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The Kent News.

A Family Newspaper: Devoted to Literature, Agriculture, Politics, General News, and Advertising.

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The Kent News:

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Jas. H. Plummer & Wm. B. Usilton,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

Terms of Subscription:

TWO DOLLARS per annum, *payable in advance.* If not paid within six months from the time of subscribing, TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS will be *invariably charged.* No subscriptions received for less than six months.

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Job-Printing.—HAND-BILLS, BLANKS, CIRCULARS, &c.—We have an extensive assortment of new and beautiful JOB TYPE, and are prepared to execute every description of Job Printing, at short notice on very reasonable terms.

Select Poetry.

KIND WORDS.

Kind words, oh! they can ne'er offend,
And yet although they cost us not,
They purchase many a truthful friend
That hoarded wealth could ne'er have bought,
The darkened brow, where cold frowns dwell
'Mid bitter hatred's angry wiles,
Kind words will soon those frowns dispel,
And win the sternest lips to smile.

Kind words should ever greet the poor,
For they may heal some inward pain,
And oh! perchance the outcast lure
Back to virtuous paths again.
Could we behold each tempting snare
That marks the wretched culprit's fall,
We should our cruel judgments spare,
And words of kindness speak to all.

Kind words in memory's silent cave
Are treasured as a sacred prize,
When he who breathed them—in the grave
At peace—in dreamless slumber lies,
The widow'd mother oft they cheer,
And soothe the weeping orphan's grief;
They gently chase each burning tear,
And give the burning heart relief.

Kind words are music to the heart;
When whispered low, in love's sweet tone,
To other's hearts they bliss impart,
And truly happy make our own;
As dews refresh the drooping bowers,
As sunshine glads the singing birds,
So we are cheered in sorrow's hour,
By sunny smiles and kindly words.

Kind words, oh! let them freely flow,
Our race on earth is drawing near,
As soon—too soon—that voice of woe
May bid us cease to linger here.
This life is brief—and all must die—
We are but mortals, frail and weak,
But while we're spared, oh! let us try
Ever some kindly word to speak.

ADVERTISE.

Said a prominent business man to us the other day: "I always find the money I spend in advertising is the best investment I make; it is always returned to me fourfold." There is a multitude of business men who don't appreciate the advantages of advertising; they always count what it costs, without ever reckoning the return of the venture. If you wish to know who is doing the most business, look at the advertisements and they will give you a good test of judging. The man who advertises his business in the newspapers does a better thing than he who puts up a sign over his door—it is seen by more persons. No matter how well a man is known, or how good business is, he is always sure to secure new customers by advertising, for if he neglects this, he fails to adopt the best means of securing trade, and thus loses the best of his profits. And besides all this, it looks like business.

KEEP BUSY.—Men who have half a dozen irons in the fire are not the ones to go crazy. It is the man of voluntary or compelled leisure who mopes, and pines, and thinks himself into the madhouse or the grave. Motion is all Nature's law. Action is man's salvation, physical and mental. And yet, nine out of ten are wistfully looking forward to the coveted hour when they shall have leisure to do nothing, or something, only if they feel like it—the very syren that has lured to death many a "successful" man. He only is truly wise who lays himself out to work till life's latest hour, and that is the man who will lives the longest, and will live to most purpose.

JOSH BILLINGS, in the *Troy News*, gives us weekly scintillations of the ripest wisdom. The last is in the form of advice to a young lady as to how she shall receive a proposal: "You ought tew take it kind, looking down the hill, with an expression about half tickled and half scart. After the pop iz over, if yure luvver wants tew kiss you, I don't think I would say yes or no, but let the thing kind ov take its own course. There is one thing I hav alwas stuck tew, and that iz give me long courtships and short engagements."

FIVE HUNDRED SHARES.—A Cleveland copper speculator fell asleep in church, from which he was waked by the pastor's reading: "Surely there is a vein for the silver and a place for the gold where they find it." Jumping to his feet he shook his book at the minister, crying, "I'll take five hundred shares."

