msa_sc2901_scm1621-0478 copyright Maryland State Archives

The Kent News.

CHESTERTOWN:

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 28, 1863.

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK.

General Hooker was in Washington on Monday in consulation with the President and Secretary of War. The condition of the Army of the Potomac is said to be very good in every respect—a state of discipline having been reached which promises the best results when the time for action shall once more arrive.

The Rebels are reported to have again invaded Kentucky. The Louisville *Journal* thinks that the invasion is a formidable one, but the *Democrat* discredits the idea that any large number of Rebels are in the State. It is also denied by the military authorities.

Active operations it is reported have been commenced against Vicksburg. On the 18th, the mortar boats took position and commenced the bombardment. Whether the movement of the army had commenced is not stated.

Detailed accounts of the capture of the steam ram Queen of the West are given by the Richmond papers. The capture of the Rebel transport Eva by the Queen of the West has already been announced. It appears that the pilot of the Eva was taken on board the Queen, and compelled, under guard, to pilot her up the river. He succeeded in deceiving the Commander of the Queen as to positions of the Rebel batteries, and when she had reached Gordon's Landing she was fired into and disabled. She drifted to the opposite side of the river, when all but thirteen of her officers and crew succeeded in escaping to the transport De Soto. The Queen and all her armament, supplies, &c., remained in the hands of the Rebels. According to a Rebel report, a Rebel steamer subsequently pursued and recaptured the Eva, which had one of her wheels disabled, and the De Soto was burnt to prevent her capture. It is also stated that the National gunboat Indianola had gone up the Red river to attempt the recapture of the Queen. The Rebels exaggerate the importance of the capture by speaking of the Queen of the West as an "iron clad." She was an ordinary river steamer, with her bow strengthened for "butting" purposes, and her machinery protected by cotton bales.

Strong evidence of the existence of Union sentiments in Western and Northern Texas are found in extracts from the San Antonio *Herald*. That paper indulges in threats against the men entertaining such sentiments, which should have the effect to hurry any preparations which may be in progress for their relief. "They are known," it says, "and will be remembered. Their numbers are becoming every day less. In the mountains near Fort Clark, and along the Rio Grande, their bones are bleaching in the sun, and in the counties of Wise and Denton their bodies are suspended by scores from black jacks." The Houston *Telegraph* also says that a secret "Abolition" organization exists in Northern Texas, having a grip, a sign and a password, and extending to all classes of the community—clergymen, professional men, &c. Up to October 27 twenty-two men belonging to the organization had been hung.

A letter was received in Washington a few days ago from Gen Rosecrans, in which he says that he has good reasons to believe Bragg's army at Chattanooga to be greatly dispirited and demoralized, and that *he has no fears for the result when the next advance is made.* The condition of the roads is such as to prevent movements of any magnitude for some time to come. The spirit and morale of his army are excellent.

The New York *Times* has private advices confirming, to some extent, the rumors of trouble in General Banks' Command, growing out of the introduction of negro troops. Four or five officers of the 133d Regiment of New York Volunteers have resigned, and one Brigadier General has flatly refused to recognize the colored troops, or to march with them.

At the night session of the Senate on Monday the bill indemnifying the President for political arrests, and authorizing the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* was, as amended, passed by a vote of yeas 25, nays 12. The operation of the bill is limited to the 1st of March, 1864.

By the steamer Jura, we have foreign advices to the 13th instant. The Rebel emisaary, Mason, was a guest at the Lord Mayor's banquet, and predicted the speedy recognition of the Southern Confederacy by England. The London Times repudiates Mason's remark, and says that he was "much too fast." The ship Griswold, laden with contributions for the suffering operatives, had arrived at Liverpool, and was received with salutes.

An explosion of one of Dupont's powder mills, near Wilmington, Delaware, occurred on Wednesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, by which thirteen lives were lost.

The Frankfort Ky., correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette says, in reference to the recent dispersal of the Secession Convention at that place, that Col. Gilbert is sustained by the loyal people, and that the Legislature, instead of censuring, will thank him. A Secession lawyer tried to get one of the Judges to empanel a Grand Jury to investigate the mattter; but the Judge refused, saying that even if the Jury were in session he would not suffer an investigation, as the courts had no right to interfere with the military authorities. There appears only one way in which the Kentucky traitors can aid the Rebel cause, and that is to emigrate to Dixie. They should not stand upon the order of their going but go.

