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[For the Jasper Courier.

An Episode of Ireland.

The teeming fields had just been sown
Of their wealth of bearded grain;
No sound of the reaper's cry was borne
O'er Ireland sunny plains;
The scythes were hung upon the walls,
There was reaping near and far,
Wagon from the land of shell and balls,
A man came from the war;
Loaded with honor, scarred with wounds,
With a moustache on his lip,
A hero from the battle-grounds,
Whose money would load a ship.

What wonder then, with his handsome looks
And swaggering, martial air,
That his image was in the inmost nooks,
Of the hearts of damsels fair.

Poor fellow! he who in war had been
The foremost in the breach,
Whose pockets were full of "Lincoln skin,"
Surrendered to a Leach.

He was captured, nought could save him now
No military skill
Could set at naught that solemn vow,
For better or for ill.

No sermons, that our revered men
On Sundays try to preach,
Could save a war worn veteran
When married to a Leach.

The honey-moon like lightning passed,
(Why will time pass so quick!)
And our veteran had found at last
That Leaches wouldn't stick.

For she, whom he had fondly hoped
Would stick thro' woe and weal,
Packed up her duds one day and slooped,
Just after their morning meal.

The bride-groom followed, sad and worn,
With weeping eyes and weary feet,
And "ponied up" and "owned the corn,"
Confessing himself badly beat.

The wife went home with him, and now
Our veteran gets full many a lick;
And with used up look and gloomy brow
He's found that Leaches some times stick.

D. D.

IRELAND, Feb. 1865.

Can there be Harm in Kissing?

The waters kiss the pebbly shore,
The winds all kiss the hills
Sunblossoms kiss the tulip bud
For the odor it distills.

The dew drops kiss the rose at morn,
The cereus drows at eve,
And fern and flower in circling clasp
Their myrtle beauties weave.

The moonbeams kiss the clouds at night,
The star-gems kiss the sea;
While shadows, dreamy, soft and light,
Are kissing on the lea.

The zephyrs kiss the blushing pink
That blooms on beauty's lip;
And ruder blasts, though cold and chill,
Is ruby nectare sip.

The winds, the waves, the budding flowers
The laughing, merry rills,
Are kissing all, from morn to eve;
And clouds still kiss the hills.

Even heaven and earth do meet to kiss
Through tears of sparkling dew,
In kissing, then, can there be harm?
I don't think so—do you?

The "Force" Effort.

The New York Tribune publishes a letter from Mr. Cornwall Jewett embodying the impressions of Gen. Singleton with respect to the terms of peace, as deduced by General S. from his intercourse with the confederate leaders at Richmond during his late visit.

The Tribune thus indorses Gen. S. and incidentally the communication of Mr. Jewett: "Knowing Gen. Singleton to be a sincere and truthful man, we gladly give place to his views, though we decidedly non-concur in some of the most important among them."

Mr. Jewett thus details the impressions made upon Gen. Singleton during his conferences in Richmond with the rebel leaders—an independent mission which he undertook under the sanction of the President of the United States:

I deem the interview I have had the pleasure to have with General Singleton as an honor and of vast importance, from his frankness, in view of his having been very silent and reticent since his return to Washington, but few of his old friends having as yet seen him, and but little known of his mission. I have, however, gleaned the following from the interview:

1. The southern people are all anxious for peace—but because they are exhausted, or doubt their ability to continue the war successfully, but to spare non-combatants, women and children, the privations and sufferings its continuance must multiply.

2. He thinks it in the power of the north to reconquer and act upon during an armistice of sixty days.

3. The south will not consent to reconstruction upon any other basis than the clearest recognition of the rights of the states respectively to determine each for itself all questions of local and domestic government, slavery included.

4. They will not permit slavery to stand in the way of independence—to that it would be promptly surrendered, but to nothing else—unless it should be a fair compensation coupled with other liberal terms of reconstruction secured by constitutional amendments.

