

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

"TO CARE FOR HIM WHO HAS BORN THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS."—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Tribune.

"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, ART. XIV, CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 1, 1881.

The Commissioner of Pensions is using every endeavor to expedite business in his office. Claims are being disposed of as speedily as possible. We say this in reply to a large number of inquiries which do not permit of a separate answer in each case.

The experience of the United States during the last eighty days or so, has taught the crowned heads of Europe a lesson they will not soon forget. In the brief period mentioned the American people and the Government have been put to a strain well calculated to test the strength of our regard for law and order.

The President was murdered in cold blood, but there was no cruelty practiced toward his slayer, nor was there any manifestation of mob violence. The head of the State fell in the harness, but his constitutional successor assumed the place made vacant without disturbance or controversy, and the Government yet lives. Where could a similar condition of affairs have existed, and a similar result have been had, without the intervention of the strong military arm?

IN VIEW OF the approaching extra Executive Session of the Senate, to be soon followed by the regular meeting of Congress, we again urge upon those who desire to keep fully posted upon public affairs to lose no time in forwarding their subscriptions to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. As soon as Congress opens our columns will contain full reports of all matters of legislation affecting the interests of ex-soldiers and sailors, as well as those of pensioners and others having business with or claims against the United States. We shall also give, in each issue, a synopsis of the general legislation and proceedings during the week, in addition to other interesting matter.

BUT twenty days remain in which subscribers to the Monthly NATIONAL TRIBUNE may renew their subscriptions to the weekly edition for one year by sending one dollar in payment. Those who desire to continue our paper should forward the amount specified at once, or, if they cannot spare the full sum, renew their subscriptions for three or six months by sending half or three-fourths of the sum specified in our terms at the top of this column.

LAST week, for want of space, owing to the death of our late President and our desire to give full details of the sad event, we were compelled to omit some Reunion notes and other items, and which, although not now the freshest news, are still of sufficient interest to warrant publication; they therefore appear in this issue.

QUITE a controversy has sprung up in reference to the place where Guiteau will be tried. We make the prediction that he will be indicted, tried, convicted, sentenced, and hung in the District of Columbia, where his infamous crime was committed; and further, that all the proceedings in his case will be strictly in accordance with law.

IN OUR next issue we shall commence the publication of an interesting and exciting sketch, to be continued through four or five numbers of our paper. Now is the time to subscribe for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, in order to have the story complete.

IF THE Government offices are to be considered as charitable institutions, so that of a family should be appointed to place, so that the charity may be made to extend as far as possible.

WHEN an ex-soldier or sailor dies, his widow or child, if he leave one, should be considered in the line of appointment, if a clerkship be desired.

Appointments to Office.

Section 1754, Revised Statutes of the United States, provides as follows: "Persons honorably discharged from the military or naval service by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty, shall be preferred for appointment to civil office, provided they are found to possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of said offices."

With such a plain provision of law before them, it would seem that the heads of the various Departments ought to have no difficulty in understanding their duty in the premises, and that, having such knowledge, they would gladly carry out the requirements of the statute. It is notorious, however, that the section quoted is a dead letter, so far as its practical effects are concerned, in a large majority of instances in which appointments are sought by those whom it was intended to benefit. We venture the assertion, and without fear of successful contradiction, that the appointment offices in the Executive Departments in this city are, so to speak, flooded with applications from honorably discharged and disabled soldiers, since the filing of which hundreds, if not thousands, of appointments have been made from among applicants who were never in the army and who never rendered any previous service to the Government; and we further assert, that in a majority of these cases the question of capability or fitness for the position was never considered as an important factor in making the appointment. Political influence or personal interests in too many instances were stronger than the law or the obligation of the appointing power to enforce it.

