The National Tribune

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WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER, 1880.

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"The validity of the public debt of the United States authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned."—SEC. 4, ARTICLE XIV, CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

"The Pension Laws ought of right to be administered by a soldier who has been baptized in the fire of battle, to the end that they may be liberally construed and administered in the broad spirit of justice and liberality."—PLATFORM OF "OUR COUNTRY'S DEFENDERS.

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

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A specimen number of our paper sent free, on request.

Terms for advertising furnished upon application

N. B. See our article in another column in regard to forming clubs to procure "THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE clock," in combination with THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE CO.,
Washington, D. C.

LOOK OUT FOR THE RED WRAPPER.

Subscriptions.

For single subscriptions, if you cannot get fractional currency notes, send three-cent and one-cent P. O. stamps; but in all cases *try* to get one or more additional subscribers aud then forward money order or registered letter.

Good News About the Equalization Bounty Bill.

We understand Hon John R. Thomas, of Illinois, has reported a bill from his Committee favorable to the equalization of bounties. We hope at an early date to report the passage of the bill in the House.

Another Warning.

Over and over and over have we requested correspondents, when writing, to give their *P. O., County, and State*, and yet many are still delinquent in this respect. Now, how is it possible for us to answer letters or send papers when we don't know where to address them?

The Geddes Pension Court Bill Petition.

We have explained this bill thoroughly before. It will, if passed, prove a great blessing to the soldier. If you are in favor of it, we will send a petition for you and your comrades to sign, to be forwarded to your member sf Congress. Send *immediately*. See form of the petition for it and against the Sixty Surgeon Bill in another column.

Petition Against the Sixty Surgeon Bill.

For four years the soldiers have steadily fought against Bentley's Sixty Surgeon Bill. Now, the Commissioner proposes to again bring it up, right after the holidays. Every soldier opposed to it wanting a petition for himself and his comrades to sign, to be sent to his and their representative in Congress, can have one, on writing *immediately* to this office enclosing stamp. You will see the form of the petition in another column.

The Presidential Election of 1880 and its Results.

As our readers know THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is not, and is not intended to be, a political paper. We do not choose to give any partisan coloring to our editorials. We know that the soldiers, who are our constituents, have friends, and true ones, in both political parties. Yet it seems proper and natural enough to record the result of the great conflict through which the country has passed, and to give our best guesses as to the future.

The Republican party in the late contest appealed chiefly to the sentiment of NATIONALITY; a sentiment which was intensified and made general, by the purposes, aims, conflicts, and results of the late civil war. It is beyond all doubt that never in all the history of our country was this feeling of oneness—this sense of nationality—so strong among the masses of the American people. The narrow lines of counties, cities and States, were, and are, overpassed by the strong affection and fervent faith for the flag and the country.

Most men realize that the power which has the lawful right to take them from their homes to fight its battles, is and must be the supreme power of the land. And when in addition to the power which can command these great sacrifices, there is a hearty readiness on the part of the citizens to fulfill such commands, when lawful authority is supplemented by loving obedience, then the National feeling is fully displayed. Such was the case in the war of the Rebellion, such is the state of feeling now. Every sacrifice made, every duty performed, every life given, was the seal and the assurance of National supremacy and National perpetuity.

The Republicans relied upon this sentiment, and since the close of the war all their presidential candidates have been men who did their share in the field.

Grant, Hayes, Garfield, all won their spurs and the insignia of their rank in the active service of the United States on the field of battle.

James A. Garfield, of Ohio, the next President of the United States, is a growth of strictly American soil, a product which no other country can bring forth. There is scarcely any grade of honest life so low that he has not touched it and been of it. There is scarcely any depth of honest hard-working poverty that he has not personally and thoroughly known. There is scarcely any effort to raise men from this condition that he has not tried and endured.

His native qualifications, physical and mental, have been hardened, toughened and strengthened, by early grapples with the rudest destiny, and strength for future advance was only assured by conquest of present obstacles. The value of things was taught him by what it cost to gain them. The beggarly rudiments of education offered to the poor man's child forty years ago, were seized and made the all-powerful keys to an unlimited advance. Sobriety, rigid economy, and hard work broke up the rigid environments of poverty—and steadied the course of his young ambition. Orphan, but for his admirable mother; poor, except in will, courage, and intellect; hard working as child, as boy, as young man, as full-grown, he always gave himself fully to the one thing he had to do.

