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Constitutional Opposition to Incompetent Rulers.

Our amiable, soft-spoken contemporary, the *Commercial Advertiser*, is lifted for once on a very gentle swell of emotion—so far as it is capable of emotion—and holds up its timid hands in horror—so far as it is capable of so positive a sensation as horror—at what it is pleased to call our "unblushing" avowal that we think the public interest would be promoted by the organization of a patriotic efficient opposition party. This quiet, placid, respectable organ of negation rises to the vigor of "unfeigned regret" that we do not continue to treat the administration as we did before its demonstrated ineptitude had filled all loyal breasts with disappointment and chagrin. "The best evidences of patriotism and loyalty," says the *Commercial*, "are unassuming adherence to one's country and government in the hour of its adversity, and a hearty and unquestioning support of the administration." We must not deny that this is in keeping with the character of a journal which professed an abiding belief in the continued existence of the old Whig party for five long years after the corpse of that party had been decently buried. Such fidelity would, if well handled, make a touching scene in the lamentable tragedy of "The Faithful Lovers," but it is rather too mawkish for the perilous times on which we are fallen.

The only security for the efficient discharge of public trusts is RESPONSIBILITY. Every officer civil and military, from the lowest grade up to the President, must be held to his responsibility, or we have no guarantee for the success of any branch of the public service. But in the management of this war, in what instance has responsibility been vigorously enforced? We have had repeated and shameful military disasters, but we have not yet had the first court martial, except for the trial of some insignificant officer. The same laxity in enforcing just responsibility which has prevailed in the army, has, by a mistaken lenity, been practiced toward the administration. We have given it power without stint, but we have nothing to show for its enormous expenditure of blood and treasure. "Adherence to one's government and country" is, of course, a sacred duty; but that is a very different thing from an "unquestioning support of the administration" temporarily in power. Our republican president cannot put on the airs of the Bourbon king, and say *Vivat, c'est moi*—"I am the state." Under our government the people are the state; the administration are their ministers, responsible to them for the faithful performance of their duties. It is only through an opposition party that this responsibility can be enforced. In times of extraordinary peril an opposition party can make no headway when the government is conducted with reasonable vigor and success. But when the weakness and incapacity of the administration become so manifest that its most partial and credulous friends can put in no better plea than an appeal to the public forbearance, further "unassuming adherence" is quite out of place, and quite out of the question. The country cannot afford to encourage its rulers in a course which might render the second army of six hundred thousand men and the second year of the war as inefficient and abortive as the first.

A patriotic opposition party, strong enough to carry several of the state elections, would coerce the administration into a more vigorous policy. If it should have this effect, the administration would partially recover the unbounded confidence it has lost, and the opposition would be held in check. But if the President should turn a deaf ear to all warnings, and disaster and disgrace should continue to accumulate under his management, the opposition would gather irresistible strength. It would be the sole hope of the country, the only barrier against anarchy. Already there is loud talk of deposing the administration by irregular and revolutionary methods. Who can tell to what height this feeling would rise if the people should be further incensed by further arbitrary acts and a new series of disasters? We suppose the *Commercial* would even then, in its mild way, preach "unassuming adherence" to the administration; but we warn it that it would have small chance to be heard in the wild uproar of turbulent passions, unless a safe and constitutional channel were previously dug for the public indignation to run in. The people would not, under such circumstances, allow the administration to go through its term, unless they saw a prospect of the government falling into better hands at its close. It is certain the country will not stand the unwarranted assumptions of power, the arbitrary arrests, the denial of the *habeas corpus*, the interference of free discussion practiced by this administration, when the policy to which these stretches of power are auxiliary results in nothing but disgrace to our arms and fresh perils to the Union.