The Late Peace Conference.

The President transmitted to Congress on Friday of last week a full and detailed report of the recent peace conference at Fortress Monroe, as to its inception, progress and termination, accompanied by an interesting letter from Mr. Seward, which gives an insight into the purposes and views of the Southern commissioners, as expressed in their conversation with him. The President significantly states that "the conference ended without result." Mr. Seward's letter was addressed to Charles Francis Adams, our minister to England, explaining the matter to him, and gives a complete history of the whole affair. The following is the pertinent portion of it:

A few days ago Francis P. Blair, Esq., of Maryland, obtained from the President a simple leave to pass through our military lines, without definite views known to the government. Mr. Blair visited Richmond, and on his return he showed to the President a letter which Jefferson Davis has written to Mr. Blair, in which Davis wrote that Mr. Blair was at liberty to say to President Lincoln that Davis was now, as he had always been, willing to send commissioners, if assured they would be received, or to receive any that should be sent; that he was not disposed to find obstacles in forms. He would send commissioners to confer with the President with a view to a restoration of peace between the two countries, if he could be assured they would be received. The President, therefore, on the 18th of January, addressed a note to Mr. Blair, in which the President, after acknowledging that he had read the note of Mr. Davis, said that he was, is, and always should be willing to receive any agents that Mr. Davis, or any other influential person now actually resisting the authority of the government, might send to confer informally with the President, with a view to the restoration of peace to our once common country.—Mr. Blair visited Richmond with this letter, and then again came back to Washington.

On the 29th instant we were advised, from the camp of Lieut. Gen. Grant, that Alexander H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter and John A. Campbell, were applying for leave to pass through the lines to Washington as peace commissioners, to confer with the President. They were permitted by the Lieutenant General to come to his headquarters to await there the decision of the President. Maj. Eckert was sent down to meet the party from Richmond, at Gen. Grant's headquarters. The Major was directed to deliver to them a copy of the President's letter to Mr. Blair, with a note to be addressed to them, and signed by the Major, in which they were directly informed that if they should be allowed to pass our lines they would be understood as coming for an informal conference, upon the basis of the aforenamed letter of the 18th of January, to Mr. Blair. If they should express their assent to this conditon in writing, then Major Eckert was directed to give them safe conduct to Fortress Monroe, where a person coming from the President would meet them. It being thought probable, from a report of their conversation with Lieut. Gen. Grant, that the Richmond party would, in the manner prescribed accept the condition mentioned, the Secretary of State was charged by the President with the duty of representing this government in the expected informal conference.

The Secretary arrived at Fortress Monroe on the night of the first day of February. Major Eckert met him on the morning of the second of February, with the information that the persons who had come from Richmond had not accepted, in writing, the condition upon which he was allowed to give them conduct to Fortress Monroe. The Major had given the same information by telegraph to the President, at Washington. On receiving this information, the President prepared a telegram directing the Secretary to return to Washington. The Secretary was preparing, at the same momont, to so return, without waiting for instructions from the President. But at this injuncture Lieut. General Grant telegraphed to the Secretary of War, as well as to the Secretary of State, that the parties from Richmond had reconsidered and accepted the conditions tendered them through Major Eckert, and General Grant urgently advised the President to confer in person with the Richmond party. Under these circumstances, the Secretary, by the President's direction, remained at Fortress Monroe, and the President joined him there on the night of the second of February. The Richmond party was brought down the James river in a United States steam transport during the day, and the transport was anchored in Hampton roads.

