

The Two Sharpshooters.

Two men went out from the hill camp in the autumn midnight gray...

A hunting owl wailed out to the young, and a picket stood as still...

Two long one lighted thickly along, and the pits were dug by the dawn of day...

With the morning light a column of steel moved upward along the hill...

The check was a battle-field that day: On the morning the dust were laid...

It was buried under a spade, and the ground was left as smooth...

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The Union.

We will not let the Union, as it was, say the slavery party. We will have it without slavery—the institution must be abolished...

The National Intelligencer cites an admirable comment upon Mr. Chase's reference (in a late speech in Ohio) to the Emancipation Proclamation...

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Reply of President Lincoln to the Missouri Committee.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, } WASHINGTON, October 5, 1863. Hon. Chas. D. Drake and others, Committee:

GENTLEMEN: Your original address, presented on the 30th inst., and the supplementary one presented on the 31st inst., have been carefully considered...

These papers, framed for a common object, consist of two parts, one of which is a statement of the reasons demanded, and the other of the things demanded.

First—That Gen. Schofield shall be relieved, and Gen. Butler appointed as commander of the Military Department of Missouri;

Second—That the system of enrolled militia in Missouri may be broken up, and national forces be substituted for it;

Third—That at elections, persons may not be allowed to vote who are not entitled by law to do so.

Among the reasons given, enough of suffering and wrong to Union men, is certainly, and I suppose, truly stated. Yet the whole case, as presented, fails to convince me that General Schofield, or the enrolled militia, is the cause of that wrong.

The whole can be explained on a more charitable, and, as I think, more rational hypothesis.

We are in civil war. In such cases there always is a main question; but in this case that question is a perplexing compound—Union and slavery.

This becomes a question not of two sides merely, but of four sides, even among those who are for the Union, saying nothing of those who are against it.

Thus, those who are for the Union with but no slavery—those for the Union without, but with—those for it with or without, but prefer it with, and those for it without, but prefer it without.

Among these again, is a subdivision of those who are for it with, into immediate, and those who are for it with, but not for gradual extinction of slavery.

It is easy to conceive that all these shades of opinion, and even more, may be sincerely entertained by honest and truthful men.

Yet, all being for the Union, by reason of these differences, each will prefer a different way of sustaining the Union. At once, and in the same breath, motives are assailed.

Actual war coming, blood gross hot, and blood is spilled. This is forced from old channels into new ones. Deception, treachery, and other evils, are the result.

Each man feels an impulse to kill his neighbor, lest he be killed by him. Revenge and hatred are kindled.

And all this, as before said, may be among those who only, but this is not all. Every foul crime is committed, and every dirty reptile rises up.

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occurred in accordance with the purposes of Gen. Schofield.

With my present views, I must decline to remove Gen. Schofield. In fact I decline nothing against Gen. Butler. I sincerely wish it were convenient to assign him a suitable command.

Let me say, however, that your proposal to address a letter of instruction to Gen. Schofield, a copy of which I enclose to you. As to the "enrolled militia," I shall endeavor to ascertain the facts, and report to you.

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The New Doctrine.

The new doctrine advanced by Messrs. Warr and Sumner, and supported by the Republican press, that the States that have adopted ordinances of secession are no longer States of the Union, has been very thoroughly ventilated...

The review in that paper of Mr. Sumner's argument was overwhelming—crushing to powder the stately edifice of supreme power in the general government, for all purposes, which the Senator had erected with so much pride and arrogance.

In a recent number of the same paper, we find an article which considers the attempt by Messrs. Sumner and Warr to sustain their theory by the decisions of the Supreme Court in the admiralty cases which have arisen since the war, as without excuse in law or reason.

The Intelligencer has taken the pains to cite the opinion of Judge SPAHR of the United States District Court, sitting in Boston in April, 1862, in the case of the "Amy Warwick and her cargo."

The United States Supreme Court in the cases appealed to, has reaffirmed the principle laid down by Judge SPAHR, who, in deciding that case, said:

An objection to the prize decisions of the district courts has arisen from an apprehension of radical consequences. It has been supposed that if the Government have the rights of a belligerent, then, after the rebellion is suppressed, it will have the rights of conquest; that a State and its inhabitants may be permanently divested of all political rights, and treated as foreign territory to be acquired at will.

This is an error—a grave and dangerous error. Conquest of a foreign country gives absolute and unlimited sovereign rights. But no nation can make a conquest of its own territory. If a hostile power, either from without or within a nation, take possession and hold absolute dominion over any portion of its territory, and by force of arms suppress the government of the enemy, and suppress hostilities, it acquires no title, but merely regains the possession of which it had been temporarily deprived.

The nation acquires no sovereignty, but merely to maintain its previous rights.

Another objection to these decisions of the district courts is founded upon the apprehension that they will lead to the seizure of private property.

This apprehension is unfounded. No such consequences can be legitimately drawn from the decisions of the district courts. The United States has the rights of a belligerent; but the extent of those rights on land, or the manner in which they are to be exercised, we do not discuss.

Their extent is limited to the seizure of property on land, within his own country, on the breaking out of a war, will not be condemned by the courts, although it may be found at sea.

The distinction, so far as it goes, tends to show that the doctrine of maritime captures is not to be applied to seizures on land. But the danger to private property is not founded upon the administration of the prize laws by the courts, or the exercise of belligerent rights by military commanders upon military exigencies.

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