Party opposition, acting slowly and only through the elections, enables the administration to take timely warning and retrieve its errors. It is a safeguard against the vi-

olent explosion of revolutionary passions. It keeps open an orderly, peaceful, and constitutional way of displacing incompetent rulers. It trains, in the opposition chiefs, a set of men to feel the responsibilities of coming power and in some degree fit themselves for the discharge of public duties. It is like having another house to retreat to if the one you inhabit should be beaten down by the tempest or fall in rottenness about your head. If the old dwelling continues safe and comfortable, so much the better; but, in these portentous times, it is but a reasonable precaution to guard against possible mob violence, committees of public safety, and a reign of terror. Peaceful, loyal, and constitutional opposition is the proper prophylactic against the treasonable revolutionary resistance that is already threatened in radical quarters.
[N. Y. World, (Repub.)]

THE CASE OF LEWIS BALLARD.

Imprisoned without guilt, held without trial, liberated without reparation—that is the damning record which Lewis Ballard must write; an honest and loyal man, imprisoned in Fort Lafayette by Provost-Marshal Kennedy, under orders from Secretary Stanton, for having been engaged in the substitute agency business—only that and nothing more. A policeman, whose badge was concealed, stepped into Mr. Ballard's office, where he was transacting a business not yet prohibited or proclaimed a crime; his honesty guaranteed by such men as Belmont & Co., Hoyt, Spragues & Co., and Daniel Drew, his loyalty proven by the whole course of his life. The policeman purchases an obligation to provide him with a substitute if drafted (such are the arts by which Justice must reach its ends), then shows his shield and takes Mr. Ballard a prisoner to the head quarters of Mr. Kennedy. The Provost Marshal refuses to receive ball, sends his prisoner to the Fifteenth ward station house—even denies him permission to visit first his own residence. Not merely was no trial granted—no warrant was shown by the Provost Marshal. To a citizen of New York, one of the states of a constitutional Union, the oral statement of an insolent and arbitrary officer was deemed quite enough ground for consigning him to the walls of a Bastille and the companionship of traitors. He lies there for days, and at last is released unconditionally, without information as to the estimate of his guilt, without bonds, without oath given or required—indebted, perhaps, to the intervention of powerful friends with a member of the cabinet for the liberation which, if he was guilty, was not his due, and if he was guiltless, was, in its manner, insult added to outrage. This befell in New York—the chief city of the nation—the very core of its loyal heart.

The stones of the streets of a city of cravens should cry out at such scorn of her honor, her loyalty and her citizen's rights. Imprisoned without guilt, for an act yet to be pronounced a crime, arrested without warrant, incarcerated without trial, liberated without reparation. In what other terms than these do we phrase the high handed ordinances of despotism? Is there any other language for the deeds of tyrants? Yet this is a republic, and these are the men of the nation's choice.

There are none to plead the cause of the oppressed. The bar of New York is silent. A phantom Provost Marshal opens and shuts the doors of the harbor fort, and they are dumb. The fort is named for him who gave to the father of his country the key of a Bastille which has perished, but the omen is nought. The blood in their veins is milk. The days go on. The administration permits this monument of its shame to be heaped higher—of dead civil rights and of throttled liberties. Every hour offers it the chance of atoning for the past and of establishing impregnable what only in an hour of national peril it could have undermined. But every hour the shaft is driven deeper. The crime is even clinched. For he who is liberated goes free neither because he is confessed guiltless nor because he has been proved guilty; and the prisoners who remain, guilty or guiltless as he—not more, not less—remain it would seem, that the spotless majesty of Law may be sullied by every offense.—[N. Y. World.]

A Texan and an Illinois farmer were speaking of raising corn, etc., and the Illinois man was boasting of the superior yield of prairie land, and telling large stories, as all Western men can do; to which the Texan replied: I'll tell you what, stranger, they truly raise large corn in your clearing, but it ain't a circumstance to what we raise on the Colorado bottoms. Why, the corn there averages thirty feet in height, with twelve ears to a stalk, and a gourd full of shelled corn at the top.

Able-bodied American skeddaddlers are stealing their way over to Canada, and taking the oath of allegiance to the British Government, to avoid the draft.