On the morning of the 3d, the President, attended by the Secretary, received Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, on board the United States steam transport River Queen, in Hampton Roads.—The conference was altogether informal. There was no attendance of secretaries, clerks, or other witnesses. Nothing was written or read. The conversation, although earnest and free, was calm, and courteous, and kind on both sides. The Richmond party approached the discussion rather indirectly, and at no time did they either make categorical demands or tender formal stipulations, or absolute refusals. Nevertheless, during the conference, which lasted four hours, the several points at issue between the government and the insurgents were distinctly raised and discussed fully, intelligently, and in an amicable spirit. What the insurgent party seemed chiefly to favor was a postonement of the question of separation, upon which the war is waged, and a mutual direction of efforts of the government, as well as those of the insurgents, to some extensive policy or scheme, for a season, during which passions might be expected to subside, and the armies be reduced, and trade and intercourse between the people of both sections resumed. It was suggested by them that through such postponement we might now have immediate peace, with some not very certain prospects of an ultimate satisfactory adjustment of political relations between this government and the States, section or people, now engaged in conflict with it.

This suggestion, though deliberately considered, was nevertheless regarded by the President as one of armistice or truce and he announced that we can agree to no cessation or suspension of hostilities, except on the basis of the disbandment of the insurgent forces and the restoration of the national authority, throughout all the States in the Union. Collaterally, and in subordination to the proposition which we thus announced, the anti-slavery policy of the United States was reviewed in all its bearing, and the President announced that he must not be expected to depart from the positions he had heretofore asserted in his proclamation of emancipation, and other documents, as these positions were reiterated in his message. It was further declared by the President that the complete restoration of the national authority everywhere, was an indispensable condition of any assent on our part to whatever form of peace might be proposed.

The President assured the other party that while he must adhere to these positions, he would be prepared, so far as power is lodged with the Executive, to exercise liberality. Its power, however, is limited by the Constitution, and when peace should be made, Congress must necessarily act in regard to appropriations of money, and to the admission of representatives from the insurrectionary States.—The Richmond party were then informed that Congress had, on the 31st ult. adopted, by a constitutional majority, a joint resolution submitting to the several States the proposition to abolish slavery throughout the Union, and that there is every reason to expect that it will soon be accepted by three-fourths of the States, so as to become a part of the national organic law.

The conference came to an end, by mutual acquiescence, without producing an agreement of views upon the several matters discussed, or any of them. Nevertheless, it is perhaps of some importrnce that we have been able to submit our opinions and views directly to prominent insurgents and to hear them in answer in a courteous and not unfriendly manner.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
WM. H. SEWARD.

FRIGHTFUL DEED OF BLOOD.—*A Son Kills his Father, Mother and Wife.*—The Toledo Commercial gives an account of the arrest of a young man named David F. Bivans, who confesses having murdered his wife and his own father and mother and then setting their dwelling on fire, by which their remains were burned to ashes. The deed was perpetrated in Lenawee county, Mich., and the murderer was a deserter from the army. He states in his confession that on entering the house he first met his father, whom he shot through the head with a revolver, killing him instantly. He next shot his mother, but cannot say where he hit her. His young wife sprang to his side, and by the most endearing entreaties, pleaded that he would do her no harm. The fiendish wretch states that he embraced and kissed her, then shot her through the heart!—He quickly set fire to the house, and then made his escape, but was subsequently arrested.

The age of the murdered father was 57, the mother 51, the young wife 20. They are highly respected in the community in which they lived, moved in the best circles of society, and were possessed of considerable property. The motive that led to this terrible and unnatural crime, as stated by the murderer himself, was this: He had become enamored of a young lady, and he conceived the horrid idea that the most certain way to possess her would be to murder his parents and wife in the manner described, and thus fall heir to his father's property, and obtain the object of his unholy love.

The unnatural murderer who has thus imbrued his hands in the blood of three ties of relationship, the nearest and dearest on God's earth, is an only son, but 22 years of age, slim, genteel in appearance and handsome in face and feature. His apparel was neat, tasty, and even fastidious. With his rosy cheeks, daintily curled and delicate black mustache, together with his kid gloved hand, he looked more like a dandy than the finished murderer that he is.

The oldest journal in the world is published in Pekin, China. It is printed on silk, and has appeared every week for more than a thousand years.

From the South.