The Select Committee on Emancipation in the House of Representatives, on Wednesday, reported a bill to aid the State of Maryland in the abolishment of slavery. It appropriates the bonds of the United States to the amount of $10,000,000 for the purpose; the bonds to be delivered when the President shall be satisfied that a good and valid act of emancipation has been adopted within two years from the first of January, 1863. The bill was subsequently recommitted. The committee also reported a bill appropriating $15,000,000 for the emancipation of slaves in the State of Missouri.

General Hooker's friends in California are about to present him with a magnificent sword, costing $5,000. It is finished, and now on exhibition at Sacramento.

The Nashville Union reports sales of cotton at seventy-five cents per pound.

☞ The devices of the Secessionists and Secession sympathizers among us are, it seems, never to cease: as soon as one theory is exposed or exploded they immediately concoct another. Their present hobby is a labored effort to make it appear that the Government and the Administration are one and the same, and that to sustain the former, it is necessary to assent to all the measures of the latter; in other words, that a man cannot favor the Union cause without endorsing the *present* Administration.

Now, there is no principle better established in the theory of our Government, and none which has heretofore been more generally acknowledged, than that a man may dissent from any public measure which he believes improper or unnecessary, and at the same time be truly loyal. The distinction between *the* Government and *an* Administration should never be lost sight of. By the term "Government," is understood the Constitution and laws of the country, containing the basis of the whole superstructure, and the articles of confederation, which were designed to be permanent. The term "Administration" is understood to mean the President and his constitutional advisers, who administer the *laws* for a term of four years only, by limitation, and subject to impeachment and removal for corruption in office. With this simple explanation, it will be easy for every reader to distinguish the difference between the two.

The object of those who are now found teaching the unity of the Government and the Administration is obvious. By reason of the folly and unpopularity of many of the measures of the party now in power, they seek to poison the public mind and array it against the great fundamental principles of the Government itself. These men are the enemies of the Constitution and the Union, and seek to overthrow it by intrigue and deception. They know full well that every Administration has had its opponents, and that it has never before been contended that men should array themselves against their country because they could not sanction measures of the party temporarily controling public affairs. Take, for example, the administration of Mr. Buchanan: how many individuals in every community entertained sentiments antagonistic to it, without ever dreaming of an attempt to subvert the Government because of their opposition? The bare intimation of such a suspicion would have been repelled with indignity. Some men, indeed, have been opposed to nearly every administration that has been in power since they deposited their first ballot, without abating a jot in their loyalty, or losing a particle of their inborn love for the institutions of their country. But, strange to say, it has been reserved for men of the present enlightened day to teach the anomalous and absurd doctrine that the Administration and the Government are one and the same. They know better, or at least some of them do, *and some do not*, but have learned it by rote, as a parrot learns to talk. But it is done, as we said before, for the purpose of arraying against the Government those Union men who oppose many of the measures of the present administration—and for the ostensible, but *secret* purpose, of undermining the fundamental principles of the Government itself, and promoting the cause of secession. None but Secessionists *at heart*, whatever their professions may be, could promulgate such a treasonable doctrine. It is contrary to experience and to common sense; and the fact that one can retain his allegiance and at the same time be free and untrammeled in the expression of his political (not treasonable) opinions, is one of the greatest glories of our free institutions.

Like all other efforts of the Secessionists in our State to bewilder and delude the people, we predict that this last one will prove a failure. Why did they never think of it before? Because they have just announced that they expect to carry the State, *and even this County*, at the November election, and they find it necessary to add to their limited stock some new secession capital. But no intelligent, reflecting man, will be deceived by such miserable sophistry; and it is propagated in the hope of entrapping the less informed and the unsuspecting. Let Union men be on their guard, and there is no danger of being caught in the gins and snares so temptingly baited to entice them from the path of allegiance and of duty.

SLAVERY vs. SECESSION.