It is a sad commentary upon our vaunted regard for the soldier that such a state of affairs should exist; and in the interest of our comrades (of whose sufferings we have some knowledge from our own experience) we propose to do whatever we can to see that a change for the better is effected. We believe that it is the duty of the Government to show a preference to those who in serving it became disabled in any manner while in the line of duty, and on that account received an honorable discharge from the army or navy. And the Government has recognized its moral obligation to do this by the passage of the statute, section 1754, already referred to; but the difficulty lies in its enforcement. As already stated, it has become virtually obsolete. An ex-Union soldier, with but one leg or arm, applies for a clerkship. He is educated, intelligent, honest; in fact, possesses the ability and all the requirements to make an efficient servant of the people. He, however, has no "influence." There is no Senator or member of Congress or other person high in authority whom he can find to advocate his cause. He is told there is no vacancy. On the same day, perhaps, a youth, the son or nephew or protegee of some great man, it may be, files his application. His patron, whether Senator or member or great man, sees the Secretary or chief of the Department, introduces the applicant, and lets it be understood that he must have a place—and he gets it.

Or the contestant for place may be one of those who, during the war, fought against his unfortunate competitor who wore the Blue. The number of such now in Government employ, and appointed, too, upon the recommendation of or by those who claim to entertain the highest possible regard for those who helped save the Union, and to be in full sympathy with them, is almost beyond belief.

We have no ill will against those who fought against us, especially if they have been thoroughly reconstituted in their views touching the late unpleasantness; but, to quote an old saying, "Charity should begin at home;" and there is no reason why they should be preferred over their old antagonists, unless it be found in the fact that they are dependent upon the Government for a means of livelihood. And even this reason is not a good one. It is the first duty of the Government, as it is of an individual, to look out for its friends, those who were such in its time of need, and especially is this true where the law so plainly declares it to be so.

As regards the political aspect of the case, we believe that no distinction should be made as between the two great parties when section 1754 is being considered. The Government did not stop a man, who wished to volunteer during the war, to learn his politics, nor should it now inquire into that matter if the applicant for office is clearly within the statute. It is natural, however, and in accordance with precedent, for the winning party in a campaign to provide for its friends—those who assisted in winning the victory.

If this provision for friends is made in conformity to the statute, by the appointment of disabled ex-soldiers and sailors, no one has the right to complain, for there are not offices enough for all who were made cripples by the war, nor are all such competent to fill them, even if the offices existed.

But we have a right to and do complain when we see, under a Republican administration, ex-rebels and those who were never in either army appointed to clerkships to the exclusion of our comrades, who deserve the first and highest consideration, morally and by virtue of law; and we should do the same under a Democratic administration were the same state of facts to exist.

We do not wish to be construed as advocating a change of clerks in all the Government offices at every change of administration. Upon the policy or propriety of such a movement we express no opinion.

But we do say that, whenever such changes are made, the new appointees should be selected, so far as the candidates for place possess the qualifications, from among those who have been disabled in their country's service. Whether Republicans or Democrats, let the crippled ex-soldiers and sailors of the Union be preferred over all others in the matter of civil appointments.

A Word to Claimants.

The repeal of rulings 164 and 292 of the late Mr. Bentley, made while he was Commissioner of Pensions, will not go into effect until the promulgation of the new regulations now being printed. Claim agents who are advertising that claimants are now at liberty to change their attorneys at will are therefore in error, and will doubtless find themselves so after the new rules go into operation.

Such agents are certainly not only ill advised but ill advisers as well, and have not the interests of claimants at heart, else they would not thus seek to mislead them. As we understand the case the Commissioner of Pensions proposes to see to it that attorneys faithfully discharge their duties to their clients; and that claimants do the same by those whom they have employed to transact their business for them. Good faith between attorney and client is one element of success; and we therefore advise our soldier and other friends having business with the Pension Office to disregard whatever statements they may see in advertisements or the public prints relative to the effect of changes in that Department, remembering that, at the proper time, THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will furnish full and correct information.

Meeting of the Senate.