Official Report of the Rebel Peace Commissioners--Great War Meeting in Richmond—Jeff. Davis makes a Speech—The Rebel Senate Reject the Proposition for Arming the Slaves.

Late Richmond papers contain the following official report of the Confederate peace commissioners:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America:—Having recently received written notification, which satisfied me that the President of the United States was disposed to confer, informally, with unofficial agents that might be sent by me with a view to a restoration of peace, I requested Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, the Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, and Hon. John A. Campbell to proceed through our lines and holds a conference with Mr. Lincoln or such persons as he might depute to represent him. I herewith submit for the information of Congress the report of the eminent citizens above named, showing that the enemy refused to enter into negotiations with the Confederate States, or any one of them separately, or to give to our people any other terms or guarantees than those which a conqueror may grant, or to permit us to have peace on any other basis than our unconditional submission to their rule, coupled with the acceptance of their recent legislation, including an amendment to the Constitution for the emancipation of all negro slaves, and with the right on the part of the Federal Congress to legislate on the subject of the relations between the white and black population of such States. Such is, as I understand, the effect of the amendment to the Constitution which has been adopted by the Congress of the United States.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

To the President of the Confederate States:—Sir—Under your letter of appointment of the 28th ult., we proceeded to seek an informal conference with Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, upon the subject mentioned in your letter. The conference was granted, and took place on the 3d inst. on board a steamer anchored in Hampton Roads, where we met President Lincoln and Hon. Mr. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States. It continued for several hours, and was both full and explicit.

We learned from them that the message of President Lincoln to the Congress of the United States, in December last, explains clearly and distinctly his sentiments as to terms, conditions, and method of proceeding by which peace can be secured to the people, and we were not informed that they would be modified or altered to obtain that end.

We understood from him that no terms or proposals for any treaty or agreement looking to an ultimate settlement would be entertained or made by him with the authorities of the Confederate States, because that would be a recognition of their existence as a separate power, which, under no circumstances, would be done.—And, for like reasons, that no such terms would be entertained by him from the States separately. That no extended truce or armistice as at present advised would be granted or allowed without satisfactory assurance in advance of the complete restoration of the authority of the constitution and laws of the United States over all places within the States of the Confederacy. That whatever consequences may follow from the re-establishment of that authority must be accepted, but that individuals subject to pains and penalties under the laws of the United States might rely upon a very liberal use of the power confided to him, to remit these pains and penalties, if peace be restored.

During the conference the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States, adopted by Congress on the 31st ult., were brought to our notice.—These amendments provide that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, should exist within the United States, or any place within their jurisdiction, and that Congress shall have power to enforce this amendment by appropriate legislation.

Of all the correspondence that preceded the conference herein mentioned and leading to the same you have heretofore been informed.

Very respectfully your ob't serv'ts,
ALEX. H. STEPHENS,
R. M. T. HUNTER,
J. A. CAMPBELL.

WAR MEETING IN RICHMOND.

A large war meeting was held in Richmond on the evening of the 6th inst., at which Jeff. Davis made a speech. The Dispatch furnishes the following synopsis of his remarks:

Upon the subject of the recent peace conferences he said that he himself had never entertained much hopes of effecting honorable terms so long as our cause was meeting with reverses; but, under the circumstances, when semi-official representatives had so frequently visited our government, intimating that negotiations might result in a satisfactory adjustment of our difficulties, and when it was plain that the sufferings of our people dictated that every effort on our part should be made to bring about a cessation of hostilities, he felt it his duty, as he had always done, to appoint men whom he regarded as among our best men to meet the representatives of the Lincoln government, and see if measures could be devised to heal the breach which severed us, and obtain that independence which no other power on the face of the earth but the Yankees would think of denying us.

As to the conditions of peace, the President emphatically asserted that none but the independence of the Confederacy could ever receive his sanction. He said he had embarked in the cause with full understanding of its meaning and magnitude, and full knowledge of the tremendous odds against us; but, with the approval of a just Providence, who, he believed, was on our side, and the united resolve of our people, he doubted not that victory would yet crown our labors and our sufferings.

