

THE SOUTHERN LOYALISTS.

Address to the People of the United States—The Results of their Tour. The Committee of Southern Loyalists, appointed by the Convention at Philadelphia to visit the tomb of Lincoln, has issued the following address:—

"SPRINGFIELD, October 11.—To the Loyal People of the United States:—The undersigned members of the Convention of Southern Loyalists, assembled in Philadelphia, to visit the tomb of our martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, as a testimony of the admiration and affection with which the Union men of the South remember his single-hearted patriotism, have discharged that duty. The enthusiastic greetings which we received all along our route are sufficient evidence that the Union party is still intact. We return our sincere and hearty thanks for the uniform courtesy and kindness everywhere shown us, but before we separate desire to warn our countrymen of a new danger which appears to be looming up. Every day that we have been the loyal people who are sustaining Congress seem to be united in demanding:—

"First. That Andrew Johnson shall not be permitted to usurp and exercise the powers of Congress in addition to those of President.

"Second. That disloyal men shall not be permitted to rule either the whole country or any part thereof; and,

"Third. That the loyal men of the South, black as well as white, shall be protected in all their rights as American citizens.

"Unfortunately, however, some Republican speakers and writers, by the loose language they make use of, and their frequent declarations that if the non-reconstructed States ratify the pending Constitutional amendment, such of their opponents as can, or will take the least oath will be admitted to membership in that body, are creating the impression that the ratification of that amendment will render any further legislation by Congress in relation to the non-reconstructed States unnecessary. If this conviction is allowed to fasten itself upon the minds of the people, it can only be removed by a long, acrimonious discussion, pending which the nation will continue to be afflicted with the evils which now render its life in a third of the States almost intolerable.

"It now requires but a few moments' reflection to see that such a settlement of the reconstruction problem would convert the victory now being won at the polls into a defeat. The Constitution of the United States declares that 'all legislative power shall be vested in Congress,' and 'legislative power' means simply the power to make laws. The usurpation of the President consists in the fact that when, at the close of the war, he found the States 'devoid of all civil government'—there being no law upon the statute-book providing how, under such circumstances, government might be instituted—instead of calling the legislative department together in session to enact the necessary laws, he assumed the prerogative of Congress and prescribed the rules and regulations (claiming for them all the force and validity of regularly enacted laws) necessary for establishing civil government in the States which he declared had none. It was in accordance with these illegal edicts that the tyrannical organizations claiming to be the State Governments of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas were formed; and to recognize their adoption of the Constitutional amendment as valid, is simply to indorse and legalize the President's usurpations. Are the people willing thus to indorse the actions of President Johnson? If not, they must immediately declare that the illegally organized tools of a usurper cannot, by their action, affect the Constitution of the country, and that before the non-reconstructed States can ratify the pending legal Governments must be instituted in them.

"Again, every one of the so-called Governments in the ten non-reconstructed States are in the hands of and controlled by the men who attempted to destroy the nation, and are ostentatiously used to make treason honorable and loyalty odious, and in the Southern States impossible. If Congress legalizes them it perpetuates these evil Rebels in power indefinitely. They will continue to have absolute control of the Governments of all or nearly all of the late slaveholding States, and will send up solid delegations to Congress of men whose sympathies were and are with the Confederates. Once again, that they are loyal State Governments, and Congress cannot thereafter interfere in those States any more than it can now in Illinois and New York. In short, legalize those bogus Governments, and ex- Rebels will thereafter have absolute political control of nearly one-half the Union. If the loyal people do not wish such a state of affairs, they must never consent to the endorsement of Andrew Johnson's usurpation. Again, it is these State Governments which now tyrannize over the Union men of the South, and which are being welded so as to render our living there intolerable or impossible. Protection, either of life or property, with the State Governments controlled by those now in power there is impossible. While loyal State Governments can afford us protection, we solemnly warn the people that the ratification of these bogus governments is a sentence of death or exile to every Union man in the South whose position or ability renders him at all obnoxious to the late Rebels. To those who are willing to tolerate for a moment the idea of abandoning their friends to destruction—of handing them over bound hand and foot into the power of their and the nation's enemies, we have not one word to say; but to such as call themselves Union men, and have some spark of manhood or worth left in their nature, we appeal for protection—for that protection which can alone be afforded by State Governments imbued with the principles of impartial justice for all men. Shall we appeal in vain? The State of Congress in the coming winter must answer this question.

"The late Rebels are, of course, desirous of retaining as much power in Congress as possible, but they would surrender all representation in that body rather than lose control of the State Governments, for by the help of these State Governments alone can they keep their people united against the general Government. Representation in Congress is a side and comparatively unimportant matter, but the control of the State Governments, whether or not they shall remain in the hands of those who have once used them to wage war upon the Union, is the vital question. We do not wish to have it understood that we are finding fault with the present Congress—that no one body of men whose firmness has afforded us our only protection thus far since the war closed. It has been, and is our expectation that next, if not all, of the Union members intend to adopt the measure necessary to give us protection. The Reconstruction Committee, in addition to the Constitutional amendment, reported a bill providing for the organization of loyal Governments in the seceded States, and this bill has to be acted upon. If the Congress, immediately upon reassembling, takes it up, perfects, and passes it, all will be well. We have been impelled to issue this address by the fact that this bill, which is undoubtedly the most important part of the Congressional plan of reconstruction, as we have understood it, is apparently being lost sight of, and the further fact that some prominent politicians have been using language which seems to commit them to an abandonment of it.