It has always been contended by Union men that secession would prove the most deadly blow to slavery and the value of slave property that could possibly be inflicted. A striking verification of their prediction is to be found in the appraisers' valuation of the property of the late Chas. Carroll, of Howard county, in this State, a grandson of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. The returns to the Orphans' Court assesses the value of his one hundred and thirty slaves at an average of only five dollars. The appraisers say this was the highest rate they could name, after consultation with various slave owners and dealers. Many of these slaves are doubtless old and decrepid, and an expense to the estate; but there must also be among so many a large number of young and able hands. The reader will see in this case some of the visible effects of secession upon the value of slave property in Maryland. How any intelligent man can favor the cause of the rebellion as a protection to slave property, or any other interest, is a mystery which we have never been able to solve.

THE CONSCRIPTION BILL.

The bill to enroll and call out the militia of the country, passed the House of Representatives on Wednesday by a vote of yeas one hundred and fifteen, nays forty-nine. Some amendments not of special importance, were adopted which will take the bill back to the Senate. The whole Maryland delegation, except Mr. May, voted for the bill. A synopsis of this bill will be found on our first page.

LOCAL ITEMS.

☞ Last Sunday was decidedly the most stormy day of the winter. It commenced snowing about four o'clock in the morning, and continued without intermission until night, leaving an average depth of about eight inches on the ground. The wind at the same time blew fiercely from the northwest, and but few persons ventured out except on urgent business. The snow drifted to such an extent in many places as to render travelling in carriages quite difficult. It was extremely cold on Sunday night, and ice formed in the river of sufficient thickness to obstruct navigation and prevent the steamer Chester from making her regular trip to Baltimore on Monday. The sleighing was tolerably good on Monday and Tuesday, and those fond of that sport indulged themselves quite freely. The weather has since moderated, with rain on Thursday, carrying away the snow. The heavy rains and snows of the past two weeks have completely saturated the ground, which is now almost as wet as water can make it, and the roads are in a horrible condition.

SALE OF A FARM.—Messrs. J. W. and A. L. Corey, Executors, sold at public sale in Chestertown, on Tuesday last, the farm of the late Thos. S. Corey, adjoining the village of Belle Air in this county, and containing 207⅛ acres. It was purchased by Mr. William Bowman, of Philadelphia, for $10,000.

SALES NEXT WEEK.—R. Hynson, Esq., as Trustee, will sell at public sale, at the Hotel of Mr. Jos. O. Rasin, on Tuesday next, some valuable town property; also a Lot of land in Broad Neck.

Mr. J. Harper Gale will also sell at the same time and place, a Farm of 136 acres, adjoining Smithville.

See advertisements in other columns.

LAY DELEGATES.—John F. Melvin and Isaac Parsons, Esqrs., have been elected Lay Delegates to represent Kent Circuit in the Maryland Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, which meets in Baltimore on the 11th of March.

PREACHING.—The Rev. T. J. Quigley, D. D., will preach in the M. E. Church, Chestertown, to-morrow (Sunday) morning, at 10½ o'clock.

☞ The following came unexpectedly into our hands:

PUBLIC MEETING.

Secessionists, Disunionists and Copperheads Attend!!!

The gross outrages of the Jeff Davis Government, have rendered it necessary that we should denounce it, and thus assume a virtue we do not possess, in order that we may make even a decent show at the next election; and although we really believe that the North Carolina traitors have got their just deserts, and that his Majesty King Jeff is one of the "purest of the pure," yet we must continue to delude and cajole the Unionists and hold up to their simple minds all the terrors and hardships of arrests, and the opportunity now offered must not be suffered to pass. A denunciatory meeting will therefore be held on Chester bridge, on Saturday night next at 12 o'clock.

The proceedings referred to in North Carolina will be found below, together with the audacious and treasonable remarks of the American.

MANY VIPERS.

