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EDITORS.

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## The Reconstruction of the Rebellious States—Development of Pres. Johnson's Policy.

President Johnson, commencing with Old Virginia, the main pillar of the rebellion, has, in an Executive order on the subject, developed his policy of reconstruction. He orders the practical re-establishment of the sovereign authority of the United States, and the execution of the laws thereof, within the geographical limits known as the State of Virginia. He declares null and void all acts and proceedings of the political, military and civil organizations within said State, whether of the late so-called Confederate or local authorities, identified with the rebellion, since the secession ordinance of Virginia of April 17, 1861; and that all persons who shall exercise, claim, pretend, or attempt to exercise any political, military or civil power, authority, jurisdiction or right, through or under said insurgent authorities, Confederate or local, "shall be deemed and taken as in rebellion against the United States, and shall be dealt with accordingly."

In a word, all acts and proceedings resting for their legality upon the spurious insurgent general government of Jeff. Davis, or of the State authorities supporting him, are outlawed, repudiated and wiped out. Thus, for example, all the debts incurred and contracts made by the rebel-Confederate government, and rebel State governments, and by cities, towns, corporations, companies and individuals, under the authorities of the rebellion, are so much waste paper, and the losing parties need not give themselves any further trouble on the subject. The Secretaries of State, War, Treasury, Navy, and Interior, and the Postmaster General, are ordered to proceed to put in force in Virginia all laws of the United States pertaining to their several departments, and the district judges of said district are directed to proceed to hold their courts in pursuance of the laws of Congress. Furthermore, the Attorney General will instruct the proper officers to libel and bring to judgment, confiscation and sale, property subject to confiscation and enforce the administration of justice, so that the State may be re-invested again with the republican form of government, which the general government is bound by the constitution to guarantee to every State.

This is the opening of a new set of books. The rebellion goes for nothing. Virginia must begin, *de novo*, at the point where she left off in that dark and dismal secession caucus of April 17, 1861. President Johnson holds to the doctrine that she has been in the Union all this time, and that in conspiring and fighting against the sovereign authority of the Union

her people concerned must bear the consequences of their folly. He has declared emphatically that "treason is a crime, and that traitors must be punished," and the guilty parties in Virginia and all the rebellious States can now comprehend, to some extent, the meaning of this declaration. His policy, thus far developed, is simple, consistent, constitutional and conclusive.

Francis H. Pierpont, lately acting at Alexandria as the loyal Governor of Old Virginia—though his authority was limited to a small corner—will now, at Richmond, be aided by the general government as far as necessary in the extension of his jurisdiction as Provisional Governor over the whole State—having nothing to do, of course, with the new State of West Virginia. We presume that, as soon as practicable, he will call a State Convention for the purpose of framing a new State constitution on the basis of emancipation, and that the next step will be an election under such constitution of a Governor and other State officers, a Legislature and members of Congress. In the election of the convention it is probable that similar qualifications of loyalty will be required of the voters to those adopted in Tennessee, under Mr. Johnson as Military Governor; and, as in Tennessee, the convention may, perhaps, leave the question of negro suffrage to the discretion of the Legislature. We think, however, that as African slavery is out of the way, the sooner this question of negro suffrage is settled, and settled in favor of the liberated blacks, the better it will be for the pacification of the South and the whole country on this new national platform of universal liberty. If not soon settled it will become a question of mischievous political agitation, whereas, with its settlement on the basis of universal suffrage, the political agitation of the negro question as well as the slavery question, will be at an end. As for the bugbear of negro social equality in this connection, society will take care of that—we have no fear of it whatever.

Nor do we apprehend that any stringent oath of allegiance or tests of loyalty will now be necessary to the masses of the white population of the late rebellious States. They are subdued; their dream of a Southern confederacy has vanquished; their troubles concerning slavery are over; they have nothing to hope for, no object to gain any more, from hostility to the government. Their only alternative is to submit and make the best of it, or leave the country, and they know it. Hence we believe that they may be safely trusted at the ballot box without any stringent tests of loyalty. They are disarmed, and powerless, and destitute to a degree that may well excite our feelings of charity rather than our fears. Give them a chance to show their repentance by their voluntary action, and they will improve it.

We throw out these hints to the administration for what they may be worth. In his policy of reconstruction thus far disclosed we are sure that Pres. Johnson will command the confidence and support of the country. We can assure him, too, that he is universally regarded, from his trenchant loyalty, his antecedents, his energy and decision of character, as the proper man for the crisis; but we know, also, that his decisions are formed from a careful consideration of facts, circumstances, arguments and opinions. Hence we feel free to invite his attention to the views herein submitted.—*New York Herald.*

LOVE.—"She loves me still," cried Ned, "for on her knee, she said last night, 'thou art all the world to me.'" "That nothing proves," said Fred, with lip upturned, "she often says she's tired of the world!"

## CAMDEN, FRIDAY, JUNE 2.

By the *New York Tribune* of the 15th we find gold quoted in the city at 131 1-2.

The deaths in New York during the week ending May 15, were 460—men 117; women 116; boys 116; and girls 111.

Gen. SHERMAN has countermanded the order of Gen. HALLECK to pass in review order through the principal streets of Richmond, there to be renewed by Gen. H. It is no secret at the North that a very bitter feeling exists between these two military functionaries.