The Senate will meet in Executive Session on the 10th instant, pursuant to President Arthur's recent proclamation convening it. There is much speculation as to the manner in which its organization will be perfected, there being neither a presiding officer nor a secretary. Some people even go so far as to anticipate another dead-lock. We, however, are inclined to be hopeful, and trust that the same patriotic and law-abiding spirit which has carried the Nation thus far safely through one of the severest trials it has ever experienced, will secure harmony of action in the higher branch of the National Legislature. This is no time for dissensions or bickerings.

Probable Legislation.

From present indications there will be considerable legislation next winter affecting the interests of pensioners and claimants, especially the latter.

A bill providing for the equalization of bounties is pretty sure to be introduced early in the session.

A bill to pension soldiers of the Mexican war, one to pension those who were for any length of time prisoners during the war of the rebellion, and various other matters will also receive attention. At least it is the present impression that such measures will be introduced.

To Old Subscribers.

After the 20th of the present month THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will be mailed only to those who have subscribed since August 20, and to those whose subscriptions for the monthly had not then expired and who have subsequently sent in renewals in accordance with the terms printed at the head of this column. If you wish your paper continued send on the additional amount of one dollar at once; or, if you cannot conveniently spare that sum, you can renew for three or six months by forwarding fifty or seventy-five cents, as the case may be.

A Correction.

In the list of National Cemeteries published last week, Mexico City, through a typographical error, was located in Missouri. It should have been in the Republic of Mexico.

IN view of the language of section 1754, it is a question whether a Senator or member of Congress does not violate the law every time he secures the appointment, for personal or political reasons, of an individual not comprised within the class which the statute was intended to benefit. In our opinion he can only excuse himself by showing that there are no disabled ex-soldiers or sailors who are competent applicants for position from his State or district.

A SENATOR or member of Congress who will recommend to a subordinate office any other than a disabled ex-Union soldier or sailor is unworthy of the trust imposed in him by the people who placed him in power.

THE head of a Department who will appoint to office an ex-rebel, or even one who never saw service in either army, in preference to a disabled ex-Union soldier, is unworthy of the place he holds.

THE ex-soldiers and sailors of the Union should see to it that the men they send to Congress are in full sympathy with them upon all subjects touching their interests and rights.

MR. Alf. G. Hunter has kindly favored us with an invitation to attend the Reunion of the Eighty-second Indiana Volunteers at Vernon, on the 6th of October.

We regret our inability to be present, and hope that we shall receive a report of the proceedings for publication.

President Arthur.

As yet the President has given no intimation, further than that contained in his brief message delivered upon the occasion of his being formally inducted into office, as to what his future course will be. It is generally supposed, and with good reason, that he will carry out the principles of the party upon whose ticket he was elected. Of course no reasonable being can expect that he will endeavor to act as the personal representative of his immediate predecessor. He must be his own judge of the policy to be pursued by him, and cannot accept from others any dictation in the premises. He must choose his own advisers, and, having done this, be held responsible for the manner in which he administers the trusts of his high office as Mr. Garfield would have been, had he lived. It is generally conceded that there will be a new Cabinet selected, at least in part, and this at no very distant day. The public may rest assured, however, that whoever may be chosen in place of the present incumbents, there will be no lack of patriotism, statesmanship, or of fidelity to the Constitution and the laws on the part of the new advisers of the Chief Magistrate. All we can say further at this time is that we sincerely hope a patriotic people will do all in their power to make the present administration a successful one, and one calculated to win favorable consideration at home and respect from abroad.

THE *National Republican* of this city, has of late been working up a matter of great interest to soldiers, and will soon publish a list of ex-rebels, &c., appointed to office, to the exclusion of those who fought and suffered for the Union. The *Republican* is doing a good work in the way of securing, if possible, the enforcement of Section 1754, of the Statutes, relative to appointments in the Civil Service.

Truth Versus the Induction Balance.