REVELATIONS AS TO REBEL PRISONS.—We find in a copy of the North Carolina *Standard* of the 31st of December, published at Raleigh, the sketch of a debate held in the Legislature of that State in relation to summary arrests and the disregard of the writ of *habeas corpus*, such as should arouse in the heart of every Secession sympathizer here the purpose to call the Jeff Davis Government to a strict account. The statement was made by a Mr. Carter that the prisoners confined at Salisbury "were in a most destitute condition, *without bedding*, and nearly naked. He had been credibly informed that some of them had no other bedding *than a few leaves* to protect them from the severity of this winter weather." Another member, Mr. McAden, said:

"These men have been arrested, not by a civil process—a process that all men should be arrested under, if arrested at all—but *by military authority; and the right of habeas corpus, the great magna charta of our liberties, was denied them; they have been arrested without charge of guilt, but upon suspicion, and denied a hearing or trial;* they have been thrown into prison without clothing, and are now, as we know by information *given to us by the Governor, suffering from the want of clothing and food.*"

He goes on to say that by the "Revised Code" of North Carolina "even *slaves* confined are required "to be treated humanely," and urges the speedy trial or discharge of the unfortunate citizens thus incarcerated.

Now, we say, what a revelation is this to make the disloyal here blush for the base attempts made to excite the popular indignation at the treatment of prisoners on this side of the lines? What an exposure of that cool and damnable hypocrisy which, enthroned in the person of Davis at Richmond, calls on the civilized world to quarrel with the Federal Government for acts which as to the blackness of his are "as the driven snow." On the strength of this horrible revelation of barbarity, we look to see a certain "mission to Richmond" repeated, if so be the writ of *habeas corpus* shall not be wounded or even "slain in the house of its friends."

There is no denying this case. We have had before this the avowals of Governor Vance for the horrors inflicted upon unoffending citizens—men not known to have a shadow of guilt to answer for—in the horrible pest houses, in the dreadful prisons of Salisbury; and now right before us is the whitey-brown Confederate journal, from that neighboring town of Raleigh, emblazoning the horrible truth.

HON. JOHN VAN BUREN.

This gentleman may properly be considered as one of the leading spirits of the Northern Democracy, and the following sentiments uttered by him, we believe to be those of the great mass of the true Democracy of the Northern States, and it was upon this platform that they were successful in the recent elections. They are the sentiments of the Union party of Maryland. The following is an extract from the speech of Mr. Van Buren, made in New York on Monday:

"When the country is engaged in a war like this every man has one simple duty to perform—either to take part with those who are in open opposition to the United States, or to assist in the suppression of the rebellion. [Applause.] We are at war. It is not a time to discuss how we got into it. He did not believe the war was to be put down by discussion. We are not to discuss now whether the action of the Government has been wise or unwise. *We must take the war as we find it, engage in it, and put it through until it is finished*, and then there will be a day of reckoning for those who brought it on us. But the war is here, and we are to determine what we will do with regard to it. He denied that he had ever been in favor of anything short of prosecuting the war with vigor, and reiterated in most unmistakable terms, his present belief that *ths war should be prosecuted with vigor*, in spite of the proclamations, which he did not think could do much harm. He urged the utmost sympathy and support of our brethren in the field as the only salvation of the Republic. Let us first show the South our power, and then offer them the conciliations of the Constitution, and protection for their property and institutions. [Applause.]

THE CONSCRIPTION BILL.—There is a provision in the bill passed by the United States Senate to enroll and call out the militia of the United States not generally understood. Under the third section, dividing the militia in two classes, not only all between 20 and 35 years of age, but all "*unmarried* persons subject to do military duty, above the age of 35 and under 45," are included in the first class. The second class is to compose "all other persons subject to do military duty." The latter are not to be brought into service until the first class shall have been called.

TEST QUESTIONS.

Do you believe in the existence of a nation formed first by the union of these States, and ratified by the most solemn acts of their people—a nation in law, in fact, and in right? Do you believe in the supremacy of the national authority, its rightfulness and universal obligation? Do you believe it to be the duty of every citizen of the whole nation to yield obedience to that authority; distinguishing, if he desires in such obedience, between the authority itself and the legal and rightful steps open to every citizen to modify its administration? Do you believe that the preservation of the nation's existence and the maintenance of its authority are above all other duties and obligations when that existence and authority are assailed? Do you feel that allegiance and loyalty are first due to the constituted national authority, and in the presence of danger from enemies without or traitors within, do these sentiments fill your whole heart and prompt your whole action?