Sooner than that we should ever be united again, I would be willing to yield up everything I have on earth; and if it were possible, I would yield up my life a thousand times rather than succumb.

He concluded by exhorting those at home who are able to bear arms to unite with those in the field in repelling the foe, believing that thereby we would compel the Yankees in less than twelve months to sue for peace on our own terms.

Loud and long continued applause followed the speech of the President.

A long series of resolutions were adopted, among which were the following:

Resolved, That we spurn with indignation the grossly insulting terms which the President of the United States has proffered to the people of the Confederate States.

Resolved, That the terms in which, and the circumstances under which, it was made, stamp the proffer as a designed and premeditated outrage upon, and indignity to, our people.

Resolved, That in this presence, and in the face of the world, invoking thereto the aid and favor of Almighty God, we renew our resolve to maintain our liberties and achieve our independence, and to this end we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honors.

STEPHENS GOING A CANVASSING.

It is said that Mr. Stephens will return to Georgia and canvass the State for a vigorous prosecution of the war. He stated to a friend that the only hope now left for the people of the South was "in strong arms and stout hearts."

THE SOUTH WILLING TO COME BACK.

The Richmond Enquirer frankly admits that there is, or has been a large party at the South willing to return to the Union, and that it would certainly have become the dominant party if the peace commissioners had been proposed generous terms by Messrs. Lincoln and Seward. This is the first time that any Richmond journal has admitted that reconstruction was possible.

The Mobile Register and Advertiser says that the people at that end of the Confederacy are willing not only to come back, but to consent to a gradual abolition of slavery.

NO NEGRO SOLDIERS.

The Richmond papers state that the Senate, by an almost unanimous vote, have rejected the bill for putting 200,000 negroes into the army.

NEW INTERNAL REVENUE BILL.

The amendatory Internal Revenue Bill, reported from the committee of ways and means in the U. S. House of Representatives on Monday, makes many changes in the details of the present law. Among other things, it provides that in all sales of spirits hereafter made, a gallon shall be taken to be a gallon of first proof, according to the standard set forth and declared for the inspection and guaging of spirits throughout the United States.

Brandy distilled from grapes is to pay a duty of fifty instead of twenty-five cents a gallon; and distilled from peaches and apples, one dollar and fifty cents a gallon.

The bill proposes to amend section ninety-nine of the presnt law, under the head of "brokers," by striking out the words "gold and silver bullion and coin," and the words "of all contracts for such sales," and inserting in lieu thereof the words, "upon any sales or contracts for the sale of gold and silver bullion and coin one-tenth of one per centum on the amount of sales or contracts."

Incomes are to be taxed on persons at home or abroad five per centum on the excess over six hundred dollars, and ten per centum on the excess over three thousand dollars.

On any loan of money, or any advance of money on security, whether represented by note or otherwise, for every hundred dollars or fractional part, a stamp duty of two cents is required.

On all cotton on which no duty has been levied and collected, and which is not exempted by law, a duty of six cents a pound until July 1, 1866, and on and after that date, five cents, payable in coin.

In addition to the duties imposed in section ninety-four of the present law, there shall be collected and paid on goods, wares and merchandise, except as hereinafter provided, an increase of one-fifth, or twenty per centum; provided that this shall not apply to illuminating oil, refined and naptha, benzine and benzole, paper of all descriptions, printed books, magazines, pamphlets, reviews, and similar publications, cotton manufactures, manufactured tobacco, snuff, cigars, cigarettes and cheroots.

The amendatory internal revenue act is to go into effect from and after the 1st of April next.

PROSPECTS OF THE REBELLION.

An officer of the Army of the James, remitting subscription to the News, writes as follows:

Before another six months rolls round you will have the pleasure of inserting in your paper the downfall of this rebellion. It is now making its last deadly struggle. We lie within six miles of Richmond, and deserters come into our lines by hundreds. They tell an awful tale in regard to the condition of the Rebel army. They state that the Confederacy is now done with, that there is no hope for them, and that they must go down unwept, unhonored and unsung.

