OLD TIME STUFF

WHAT OUR DADDIES AND GRAND DADDIES DID 60 YEARS AGO IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

In the issue of Sept. 30th, 1864, war news is quite meager; the greatest activity is around Richmond and in the vicinity of Atlanta, Ga. The editor seems to be much elated over the situation at Richmond, as the following item at the head of the editorial column shows:

"On to Richmond!..The Very Latest—As we go to press we have information that Gen. Grant has made an attack upon Richmond; has taken 15 guns, and scattered the rebel horde in every direction. In our next we will give the capture of that abominable place without doubt."

There are columns of political matter however, since the election was just a little more than a month off. Nationally, the paper is boosting Lincoln and pouring hot shot into General McClellan, his opponent for President.

Generations of our citizens who grew up after the Civil War frequently heard of the test oath provided by the Constitution of 1864, but never read it. We publish it in full, as it was published as a notice before the election of 1864 by the "American":

"Every Voter Must Take the Oath, Whether He Be Loyal or Disloyal, And Whether His Right To Vote Be Challenged Or Not:

Section 4.—No person who has at any time been in armed hostilities to the United States, or the lawful authorities thereof, or who has been in any manner in the service of the so-called 'Confederate States of America,' and no person who has voluntarily left this State and gone within the military lines of the so-called Confederate States or armies with the purpose of adhering to said States or armies, and no person who has given any aid, comfort, countenance or support to those engaged in armed hostility to the United States, or in any manner adhered to the enemies of the United States, or unlawfully sending within the lines of such enemies money or goods, or letters, or information, or who has disloyally held communication with the enemies of the United States, or who has advised any person to enter the service of the said enemies, or aided any person to to enter, or who has by any open deed or word declared his adhesion to the cause of the enemies of the United States, or his desire for the triumph of said enemies over the arms of the United States, shall ever be entitled to vote at any election to be held in this State, or to hold any office of honor, profit or trust under the laws of this State, unless since such unlawful acts he shall have voluntarily entered into the military service of the United States, and been honorably discharged therefrom, or shall be on the day of election, actually and voluntarily in such service, or unless he shall be restored to his full rights of citizenship by an act of the General Assembly passed by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each House; and it shall be the duty of all Officers of Registration and Judges of Election carefully to exclude from voting, or being registered, all persons so as above disqualified; and the Judges of election at the first election held under this Constitution shall, and at any subsequent election may administer to any person offering to vote the following oath or affirmation:

"I do swear or affirm that I am a citizen of the United States, that I have never given any aid, countenance or support to those in armed hostilities to the United States, that I have never expressed a desire for the triumph of said enemies over the arms of the United States, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to support the Constitution and laws thereof as the supreme law of the land, and law or ordinance of any State to the contrary notwithstanding; that I will in all respects demean myself as a loyal citizen of the United States, and I make this oath or affirmation without any reservation or evasion, and believe it to be binding on me.

"And any person declining to take such oath shall not be allowed to vote, but the taking of such oath shall not be deemed conclusive evidence of the right of such person to vote; and any person swearing or affirming falsely shall be liable to penalties of perjury, and it shall be the duty of the proper officers of registration to allow no person to be registered until he shall have taken the oath or affirmation above set out, and it shall be the duty of the Judges of Election in all their re-

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STRAINING THE EYES
Trying to read, write or sew without glasses impairs the vision and sometimes causes headache.
Better far to have your eyes examined, for glasses and make the sight perfect—you'll feel and look a lot better.
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