Day laborer, farm-hand, teamster, student, teacher, professor, lawyer, volunteer soldier, colonel, general, Representative in Congress for sixteen years, Senator, and President elect, in each and every one of these stages along the glorious line of his life march, the same qualities, the same characteristics are plainly displayed.

In this varied and hard-working life he has been a part of all the varied life of this country. He has seen and known all sorts and conditions of men. The circles of the educated mind of this country are open to him, for he has fitted himself to be of them.

In his long service in the House, he has seen the vast changes that have occurred since 1864. Every step in the legislation of the Nation since that time he thoroughly knows, and all the great actors in the drama. He has helped in all the measures which have brought us from the verge of bankruptcy to the fulness of National credit. There are few measures of importance in that long period, which do not bear his impress.

And thus by processes impossible in any other country, the barefooted but stalwart boy of forty years since is now the foremost man in the Republic. He cannot therefore but be to the very core of his heart an American, and he will assume executive power with the most thorough preparatory training of any man now living, with an experience more wide and more far-reaching, and with powers fully adapted to judicious exercise of his high duties.

The laboring classes of this country will hail him, for he has been of them, and is not ashamed of it.

The teachers will stand by him for that most honorable profession was adorned by him while it remained one of the stages of his progress.

The soldiers of the Nation recognize him as an honorable and well-deserving comrade in the great cause.

The educated and cultured intellect of the country count him as one of theirs.

The statesmen of the time whether party associates or not hold him in the highest esteem, and expect much from him in his new position. In short, his nature and experience of life touch more sides of our many-sided society than any other man, and he starts upon his new duties, with these large advantages.

We have much to expect from him and we have little to fear. The balanced brain that has borne the changes of his life, will not fail him now in this supreme trial. The broad and generous sympathies that have distinguished his character, will find full play and wide scope in this field of larger usefulness.

He is emphatically a man to be trusted, and we have no fear but that his administration will properly crown the column of his life, and round off the whole with complete and graceful fitness.

Especially may the soldiers, his comrades in the great cause, hope that their wants and wishes will receive patient hearing and favorable consideration—and that the head of the Nation will never forget the wounded and disabled, the widow and the orphan.

"The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

When an officer of the United States, of high position, takes the field in proper person, and, with all the panoply of official armor, expressly and avowedly for the purpose of creating "public opinion" in favor of a particular measure, devised and pressed by him on Congress, it is a spectacle, fortunately rare, but undoubtedly disreputable.

Yet the Commissioner of Pensions has devoted much of his valuable time to this style of work. He has delivered his lectures with as much pretense of candor as if the whole proceeding was not part of an electioneering scheme to press his unwise bill, and to compel his own retention in office for four years more. But this is but the outward and visible part of the scheme. He knew very well that the State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic for the State of Pennsylvania had condemned, by resolution, his "Sixty Surgeon Bill," both in the details and in the principle involved, and that similar action had been taken by the other State Encampments. To change the hostile attitude of this body and to convert them from avowed antagonism into apparent friendship, would, in his opinion, largely advance the chances of the passage of his bill.

In casting about for the means to bring about this end, he made repeated visits to Philadelphia, placed himself in close relations with the commander-in-chief and adjutant-general of the Grand Army at headquarters, and the result of his presence, of his pressure and his "winning" ways, can be seen in General Orders No. 11, issued from the headquarters of the G. A. R., December 1, 1880, and the printed memorials and petitions accompanying that order.

For some reason satisfactory to them, these high officers think proper to adopt for themselves, and to recommend for adoption by the several Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic *"acting officially,"* the Senate bill No. 496, as adopted by the Senate Committee on Pensions. For the same reasons, whatever they may be, they put this recommendation not in the form of a circular for information but in the shape of an official general order, signed by them, not as individuals, but in their official capacity. In pursuance of the same plan they transmit with the order itself certain printed memorials, to be adopted by each Post, and with instructions to close up the transaction before the 1st of January, 1881, and to forward one copy to the Senator, one to the Representative of the State or congressional district, and one to headquarters. The order itself,