Letter from Major Jack Downing.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1862.

To the Editors of *The Caucasian*:

Sirs:—Sense I write you last I've been studying in military strategy. It is a grate science. Our army, down in Virginia, has been in grate strates lately, an if it hadn't been for the military strategy it would have all been taken prisoners. Ses the Kernel to me, the other day, ses he, "Major, what do you think that military strategy consists in?" "Wal," ses I, "Kernel it consists in gettin out of your enemy's way wen he's too much for you, an gettin in his way wen you're too much for him." Ses I, "Kernel, I don't know whether that is down in the books, but that's the common sense view of the subject." "Wal," ses Linkin, "whatever strategy consists in, we don't seem to have a bit of it, for we get in the enemy's way jest wen he's too strong for us, an get out of his way wen he ain't too strong for us. I'm gettin enamoosed discouraged with this kind of military strategy." "Wal," ses I, "Kernel, you've got too many Generals an too many armies. There's too many fellers, with more brass in their faces than there is in their buttons, who want to be the biggest toad in the puddle. Now, there can't be but one big toad so there can't be but one head General. You ought to make one Commander-in-Chief, an make him take the field, so that he can see for himself how matters are goin. Gimmal Hattick, here in Washington, ain't the thing?"

"Wal," ses Majer, "there is no use of crying over spilled milk. The troops down in Virginia have been roughly handled agin by the rebels, an have got so mixed up that it will require a grate deal of strategy to get them straightened out. The question is, what is to be done?" Jest as I was about to give the Kernel some advice, who should come in but Sumner, an a feller with a white handkercher around his neck, an two or three other solemn-looking chaps. The feller in a white kercher spoke up, an ses he, "Mr. President, we're come to sympathize with you in the nashin's affliction, for the Lord has agin beat us with stripes—ah. Mr. President, I'm chief Secretary of the American and Foreign Benevolent Society for Ameliorating the Condition of the Colored Race—ah—an I have been appointed Chairman of a committee to wait on you an express to you our opinions in the present fearful crisis in our country's history."

"Our society, which is composed of all the most pious maiden ladies in our town—ah—who are over forty years of age, an, therefore, may be considered wise and discreet, desire me to express to you their deep conviction that God will never bless our armies with victory—ah—so long as you do not fight for the freedom of our dearly beloved colored brethren—ah. Our Society, Mr. President, has given the condition of our colored brethren grate attention—ah. You can judge of the extent of our labor wen I inform you that the sisters of our Society have distributed the past year to our colored brethren in Liberia 500 flannel shirts—ah—500 wool socks—ah—100 Bibles—ah—100 Tracts on Temperance—ah—500 toothpicks—ah—and a large supply of cologne water—ah!"

"We should have been glad to have supplied the sufferin bondsmen of the same oppressed race in our own country, but the vile rebellion of the infernal slaveholders has prevented. We ask you now to proclaim liberty to the captives, an let the people go—ah. Do not let your heart be hardened as Pharaoh's was, but save our land from sorrow, an our armies from further defeat by a degree of righteousness. Then shall glory cover the land—ah."

I believe I've got that speech down purty nigh as the feller delivered it, for he spoke very slow and stately, as if he was tryin to make an impression. When he got thru, Linkin got up, an ses he, "Mr. Secretary, I'm kinder glad to see you, and will only say that we need all the help about these times that we can get, an if I thought the Lord would only help us lick the rebels, I wouldn't free the niggers. An if I thought He would help us by freein 'em, I would do that. In fact, whatever I do, an whatever I don't do, I do it, an I don't do it, just as I think the Lord will be most likely to help us. The grate thing is to get the help of the Lord, an I shall adopt new views, on this pint, jest as far as I think they are good views." When Linkin got thru, I pulled him by the coat-tail, an ses I, "Kernel, Seward himself could not have beat that non-committal speech." Ses he, "Hush, Majer, don't throw all the fat in the fire." Jest then the feller in the white handkercher spoke up, an ses he, "Let us pray, an at it he went. Ses he, "Oh Lord, throw grate light upon the mind of our Chief Magistrate—ah—give us victories over the rebels—ah—give us this yere grate victory—ah—not such little victories as we had last yere—ah—but crush the rebels with the arm of Thy power. Amen—ah." After this, they all shuck hands, an went away.