"We have aided thus far in the present canvass, and expect to continue, with the distinct understanding that Congress will not, after being endorsed by the people, abandon this the most important feature of its plan. We do not believe that it is either necessary or right to 'carry on the canvass upon a misapprehension or mystification of the issue, and feel confident that such a course would lead to embarrassment, and might lead to disaster; for although the great majority of the Union members of Congress will undoubtedly remain true, some are always anxious to obtain notoriety for being more 'conservative' than their associates, and such would claim, if we keep silent, that the canvass was fought with the issue of the ratification of the Constitutional amendment was all that Congress proposed doing.

"We have expressed ourselves strongly in this paper in favor of the bill. The bones of our dead are in Southern graves. Our homes are there. All the clustering recollections of our childhood are connected with the soil from which we are called upon to exile ourselves. Men of America! we cannot recognize ourselves to the late in store for us, should we be deserted by you, and we will not believe that you are capable of betraying us. The ideas which we wish to have crystallized in your minds are:—

"First. That the usurpations of the President cannot be repudiated by legalizing them.

"Second. That Rebels cannot be kept out of power by giving them absolute control of the late rebellious States; and

"Third. That loyal men cannot be secured in any of their rights while all officers in the States where they live, from Governor down to constable, are rampant Rebels.

"We know that the views herein expressed are endorsed by most all of the Union men of the South of all races; and in order that there may be no misunderstanding as to what we wish to have done, we repeat that we ask Congress to pass a law providing for the establishment of legal civil government in the non-reconstructed States, and that the said law shall embody the following ideas:—

"1. That no man who took part in the Rebellion shall be permitted to hold office, or to hold any of their rights while all officers in the States where they live, from Governor down to constable, are rampant Rebels.

"2. That all loyal men, without respect to color or race, shall be permitted to vote.

"3. That wherever may be needed, a local military force shall be organized, consisting solely of loyal men, and that the expense of organizing, equipping, and maintaining said force shall be defrayed by that portion of the community whose conduct renders its presence necessary.

"4. As appealing to all patriots to see to it that the fruits of victory are not lost at the eleventh hour, and that those friends of the nation who most need its protection shall not be first abandoned, we respectfully submit our cause to the American people.

"ALBERT GRIFFIN, Ala.  
"A. J. HAMILTON, Tex.  
"J. P. NEWMAN, D. D., La.  
"W. J. SMITH, Tenn.  
"JESSE SPENCER, Texas.  
"WESTON FLINT, Mo.  
"J. H. BINGHAM, Ala.  
"H. B. HARRIS, Tenn.  
"C. E. MOSE, Va.  
"C. H. BRANSCOMBE, Mo.  
"GEORGE LUCKER, Va.  
"L. SHERWOOD, Texas.  
"E. J. DAVIS, Texas.  
"H. C. WARMOUTH, La.  
"P. B. RANDOLPH, La."

The Southern Loyalists at the Tomb of Lincoln.

IMMENSE PROCESSION AND IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

The delegation of Southern loyalists visited the tomb of Lincoln at Springfield last week, escorted by a very large procession. Within the cemetery, a short distance from the entrance, and on the left of the road, was stretched a large placard, on which was inscribed the following words:—"The murdered President—a political party prosper under the shadow of his tomb. Let us this day resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that a Government by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

The scene at the tomb is thus described in a special despatch to the Chicago Tribune:—"The decorations were plain, but touching and suggestive. Extending over the top of the tomb, and hanging gracefully over the door, were festoons of leaves of oak and maple, brilliant with the colors of autumn, and large wreaths of flowers with crosses of immortelles and carnations hung over the door. On each side of the tomb were large rustic vases filled with beautiful flowers. Immediately over the door was inscribed the words 'Abraham Lincoln. Let his name be spoken but in reverence; for, although he is dead, his great deeds live after him, and the lowly shall not be forgotten.' The procession, with the flag at its head, marched slowly up the ascent and formed in double lines near the door, leaving a space in the centre where, near the door of the tomb, stood Colonel C. T. Branscombe, of Missouri, and Rev. Dr. Newman, of New Orleans. A feeling of the deepest solemnity seemed to pervade the vast assemblage, and many eyes unused to weep were filled with tears, although no word had yet been spoken.

"Colonel Branscombe then slowly read the following oath of consecration:—

"Standing at the tomb of the illustrious dead, recalling his sublime words, his heroic virtue, his unswerving fidelity to the great truths committed to him by the American people, we here make a new consecration of our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to the service of our country, and, with uncovered heads and uplifted hands, solemnly resolve, with the help of Almighty God, that we will never surrender the contest with despotic power until the fell spirit of rebellion shall be utterly crushed, until the right of free speech shall be maintained on every inch of American soil, and all men are established in the full possession of those inalienable rights which God has given, and to secure and protect which is the object of all good Governments."

"At the words 'with uncovered heads and uplifted hands,' the loyalists removed their hats and raised their right hands. The entire audience then knelt, and Dr. Newman gave utterance to an impressive prayer, after which the assemblage silently dispersed."

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