5. He thinks they can prosecute the war indefinitely, but not without great suffering and sacrifice, which they are prepared to make rather than submit to any terms that do not recognize their perfect equality, and are alike honorable to both sections.

6. He says he never lived better than he did in Richmond, so far as the substantial is concerned; that he found everything necessary for a state dinner except wine;—that he was treated with marked attention and liberality by everybody. When he inquired for his hotel bill he was informed it had been settled. He thinks even the women of the south would fight sooner than see their husbands, sons, brothers submit to dishonorable relations, or disgraceful, and unequal terms of reconciliation.

7. He had an interview with President Davis and all the members of his cabinet, also with Gen. Lee; that he never heard a word of defiance or reproach or crimination from any one of them, or any person in Richmond.

8. That Gen. Lee impressed him at once with the idea that he was in the presence of a man whose soul was filled with every sentiment of honor, religion, and patriotism. The subject of the war was barely alluded to, and in connection with which the old man with great earnestness and feeling remarked that he did not wish to leave a cruel legacy as the war to his children, and while his affection for his old comrades and friends had not abated in any degree, he had but a plain duty under the providence of God to perform, and would be glad to be spared such a necessity by a permanent peace, not only between the sections but with all mankind.

His appointment as generalissimo has united the people and inspired new confidence and life among the army and people; and that he really believes that such is the devotion of the people to Lee that every man, woman and child in the confederacy would follow him to the Gulf of Mexico as a religious duty, if he required it of them.

The office of the county treasurer of Wells county was broken into and robbed of four thousand dollars.

Company has been organized in Philadelphia to dig for gold in Jackson and Brown counties in this State.

Oil on the Brain.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, writing from Parkersburg, Va., gives the following description of the all-pervading mania in that locality:

It you want to be bored, come to the oil region. Here's the place where you bore and get bored. It is nothing but oil from morning till night—oil on paper—boiled oil—people talk, write, sleep and snore oil. Ask a man how far it is to Charleston?

"Twenty-six miles from Slabside's oil spring."

"What time does the steamer leave for Wheeling?"

"Just as soon as Secum's oil is loaded."

"What was the fight about yesterday?"

"Oil!"

Jenkins married an oil well yesterday—or just as good—married Miss Salkins, whose father struck 'er a few days ago."

Salkins had't time to go to his wife's funeral last Tuesday for fear his 'ole' would run over."

Preachers preach about oil being poured upon the troubled waters, and say this is the very spot where the oil for the occasion comes from.

I slept on four barrels of oil last night—every hotel full. The entire country looks greasy, people have oily tongues, and your oil factory nerves are terribly impressed with the terrible stench. Everybody has territory for sale, and there are plenty of 'fools and their money' who anticipate the realization of the Baron Munchausen stories that are afloat.

Every sharper has a map of the region, and can tell a stranger exactly where the nicest spot is—he has been there knows the place, but is short of funds—has no personal interest in the matter, not he, indeed.—But in more matter of friendship, advises you to buy there, and then do what he is doing—bore and oil must come.

Men seem crazy; victims are plenty.—Seeking to become suddenly rich, many a tolerably well-to-do but over sanguine individual goes his pie, and loses all he has, and sneaks off; a few strike it and become millionaires; not one in a hundred, but get their fingers terribly burned.

Great Match Against Time.

A match was made by a London tradesman named Brown for one hundred pounds sterling, to drive his aged mare one hundred miles within twelve hours, and it came off on the 15th ult. A London sporting paper describes it as follows:

The time appointed for the start was 5 A. M., and sharp to the minute the little mare was ready to start. The weight of the sulky was only 65 pounds, and Mr. Brown pulled 9 stone (144 pounds) the mare was not overburdened with weight. Mr. Brown and his nag started at 5:10 A. M. Kelvedon, 33 3/4 miles from the start, was the first place where the time was taken, at 7:30 A. M. Colchester (38 1/2 miles) was reached at 8:20 A. M., where the nag was rested for twenty five minutes, her mouth washed out &c., and receiving every attention. At 9:45 A. M., the journey was resumed without any diminution of speed whatever, the mare pulling hard. Four miles from the turn the umpire at that end and a few friends met the little animal, and she led them a merry dance until pulled up, and started on her homeward journey at 10:7 A. M., having trotted 47 miles in five hours, five minutes and fifty seconds included in twenty five minutes at the stoppage, at Kelvedon. When three miles of the home journey had been completed, another pull up was made, man and horse receiving every attention, but no time was taken. Colchester was reached at 11:50 A. M., the animal appearing to be fresh as at the start, having trotted sixty and three quarters miles in six hours forty eight minutes and fifty seconds. Twenty minutes rest was allowed, and gruel &c., was administered, when the little wonder resumed her journey with undiminished speed. Kelvedon was passed at 1:16 P. M. and a long journey commenced at a diminished pace—the driver having plenty of time in hand—judiciously nursing his pet from time to time. The next rest was at Chelmsford, at 2:5 P. M., where the final attentions were paid to the mare. The fifteen minutes did the galloway good, for being again started she pulled nearly as merrily as at the commencement. Nothing occurred to mar the chance, the gallant little animal was pulled up and walked east the winning place at 4:17 P. M. having 43 minutes 50 seconds to the goal, without being apparently distressed.

President's Message on the Peace Conference.

On the 9th inst. the President sent in a message to Congress on the Peace Conference. Below we publish that part of it which is of general interest:

To the Hon. the House of Representatives: In response to your resolution of the 8th inst. requesting information in relation to a conference recently held in Hampton Road, I have the honor to state that on the day of the date I gave Francis P. Blair, Sr. a card written on as follows:

"Allow the bearer F. P. Blair, Sr., to pass our lines to go south and return."

(Signed) A. LINCOLN.

That at the time I was informed that Mr. Blair sought the card as a means of getting to Richmond, but he was given no authority to speak or act for the government, nor was I informed of anything he would say or do on his own account.

Mr. Blair told me that he had been to Richmond and seen Davis, and he [Blair] at the same time brought a manuscript letter as follows, viz:

RICHMOND, Jan. 12, 1865.

F. P. Blair, Esq.

Sir—I have deemed it proper and probably desirable to you, to give you in this form the substance of the remarks made by me, to be repeated by you to President Lincoln. I have no disposition to find obstacles in forms, and am willing now, as heretofore, to enter into negotiations for the restoration of peace. I am ready to send a commission whenever I have reason to suppose it will be received, or to receive a commission, if the United States government shall choose to send one, notwithstanding the rejection of our former offers. I would if you could promise that a commissioner, minister or other agent would be received, appoint one immediately, and renew the effort to enter into a conference, with a view to secure peace to the two countries.

Yours &c. JEFFERSON DAVIS.
Afterwards with a view that it should be shown to Davis, I wrote and delivered to Blair a letter as follows:

WASHINGTON, January 15th, 1865.

F. P. Blair, Esq.

Sir:—You having shown me Mr. Davis' letter to you of the 12th inst. you may say to him, that I have constantly been, and am now, and shall continue ready, to receive any agent whom he or any other influential person resisting the national authority, may informally send me with a view of securing peace to the people of our common country.

A. LINCOLN.
Afterwards Mr. Blair dictated for and authorized me to make entry on the back of the retained copy of the letter, the last above recited which is as follows:

January 28, 1864.

To-day Mr. Blair tells me that on the 21st he delivered to Mr. Davis the original, of which the within is a copy, and left it with him; that at the time of delivery Mr. Davis read it over twice in Mr. Blair's presence, and at the close of which he (Blair) remarked that the part about our one common country, related to the part of Mr. Davis' letter about the two countries, to which Davis replied that he so understood it.