After they had gone, ses the Kernel, ses he, "Majer, that's a wonderful pious chap." "Yes," ses I, "Kernel, I think he is in his way," but, ses I, "findin fault with the Lord, because he don't give us bigger victories, ain't much like the Christians of arly days." Ses I, "his prayer for big victories, reminds me of old Joe Bunker's prayer. Joe was a wicked old sinner who swore was that a saleyur. One day he was a swarner koss he didn't hev better corn. Some one told him he orter pray for good corn, an he wanted it. So one day some one was goin' long the road by the old feller's corn field, and hearin' a noise, they stopp'd, and who did the noise cum from but the miserly old skindint Bunker, who was prayin. Ses he, "O, Lord! give us a good crop of corn this yere, long ears, long as your arm, not sich d—d little nubbins as we had last yere." "Now," ses I, "Kernel, I think that's a grate deal a similarity 'tween two prayers, and I think the Lord is jest as likely to answer one, as 't'other." Ses I, "Kernel, you could bust up fifteen Unions easier than you could destroy slavery." Ses he, "Majer, I dont see into that exactly, and I'd like to know the reason why."

"Wal," ses I, "Kernel, the reason is jest this: men made the Union, but God made slavery; and I tell you, ses I, "Kernel, when you undertake to butt agin a big subject." Ses I, "ain't every body been fightin for the last thirty years, and haven't they all cum off second best, while nigger slavery has been growin and expandin in spite of 'em? God made the nigger to sarve and obey the white man, and until he's altered and made another being, you can't make him anything but a sarvent. These fellers, like that white cravated chap, who was jest here, and who employ their time in sendin flannel shirts and toothpicks to the wild nigger in Afriky, don't know nothin' more about niggers than they do 'bout the interior of the arth. You might preserve all the brains they've got in a drop of brandy, and they would have as much sea room as a tadpole in Lake Superior."

"Wal," ses Linkin, ses he, "Majer, let's drop the nigger jest now, as I want to ask you whether you think the rebels kin take Washington?" "Wal," ses I, "Kernel, that depends on the strategy again. Ef you keep Generals in the field who don't pay any attention to lines of retreat, afore you know it, Kernel, that feller who was a Stonewall in his name, will be around the North of the white House, and I'm afeard my 'line of retreat' to Downingville will be cut off." "That's so, Majer, and my retreat to Springfield may be a hard road to travel." When Linkin made this remark, he looked uneasy. I didn't know what to say, so I did jest what I said in that case, I whistled! Ses Linkin, ses he, "Majer, are you whistlin to keep your courage up?" Ses I, "No, 'Kernel, I ain't afeard a mite, but, ses I, 'I'm in what old Deacon Doolittle calls a quandary." Ses he, "what's your quandary?" "Wal," ses I, "I was thinkin what I would do, if the rebels should take Washington."