The citizen who can answer these questions affirmatively and without reservation is a loyal man. The citizen who cannot is disloyal. The life of the nation is assailed by traitors of the most infamous dye. Loyal men are overwhelmed with the sentiments which imminent danger to the highest object of their love and duty can inspire. The nation does exist. Men of all ranks and all parties feel its life to be almost essential to the continuance of their own. Local and State attachments exist, but there is one nation only to which the thought of supreme allegiance and supreme loyalty everywhere attaches.

Many men in the loyal States are tinctured with the heresy that there is no supreme national power. They were as cool when the Rebels threatened to capture and destroy Washington as if it had been a rebellion in Lilliputia. They are atheists in civil life, believing in no supreme power—anarchists, who defy national restraint—frames and forms of citizens, without the conscience, the heart and the soul of a citizen. There must be a line drawn to distinguish all such, and the public feeling now demands that it be drawn by asking the test questions written above. It is not merely the organs of opinion who ask them: it is the stern crisis of affairs which presses on every man, and whose original inspiration and impetus no man can define. It is every man's work in the aggregate, yet no man's in particular. No citizen can escape the test, whether we will or he will. It settles on us an inevitable decree of power that cannot be resisted. The sum of its demands may be stated in even fewer words: Are you for or against the nation which gave you life? Does your judgment yield it allegiance and your heart yield it loyalty?

The present policy of those who cannot bear this test is to exalt details above principles, and to upset the whole order of relations in which a citizen stands to his public duties. It is to put some abstract thing in the place of the actualities of government. Under pretence of reverence for the Constitution, they refuse obedience to the powers and authorities created by that Constitution. Under pretence of solicitude for the personal liberty of every man, they incite the destruction of the power which can alone maintain liberty. They promote disloyalty for the sole purpose, apparently, of seeing what can be done to weaken the obligation of a citizen to the government that protects him.—They commit all the crimes possible, and then make the punishment they may happen to get the excuse for committing more. Men who are incapable of joining in the common effort to save the nation, first talk treason to make themselves conspicuous, and when the worst among them can no longer be tolerated with safety to the nation, the punishment of one rouses a thousand others, who make his case the pretext of fulminating their own disloyalty. Perhaps it is well, if this rottenness does exist, to unmask it even in this way, tho' to most of us the whole course of events is one of unmixed pain and of protracted calamity. It is not pleasant to find the fabric of civil and social life open to such terrible dangers, but it is not less true that, having once unearthed the heresy that has so long rankled in the State, we will now pursue it to the death, and settle forever the great question whether this nation does exist—whether it is a sovereignty established beyond the power of traitors to overthrow. To the eyes of the Rebels there was no majesty apparent in our simple framework of government.—They scouted the idea that it could maintain an obligation on them if they chose to throw it off. But they find there is irresistible strength under its unimposing exterior, and that a power rises steadily to proportions they will not dare to look upon with hostility hereafter. Their sympathizers in the loyal States are now feeling and seeing the same. And in view of this crisis which is to decide whether we are or are not a nation, every citizen feels himself questioned sharply in substance as we have written. These questions must be answered, and the disloyal must hereafter stand apart from other men.—*North American.*

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE CONFEDERATES.—Both houses of Congress have passed the bill to prevent correspondence with the Confederates. It provides that if any person, being a citizen of the United States, and residing in foreign country, or any citizen thereof, without permission of the government of the United States, and with the intent to defeat the measures of the government, shall, either directly or indirectly, open any correspondence or intercourse with the Confederate government, or any individual acting or sympathizing therewith, or who shall counsel or assist in such proceedings, shall be deemed guilty of high misdemeanor, and, on conviction, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $10,000, and imprisonment not less than six months or more than five years, the offender to be tried by a court within the jurisdiction of which he may first have been arrested.

PASSAGE OF THE FINANCE BILL.