There is a storm brewing in the medical faculty, and the physicians who burrowed like moles in a pus cavity something like a foot and a half deep in search of a bullet that lay in an almost exactly opposite direction are in danger of being swamped. Dr. Boynton, a man whose word can be depended upon, and who is, moreover, possessed of sound medical and surgical knowledge, proposes to tell the truth relative to the treatment of the late President during his brave fight with death. Surgeon-General Wales, of the Navy, another eminent authority, will also give his views of the case, and neither of the gentlemen will doctor the statements made by them respectively, but relate facts only. We approve of their determination. The public have a right to know all the facts as they really exist; but to judge from past experience these cannot be obtained from any one of the late President's attending physicians. The subject is in some respects a distasteful one, yet the people ought to know the truth, which we hope will soon be made apparent.

IT WAS not the patient, but, as now appears, the surgeon, who was suffering from pyæmia. Dr. Bliss is reported as having a pus abscess on his cheek. There must be some mistake, however, as to the alleged location—his parotid must lie lower down—perhaps in the right iliac fossa. The induction balance should be brought into requisition without delay.

IF Dr. Bliss really has a pus abscess on his cheek, he had better hold an autopsy on himself at once, for he's a goner. He can never survive the destruction of that portion of his person.

AN induction balance is indispensable to the happiness of every well-regulated family.

DEMOREST'S MAGAZINE.

Demorest's Monthly Magazine, for October, comes to us, as usual, laden with good things. Illustrations, reading matter, patterns, &c., are all up to its usual well-known standard of excellence. The first article, "Story of the Angel Queen," is exceedingly interesting; so are the sketches "One Day," "Just in time," and "A Ramble in North Italy." "Kith and Kin," is continued. "Over and Over," a poem, is deserving of notice, and the miscellaneous selections are all worthy of a reading. In fact, *Demorest's* for October is a good number all through.

WE invite attention to the advertisement upon our eighth page of Ireland's Chart of the Rebellion, which, from the sample copy sent us, we judge to be just what every ex-soldier and sailor ought to have.

A Moral Kaleidoscope.

Take some common beads and broken pieces of glass of different shapes and colors, examine them with the naked eye, and they remain the same—nothing but beads and broken bits of glass. Place the same fragments in a kaleidoscope and look; that which was before deemed worthless is resolved into a myriad of beautiful forms, attractive to the sight and pleasing to the sense. Each turn of the instrument discloses some new design to wonder at—some new combination of colors to admire.

So if we look upon our fellow-men with our natural vision only we will perceive little, if anything, in many of them to attract or please; they are but men, jostling against each other in the eager pursuit of pleasure, wealth, or fame. But let them be enveloped in that spirit of charity and love we should exercise toward and feel for each other, and look! The humblest factor of the human brotherhood becomes ennobled, and in each and every one we can discern traits of character to admire, good qualities to commend, and besides, find that no heart is so barren but that it contains something which draws us, through sympathy or love, or both, nearer to it and God.

Make the Best of It.

We live in a cold, hard world, and our pathway through life is, at the best, rough and difficult to travel. Sunshine and storms intermingle, it is true, but, to the most of us, the skies are oftener over-cast than clear. It is more frequently night than day to our hearts. Stars may twinkle now and then, as they do, to encourage us with their feeble light—the light of hope—but they can never supply the bright rays from the upper world which gladden our souls in the days of prosperity and good fortune. But even in the midst of adversity we can make our own path and the paths of others seem brighter than they really are, if we will but dispense about us, as we go, the warmth of a cheerful, kindly spirit, and speak the soft and sympathizing word whenever opportunity offers. We may lighten our own burdens by endeavoring to bear a portion, at least, of those resting upon other hearts.

It may require some effort to attempt to do this, but once the effort is made and all further difficulty is removed. Let men and women, then, as they journey, make the best possible use of life. Let them smooth the way, so far as possible, for others as well as themselves, and above all things, let them be careful not to leave the road, which is rugged at the best, rougher than they find it.

The Cameo Cutter.

The cameo cutter takes the rough stone with its symmetric layers, and, by a skillful use of his graver's tools brings out into full relief the figures he has designed. So God takes the human heart, and by light and heavy cuttings—the lesser vexations and sorrows and the heavier burdens and griefs of life—develops a gem, a perfected image of Himself.