The Kernel didn't say nothin for about a minute. He looked very serious, and finally, ses he, "Majer, we're in a tight place, an there is no use denyin it, but it don't do any good to get into fits of hysterics about it." "Yes," ses I, "Kernel, but it makes me feel solemn to see this Old Ship of State knockin around, an' may be, jest jolly to sink." "Wal, Majer," ses the Kernel; "that remark reminds me of a story. A good many years ago there was an old feller, a free an easy chap, around a steamboat on the Mississippi river, and he was a grate fiddler. He had nothin to do, an generally went up and down the river on a boat, spendin his time a fiddlin an tellin stories. One day the boat struck a snag, an was fast sithen with water. The old feller was in the cabin sawin away on his fiddle when the boat struck, but he paid no attention to it, but kept rite on fiddlin. Finally, one of the passengers came in an told him that the Captain warn't tryin to save the boat as he ought, an that she would be lost in ten minutes. "Wal," ses the old feller, 'she's been a losin concern for five years,' and he kept on fiddlin. Pretty soon another passenger rushed in, an screamed out, 'She's settlin very fast.' 'I wish she'd settle with me before she goes down,' an still he kept on fiddlin. The next that was seen of him he was swimmin ashore, with the fiddle under his arm and the bow in his mouth. Now, Majer, if they take Washington, and the ship sinks, we'll swim ashore!"

"Yes," ses I, "Kernel, and I suppose you will take the nigger with you, jest as that old feller did the fiddle, for the nigger has been the fiddle your party has played on!" The Kernel didn't seem to like this application of his story, but didn't say a word. I felt very solemn, for I couldn't help feelin enamoosed like cryin when I thought how this grate nashin might all be shipwrecked afore we knew it, by a set of fellers who have been taken up so with the nigger as to let the country go to destruction. I went to bed that nite with a heavy hart, and hed a terrible attack of biliousness, which I had to take nigh onto a gallon of elder bark tea to cure. Since then, I've been better, and if God spares my life I'll keep you posted about our nashin affairs as long as there is a nashin. Yours, till deeth,
MAJER JACK DOWNING.

STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS.

Conspiracy of the Radicals to Depose the President.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—The *New York Herald* says that most astounding disclosures have been made here to-day, by letters and verbal communications from prominent politicians, showing that a vast conspiracy has been set on foot by the radicals of the Fremont faction to depose the present administration, and place Fremont at the head of a provincial government; in other words to make him military dictator. One of these letters asserts that one feature of this conspiracy is the proposed meeting of Governors of the Northern States to request President Lincoln to resign, to enable them to carry out their scheme.

The writer, in conclusion, says Governor Andrew and Senator Wilson are at work, and they are probably at the bottom of the movement. From other well informed sources it is learned that the fifty thousand independent volunteers proposed to be raised under the auspices of the New York National Union Defence Committee were intended to be a nucleus for the organization of this Fremont conspiracy. It was the purpose of those engaged in this movement to have this force organized and armed by the government, and placed under the independent command of their chosen leader, and then to call upon all sympathizers to unite with them in arms to overthrow the present administration and establish in its stead a military dictatorship, to carry out the popular policy they desire the government should execute. Failing in this, it is stated that a secret organization has been inaugurated, the members of which are known by the name of Roundheads. It is intended this organization shall number two hundred thousand men in arms, who shall raise the standard of the

conspirators and call Gen. Fremont to the command. They expect to be joined by two-thirds of the army of the Union now in the field, and that eventually one million of armed men will be gathered around their standard. This startling disclosure is vouched for by men of high repute in New York and other Northern States. It is the last card of those who have been vainly attempting to drive the President into the adoption of their own peculiar policy.

We take the above from the Washington correspondence of the *New York Herald*, of Sept. 17. The *Herald's* reputation for originating sensation dispatches has the effect, usually, to discredit its statements. But, in this case, there are corroborating facts and circumstances which go far to confirm the statements contained in the above dispatch. The late action of the New York War Committee, their secret meetings—their resolutions providing for the raising of 50,000 men to be put under command of Fremont, as an independent corps, their attempts to raise large sums of money from the people—the late meeting of Black Republican Governors—the attacks of the radical press, generally, on the administration—the fact that about a year ago, the *New York Times* advocated the deposing of the President and the inauguration of a dictatorship, and that the same paper now says that "the people look upon the Government as Washington as actually falling to pieces" the fact that Governor Andrew hesitated to furnish volunteers, unless the President would adopt an abolition policy—the fact that Henry Wilson goes about the streets of Washington cursing the President and declaring the war is a failure—the fact that Fremont has withdrawn from the army and is in New York in daily intercourse with the men supposed to be at the bottom of this alleged business—the well known fact that the radicals have always desired the destruction of this government, and the fact that they have, ever since this war commenced, endeavored to make it the means of accomplishing their "infernal" purpose—these facts, and many others of a kindred character which we might mention, go far to confirm what the *Herald* correspondent alleges.