JEFF'S FROCK.—The *New York Tribune* says; P. T. BARNUM offers \$500 for the dress in which JEFF DAVIS was captured, and the Chicago gentlemen are pleading to be allowed to add the same garment to the attractiveness of the great North Western Fair.

To show to what extent vindictive and malicious sentiments are carried in the North towards the people of the South, we allude to the fact that the Chairman of the "United States Christian Commission" has seen fit to publish a card in the *Herald* denouncing and condemning visits to Gen. LEE.

The *Courier des Etats Unis*, a French paper in New York, has a paragraph in an article on the "Monroe Doctrine," (which the U. S., intimates will be enforced,) which says:

"Behind the Emperor MAXIMILIAN there is France, which never flinches before threats!"

Ominous indeed!

A DIVISION IN THE ABOLITION HOUSE.—The ultra abolitionists of the North are engaged in a great quarrel as to what to do with the negro now that he is free. The freedom part is settled; there is neither condition nor contingency about that—all doubts on the subject are absolutely removed; and the fiat is going forth, all over the Southern States, announcing the intentions of the Government and sustaining the emancipation Proclamation. It is also further announced, that the negro is not to remain in a state of idleness; he must pursue some condition of labor, with fidelity. Vice and insolence on their part will not be tolerated any more than indolence.

And yet in all this the rabid and extreme abolitionists do not see their ends accomplished—their pledges fulfilled. The "Anti-Slavery Society" has been holding an immense meeting in the Church of the "Puritans" in New York, and the *Herald* gives us, with its accustomed display and copiousness, the proceedings. Negro suffrage is the principal subject of the animated and hostile discussion—for there is a split in their camp; and we read that in the *furor* some of the weak-junged orators in petticoats are cried down with "question," "question," "question!"

Prominent among the speakers are our old enemies, PHILLIPS and GARRISON, and the "philosophy" of the former is by no means encouraging to the people of this State in this dark hour of their subjugation and sorrows. Here is the exact language of the "philanthropist":

"I would not in my heart have this Society dissolved until South Carolina is whipped into decency and Christianity; and that time is a long way abroad. That is my philosophy."

And notwithstanding this he tells the Society that "the law is yet as much against them now as it was in December 1833"—but their "pledges" must be "fulfilled."

Law or no law, these fanatics would rule the nation. Neither the torch nor the sword; nor things present nor thing past, have yet satisfied their bloody and revengeful ambitions. Neither the "law's delay," "the insolence of the office"—"the oppressive wrong"—"the proud mans contumely"—neither the pangs of "disposed love"—alas! there is no "quietus" for us yet! Hamlet in all his despair was not half so sorely tried. Like him we might be tempted but for the "dread of that something after."

There is to be a something after—there must be a thing to come—yet with these bloody-minded and insatiable hypocrites; but we have just cause to hope that their fury will be unavailing with the lawgivers of the nation. And we trust that if even their brazen impudence should dare protrude itself further into the national councils, that the pure, the good and the wise, will flout and rebuke them as one of old did the patron saint of these dirty radicals. "Get thee behind me, Satan!"

## [FOR THE JOURNAL AND CONFEDERATE.]

MR. EDITOR: We have all been suddenly brought to a stand. The wheels of society have been violently stopped. It is a suitable time now for Southern men to be meditating upon their plans for the future. Many speak of abandoning the country wholly and forever. Does not this look like pure despair? Is not this land that gave us birth too fertile, healthful and desirable a heritage, to be tamely yielded up to negroes and foreigners? And where should we go? The banks of the Amazon produce very brilliant birds, very wonderful monkeys, very enormous insects, and probably the greatest abundance of Peruvian Bark—but the country was never remarkable for excellence of its men, or its government, or its religion, and lies just under the equator. North-Western Texas is liable to protracted droughts, which reduce its widely scattered inhabitants at times to the verge of starvation. Mexico, though a splendid country in its physical features, has always been horribly misgoverned, or ungoverned; and is likely so to continue. Doubtless, however, there are many places to be found on the earth's broad surface, which would offer many attractions to the Southern emigrant; and where he would probably be heartily welcomed. But why go at all? Is it clear that a residence in this country, and in this little old historic State of ours, would be intolerable? Ought we not to wait and see this point demonstrated, before we lose hope and heart? Northern Legislation, sectional as it is sure to be, must yet have some higher end before it, than only to torment white men, and exasperate useful citizens. Let us recognize the sad change in our circumstances; yet let us not yield to apathy, or indolence, or recklessness. On the contrary, let us go to work, one and all, actively and cheerfully, just as soon as circumstances permit. We have much to learn! let us learn it as quickly as possible. The crisis tests our manhood, and our energetic capacities for self-government and true independence. Let Southern men fill up all gaps, and answer all requirements, except directly servile ones. Let us supply our own social wants. Then the surplus of negroes beyond those needed for their former work among us, must seek homes elsewhere. The country would still be our own; and would gradually, under God's blessing upon our efforts get itself to rights.

This whole matter, Mr. Editor, deserves to be thoroughly ventilated among us now. We want information from those able to give it; and we want sensible and patriotic men to impart to us their thoughts.

CINCINNATUS.