The Baltimore American says: The passage of the Finance bill marks a great epoch in the history of the Republic, and although not one of those measures bearing upon its welfare, and shaping its great future, such as is heralded in by the firing of cannon, the display of flags or other demonstrations to mark great days in a nation's history, yet it is one destined to have a more material and beneficial effect upon our substantial prosperity, and even upon our National integrity, than anything which has occurred in a half century.—Binding our mighty interests together with more than links of steel, for the first time in our National career we have been made one people in our direct recognition of the National Government as the only proper custodian of our currency; and when the time comes—as come it will—when every man can find in his own pocket or his own coffers strong reasons why he should not let the Government be destroyed, selfishness and recklessness will be curbed, and the enemies of the Union be transformed to friends.

Let us rejoice, then, at the better auspices which are dawning upon us; let us be thankful that if revolution and public disturbances bring woe upon a country, they are oftentimes the correctives of public evils such as never would be corrected without that general upturning which exposes things to the uttermost. Surviving the troubles of the present period, our future career is destined to be that glorious one contemplated by those who founded us a Nationality; and if it took sharp lessons to make our progenitors discard the old Confederation, let us trust that when things are righted now our course will be straightforward hereafter.

The Richmond Enquirer on the Raising of the Charleston Blockade.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 18th has the following decided back down from its recent glorification over the blockade raising at Charleston:

"The Southern Confederacy has lately been made the dupe of a notable imposition. It was said, printed, echoed and reverberated over the land that on a certain night our two iron-clad vessels at Charleston had sunk two, disabled one and dispersed the rest of the blockading squadron off Charleston harbor. Now we learn with pain and certainty that no ship was sunk, none disabled, and that no damage, in short, was done to the blockading squadron, which, consisting of wooden ships only, avoided a fight with our iron clads, and most judiciously, until they brought up iron-clads of their own, which they immediately did.

"Further, we regret to say that the British steamer Princes Royal, ladened with the most precious cargo that ever entered the port of Charleston, had been captured the night before by a Federal gunboat. That she was alongside that gunboat, within a mile and a half of the shore batteries; that the naval authorities at Charleston were made aware of her capture, value, situation; and our victorious ironclads did not rescue her from that gunboat, but allowed her to be carried out to sea!

"We would rather praise than censure, but the truth must be told. An official inquiry is to be made of this mismanagement of an enterprise which may never be so favorable again."

Peace Overtures in the Missouri Legislature Indignantly Denounced.

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., Feb. 24.—Gov. Gamble sent to the House to-day a communication accompanying certain resolutions recently adopted by the Legislature of Delaware, asking Missouri to send delegates to a national convention for the purpose of effecting an armistice.

The Governor's message treated the subject in a statesmanlike manner. He denounced the resolutions, and recommended that they be passed over in silence. A spirited discussion ensued, and the resolutions received a most unmerciful handling from several members. They were denounced as false in history, seditious in spirit, and treasonable in language.

Several resolutions were offered by different members declaring, in substance, that the war is just and right, and should be prosecuted by every means within the resources of the loyal States, to the last man and the last dollar, until traitors submit unconditionally to the authority of the government of the United States, and the principles of freedom be sustained. That Missouri will neither consent or submit to peace without the entire submission of the traitors in arms, nor to any armistice without subjugation, nor to any interference by foreign powers. Also, thanking Gov. Gamble for the loyal and patriotic views expressed in his message.

A resolution was also offered approving the act of Col. Gilbert in dispersing the recent Rebel Convention in Kentucky.—The resolutions were finally passed over informally.

DEATH OF A HEROINE.—Annie Carter Lee, the daughter and only child of Gen. Lee, of the Rebel army, died recently at Jones' Springs, North Carolina, an outcast from her home because she remained true to the flag under which her ancestors won their laurels, and true to Government which had always treated her father as a parent treats a favorite child. Some months since, a gentleman in Western New York gained access to Arlington, the late residence of Gen. Lee, and in rummaging among the relics which strew the garret floor of the now deserted mansion, he found a copy of Goldsmith's poems, upon the fly-leaf of which was written, "To Annie Carter Lee, from her grandmother;" and with the consent of the attendant, he brought it away as a relic, as well of the former happy home at Arlington, now deserted and disgraced by the treason of General Lee, as of the Custis family, of which that grandmother was a member. It is sorrowful to think that this Annie, the descendant of a one noble and patriotic house, and herself as noble and patriotic as the best of her line, should have met death alone and deserted by all but one faithful old servitor of the family.