes, and O. G. Kidd, secessionist, 176 votes.

THE offices of all the departments of Government of the Confederate States, at Montgomery, were closed on the 27th ult., and the business will hereafter be conducted at Richmond, where all the heads of bureaus and their assistants have arrived.