Our booming guns are to-day within shelling distance of the Rebel capital, and we can see it plainly on some of our forts. The time will soon come when the word "forward, march" will be given, and Lee in his sheltered position will be driven from his stronghold, where he is held with a stern grasp by General Grant. Our noble army and navy, and the people at home, have pledged themselves to sustain the Government, and the question now is, Shall the Union be preserved, or shall we in the hour when the prospects of final success are brighest abandon and yield up all we have gained and submit to ruin and misery? We and the people at home have desired to settle the fate of the rebellion, and now the great work is almost accomplished, and before the close of this year the Union and the Constitution will be written brighter on the pages of American history.

PROPOSED VISIT TO REBEL PRISONS REFUSED.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune says:

The United States Christian Commission last week proposed to the rebel authorities to send Bishops McIlvaine, O. Jayne and Lee, and Horatio Jones of Philadelphia, to visit all the rebel prisons and ascertain the condition of the Union prisoners. General Grant forwarded the application to General Lee, with his approval indorsed, and giving permission for an equal number of clergyman and other civilians from the south to visit the military prisons in the north on a like errand. These visits, Gen. Grant added, would do much to relieve anxiety in the public mind on both sides, caused by exaggerations or misrepresentations as to the treatment of prisoners. Yesterday a reply was received from the rebel government, through Commissioner Ould, declining to permit the visit of the Bishops as "inexpedient."

THE INTERNAL REVENUE.—The table of internal revenue derived from the various States, which was published a few days ago, shows the proportion of wealth to the population which exists in each State, and hence the proportionate profits of capital in each. New York we should expect to exhibit the highest ratio, but its twenty-four millions of taxes divided among its population of nearly four millions, give a tax of only $6.25 to each individual.—Pennsylvania, with nearly thirteen millions taxes, divided among about three millions of population, gives $4.46 to each person. Massachusetts gives $9.07; Connecticut $6.33; Rhode Island $10.25; Ohio $5.04; Illinois $5.70; New Jersey $4.32; California $4.50; Maine $1.80; Michigan $1.57; New Hampshire $3.07; Vermont $1.12; Delaware $3.23; Maryland $4.02; Indiana $2.41. According to these ratios, Rhode Island is richer *per capita* than any other State in the Union, or in other words capital is more remunerative and wealth more accumulated.

AN OIL STORY.—A good story is told of an old lady in West Virginia, who owned a large tract of barren land which she could not sell, and who took the advice of a visitor and poured some petroleum oil along the streams which meandered thro' it. She sold the land at a fabulous price, the owners agreeing also to give the lady one-eighth of the oil. The old lady thought she had a pretty good joke on the speculators, but the enterprising fellows set up their derrick, and put down an augur, and in a short time they struck a well which yields one hundred barrels of oil per day.

MUST OBEY THE COMMODORE'S ORDERS.—An exchange says:—At one of the United States Navy Yards, the other day, the commandant issued orders that all the cattle employed in the yard should be fed on cut feed, which was accordingly carried into effect. But one old ox who had been educated on long hay, could not accommodate himself to his new diet, and it was reported to the proper authorities that the animal wouldn't eat cut feed. "Not eat it!" exclaimed the head teamster, filled with horror; "he must eat it! it's the commodore's orders!"

Hiram Painter, of Waterbury, Conn., won a wager of $50, Thursday, by cutting a log 10 feet long, 3½ feet thick at the butt and 3 feet at the small end, into kindling wood in 8 hours and 54 minutes.—The time allowed in the bet was 10 hours. He broke two axes in doing it.

PRICE OF SUGAR.—A lot of sugar was sold by Ellis, Livingston & Co., in Columbus, Georgia, on Saturday last, at seven dollars to eight dollars per pound.

MANY who are wits in jest, are fools in earnest.