The *Cincinnati Gazette*, a republican journal, recently put forth the following: "Many are willing to invest the President with a military dictatorship, so that one mind, without so much distracting counsel, shall infuse new and terrible energy into the measures to put down the rebellion. A day or two since I attended the ceremonies of raising a flag over a new hospital, a mile east of the Capitol. Dr. Sandstead, chairman of the Senate, and pastor of one of the largest New School Presbyterian churches in Washington was the orator. He boldly proclaimed the sentiments of the loyal North, that a new war policy must be inaugurated, or the rebellion never could be put down. He advocated a military dictatorship."

In view of all the known facts to which we have referred, there is reason to apprehend that a military dictatorship is contemplated by traitorous radicals, in and out of Congress. Such wretches as Governor Andrew, Henry Wilson, Charles Sumner, Ben. Wade, Zach. Chandler & Co., are quite capable of conceiving such a project, and of desiring to have it executed. In their desperation to retain power and perpetuate the opportunity for plunder, they would resort to any scheme, however infamous to satisfy their selfish desires. So far as the minds, hearts and wishes of these men are concerned, the *Herald's* statement is undoubtedly correct, and if every one of the traitors should be lauded for treason, justice would be getting her due. But, when their capacity, or incapacity, to successfully execute so great a scheme is considered, the public mind will not be disturbed by this announcement of their wish or purpose. Their hearts are too weak to accomplish so great a scheme of infamy and treason. The fact that Fremont is their chosen leader in this business, stamps the whole matter with utter impotence, and renders it supremely ridiculous. This choice of one for a leader who is, himself, so notoriously a failure, in every respect, fitly illustrates the harmlessness of their proposed scheme, black and infamous as it is in its conception.

But while there is no danger that these vile traitors to their country, their own race, their own children and to God, will be able to consummate their hellish purpose—while it is known that our loyal army would annihilate whosoever might be base enough to take up arms in such a cause, and that our people, generally, would trample such scoundrels into the dust—yet, it is incumbent upon us all to drive those traitors from the high places of trust which they so much disgrace, and in which they have already done so much to injure the cause of the Union. Let the verdict of the loyal people, at the coming election, tell the world how American freemen appreciate such traitors.
[Phil. Evening Jour.]

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

"There should be no restoration of the Union with slavery in it."—*Elot, Rep. of Mass.*
"I will not vote another dollar for this war, unless this war is made a war against slavery."—*Conway, Rep. of Kansas.*
"Universal emancipation must be declared to all."—*Thad. Stevens, of Penna.*
"I will favor no pacification without disturbing slavery."—*Senator Fessenden, Rep.*
"The times demand an Anti-Slavery Bible, and an Anti-Slavery God."—*Bartingame, a leading Rep.*
"We don't want to see the Union restored as it was."—*Sciota Gazette, Rep.*
"The election of Lincoln will be like pouring oil upon the troubled waters."—*Greely.*
"The rebellion will be crushed in ninety days."—*Chase (Black Republican Prophet) to the New York Brokers.*
"The presence of our troops will restore the Union sentiment in the South."—*Gov. Tod, Fusionist.*
"The South cannot sustain this rebellion for

one month without starving."—*Abolition Stampers.*
"The North can whip the South with a regiment of old women."—*Clermont Courier.*
"The war tax will be the one seventh-tenth of a mill."—*Sam. Galwey, (a standing Black Republican candidate) at the Fair Ground.*
"Every voter in the North has already (May 20th, 1862,) a tax of \$200."—*Dwigs, Rep., from Mass.*
"The Constitution and Laws must be strictly enforced."—*Lincoln.*
"Any person claiming a strict construction of the Constitution is an aider and abettor of rebellion."—*Ben Wade.*
"I am not for a reconstruction of the Union until slavery is abolished from the land."—*Thad. Stevens, a practical Abolitionist.*

IMPORTANT EXTRACTS.