The cameo cutter, sometimes, in the course of his labors, detects a flaw in the stone, and which detracts from its value in case he be unable to work it out by careful handling. So the workmanship of God brings out not only the beauties, but the disfigurements of the heart; but, unlike the lapidary, God eliminates all imperfections. His works are all complete.

Again, the lapidary may ruin the gem by careless cuttings; but God never spoils a human heart. If it eventually proves worthless, the fault exists within itself, and not on the part of Him who only seeks to reveal the beauties which, until He takes it in hand, often lie hidden from view.

A Magic Mirror.

It is said that a mirror once existed into which, if a person looked, he would behold the reflection of his past and present self, and then, directly behind, as if looking over his shoulder, the representation of what he would become in future years. Were there such a mirror in existence now, how many of us, had we opportunity, would care or even dare to consult it with a full knowledge of its magical properties; and how many, even if they looked, would endeavor to profit by what they saw there revealed?

LITERARY NOTES.

"The Yorktown Campaign" is the title of a timely book by Mr. H. P. Johnston, which the Harpers are about to publish.

"The Glad Year Round," by Miss A. G. Plympton, a juvenile book printed in colors, with original poetry, will be published by James R. Osgood & Co., in October.

Messrs. Caswell & Co. are about to issue an "Illustrated Universal History," which has been in preparation for some years past. It will be published in serial form.

St. Nicholas promises to publish soon a grand thing for the boys and girls in the shape of "The Hoosier Schoolboy," by Edward Eggleston, who delighted adults with his "Hoosier Schoolmaster."

Mr. Francis Parkman, the historian, who is making rapid progress with his work on Montcalm, has concluded a visit to England, where he has been engaged in consulting the colonial documents in the London Record Office.

By common consent, and for no other reason that is known, communion service is held in the majority of our churches but once a month. But there are those who think it should be held more frequently. A nice old lady in Essex county, upon returning from church last Sunday, said to her daughter: "I wish they would have communion oftener; I think the wine does my stomach a great deal of good."—*Boston Budget*.

Monsieur Gambetta seems inclined to give Bismarck some spicy French tobacco to put in his German pipe to smoke. Whenever the French statesman gets a show of opportunity he reminds the German Chancellor that "Sedan" remains among other unsettled international accounts. This he did again in one of his electioneering speeches the other day, and was loudly cheered.

It is said that the private fortune of Queen Victoria amounts to \$80,000,000, and she possesses an annual income of \$3,250,000. Before her birth her parents were so poor that they had to borrow the money to pay their passage to England, that the expected princess might be born on English soil, and she remained in comparative poverty until she ascended the throne.

A SELF-MADE MAN.

About ten years ago there was plowing upon the hillsides in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, a poor, bare-footed boy. He was one of a large family and stood but a small show for a share of this world's joys. He was forced to leave the paternal roof and seek his own support. He had the true American pluck, and strove manfully to make his mark in the world. How well he has succeeded will be understood when we state that he has become to-day one of the largest and most influential manufacturers in the country. Alone he mapped out a career which already shines conspicuously among the many examples of the self-made men of our times. His name is the Hon. Daniel F. Beatty, Mayor of Washington, New Jersey, and it has become a household word throughout the length and breadth of this land. His unaided enterprise has been prodigious—his success phenomenal. He manufactures and sells direct to the people from his mammoth factory at Washington, New Jersey, upwards of one thousand cabinet organs every month. His establishment exceeds in size any similar factory upon the globe, and he is rapidly becoming one of the great benefactors of the race, for he has abolished middlemen's and all extortionate profits, and by reason of a vast trade he produces instruments very economically and sells them at a small margin above actual cost. Readers should remember that Mr. Beatty is thoroughly responsible, and guarantees everything as represented. He has been three times elected Mayor of his own city, which is proof positive that he is honored and respected at his home.