A. LINCOLN.
Here follows a number of Telegrams relating the admission of Stephens, Hunter and Campbell into our lines, there having been some delay consequent on absence of Gen. Grant.

The president then says: Afterwards, by my directions, the secretary of war telegraphed Gen. Ord as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, January 30—10 A. M.

To Major General Ord, Headquarters Army of the James:

By direction of the president I am instructed to inform the three gentlemen—Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, that a message will be dispatched to them at or near where they now are, without unnecessary delay.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON,
Sec. of War.

Afterwards I prepared and put into the hands of Major Thomas T. Eckert, the following instructions and message:

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES,
WASHINGTON, January 30, 1865.

To T. T. Eckert:

Sir—You will proceed with the documents placed in your hands, and on reaching General Ord, will deliver him the letter addressed him by the secretary of war. Then, by General Ord's assistance, procure an inter-

view with Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell,

or any of them, deliver to him or them the papers on which your own letter is written, note on the copy which you return the time of delivery and to whom delivered. Receive their answer in writing, waiting a reasonable time for it, and which, if it contains their decision to come though without further conditions, will be your warrant to ask General Ord to pass them through, as directed in the letter of the secretary of war. If by their answer they decline to come or propose other terms, do not have them passed through, and thus doing your whole duty, return and report to me.

Yours truly,
A. LINCOLN.

Afterward, but before Major Eckert had departed, the following dispatch was received from General Grant:

OFFICE OF THE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegrams were received at Washington, January 31st, from City Point, Va., January 31st, 1865 10:30 A. M.:

To His Excellency, A. Lincoln, President of the United States.

The following communication was received here last evening:

PETERSBURG, Va., January 30th, 1865.

To Lieutenant Gen. U. S. Grant, Commanding the armies of the U. S.:

Sir:—We desire to pass your lines under safe conduct, and to proceed to Washington to hold a conference with President Lincoln, upon the subject of the existing war, and with a view of ascertaining upon what terms it may be terminated, in pursuance of the course indicated by him in his letter to Mr. Blair of January 18th, 1865, of which we presume you have a copy, and if not we wish to see you in person if convenient and to confer with you on the subject.

Very respectfully yours,
A. H. STEPHENS,
R. M. T. HUNTER,
J. A. CAMPBELL.

I have sent directions to receive these gentlemen, and expect to have them at my quarters this evening awaiting your instructions.

[Signed] U. S. GRANT

Com'g. the armies of the U. S.

This, it will be perceived, transferred General Ord's agency in the matter to Gen. Grant.

When Maj. Eckert departed he bore with him a letter of the secretary of war to Gen. Grant, as follows:

WAR DEPT., ADJ. GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, }

To General Grant, commanding, &c.:

General—The president desires that you will please procure for the bearer, Major T. T. Eckert, an interview with Messrs Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, and if on his return to you he requests to pass them through our lines to Fort Monroe, by such route and under such military precautions as you may deem prudent, giving them protection and comfortable quarters while there, and that you let none of this have any effect upon your movements or plans.

By order of the president:

(Signed) E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Supposing the proper point to be then reached, I dispatched the secretary of state with the following instructions, Major Eckert, however, going ahead of him:

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES,
WASHINGTON, January 31, 1865 }

Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State.

You will proceed to Fort Monroe, there to meet and informally confer with Messrs Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, on the basis of my letter to F. P. Blair, January 18, 1865, a copy of which you have.

You will make known to them that three things are indispensable:

1st. The restoration of the national authority throughout all the states.

2d. No receding by the executive of the United States on the slavery question from the position assumed thereon in the late annual message to congress and in the preceding documents.

3d. No cessation of hostilities till the end of the war and the disbanding of all the forces hostile to the government.

You will inform them that all propositions of theirs not inconsistent with the above, will be considered and passed upon in a spirit of sincere liberality.

You will hear all they may have to say and report it to me.

You will not assume to definitely consummate anything.

Yours, &c.
A. LINCOLN.