Read them and Reflect.
OPINION OF JUDGE DOUGLAS.
Republicans of our day, now that he is no more, profess implicit faith in the opinions of the late Hon. Stephen A. Douglas. We call to the witness stand the living history of that tried patriot and eminent statesman. In the United States Senate, upon the 3d of January, 1861, Judge Douglas said:
"I address the inquiry to the Republicans alone, for the reason that in the committee of thirteen, a few days ago, every member from the South including those from the cotton States (Messrs. Toombs and Davis) expressed their readiness to accept the proposition of my venerable friend from Kentucky (Mr. Crittenden) as a final settlement of the controversy, if tendered and sustained by Republican members, hence the sole responsibility of our disagreement, the only difficulty in the way of amicable adjustment, is with the Republican party."

The Republican Party before the Election.

The following is the sixth of the series of resolutions composing the platform of the Republican party, as adopted at the Chicago Convention, in 1860.
Resolved, That the People justly view with alarm the reckless extravagance which pervades every department of the Federal Government; that a return to rigid economy and accountability is indispensable to arrest the systematic plunder of the Public Treasury by favored partisans—while the recent startling developments of frauds and corruptions at the Federal Metropolis show that an entire change of Administration is imperatively demanded."

The Republican Party after the Election.

The following confession was made by the Hon. Mr. Dawes, a Republican member of Congress from Massachusetts on the 25th of April, in which he exposed the corruption of Lincoln's Administration:
"The gentleman must remember that in the first year of a Republican Administration, which came into power upon professions of Reform and Retrenchment, there is undoubted evidence abroad in the land that somebody has plundered the public treasury well nigh in that single year as much as the entire current yearly expense of the Government during the Administration which the people hurled from power because of its corruption."

GROUNDS OF EXEMPTION.

"A Looker-on at the City Hall," who has mingled with the crowd that daily besiege the City Clerk's Office to claim exemption from military duty, gives the following as the result of four hours' observation:
Four men claimed exemption because they served their country in the fall of November, 1860, by bearing a torch, wearing a cape, yelling hi! hi! and shouting for a free press, free speech and other ridiculous privileges of a similiar character.
One man claimed exemption because he was always opposed to men who carried lanterns, and thought they ought to do the fighting. This man was over forty-five, however.
Three desired to be excused because they voted for Lincoln.
One thought he had the right to stay home because he didn't vote for him.
Eleven men who are known to be ultra Republicans, did not want to go because the darkeys would not be allowed to shoulder a musket.
Two men wished to be excused for fear the negroes would have this privilege given them.
Six patriots desired to remain at home, but would go when all the sympathisers with treason were put in the front rank.
One would not go until the Republicans went first.
Four great ruddy faced men were on the verge of the grave from disease of the lungs.
One lost his front teeth and could not bite the cartridge.
Eighty-seven had chronic rheumatism.
One hundred and two were subject to palpitation of the heart, especially when in the neighborhood of gunpowder.
Eleven were ruptured.
Twenty-four were near-sighted.
Eighteen were deaf on one side.
Two had soft corners between their toes.
Eleven had tender feet.
Three hundred had joined the fire department within two weeks.
One was opposed to the war.
Fifty-four were for making war in earnest, and could not think of going until this was done.
One was certain the Declaration of Independence would be violated if a draft was made.
Two would go if they were certain the Constitution would not be violated, and that all the guns captured from the rebels would be returned, and interest allowed on their passage value while retained.
Seven would not go because there was too much talk about preserving the Constitution.