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TUESDAY EVENING, FEB. 20, 1872.

STATE CONVENTION.

ROOMS REP. STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF VA., RICHMOND, February 8, 1872.

To the Voters of Virginia:

The State Central Committee, at its session in this city on the 7th instant,

"*Resolved*, That the Republican Party of Virginia be assembled in delegated Convention, in the city of Richmond, on WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH DAY OF APRIL, 1872, at 12 o'clock M., for the purpose of selecting delegates to the National Convention at Philadelphia, on the 5th of June, and for such other purposes as may be determined upon."

Each county and city is authorized to be represented by the number of delegates to which it is entitled in the lower branch of the General Assembly, as apportioned in the State Constitution; *Provided*, that each county shall be entitled to at least one delegate, and that no person not a resident of the county or city he claims to represent be allowed to act as delegate or alternate. Proxies will not be recognized.

By order of the Committee:

JOHN F. LEWIS, Chairman.

Samuel F. Maddox, Secretary.

VIRGINIA COAL AND IRON.

We publish in this issue of our paper a very full *resumé* of the lecture delivered by General Imboden, last evening, in the hall of the House of Delegates, on the "Iron and Coal resources of Virginia." As will be seen from our report, the lecture was one of more than ordinary interest in regard to the subject matter treated, and of very great value for the important information it imparts. The distinguished lecturer has thoroughly mastered the field of inquiry on which he has entered, and we doubt if there is anywhere to be found, in the same compact compass, so much valuable information on the Iron and Coal resources of Virginia as is contained in this lecture of his last evening.

We listened to it throughout with great satisfaction and pleasure, and, from what we personally know of some of the sources of supply in the State, we have no doubt that the estimates of General Imboden, as to quantity and quality of mineral metal to be found in the several localities named by him, and the favorable circumstances under which it may be worked, are rather below than above those that might be safely predicated of most of it. There is no subject commending itself more favorably to the attention of Virginians, or to productive capitalists coming among us, than the immense resources of wealth and stimulative industry that lie cooped up in the Iron mountains of Virginia. All that is wanted to bring out their grander possibilities is to wave the magic wand of capital and industry over them. The fact that Virginia and West Virginia contain more available coal producing territory than any other two States in the Union, and that Virginia surpasses all her sister States in the extent and richness of her Iron ores, with coal and the natural fluxes so abundantly distributed to work them, renders it certain that this wand will sooner or later be waved over this inexhaustible source of wealth to our State. What General Imboden is doing in the field of labor to which he is now giving his chief attention, is to hasten the consummation of this grand result—this splendid achievement of industrial energy and power—in Virginia.

The General is a pleasant and effective speaker. He wastes no words in ornament, but goes straight into the subject of inquiry at once. This accounts for the fact that his hearers do not tire, but follow him with satisfaction to the end of the chapter. Our report of the lecture is among the best reading matter in the paper to-day, and we cheerfully accord the space given it.

LET the Legislature bear in mind one thing, that an adjournment without repealing the funding bill of last session, and providing for calling in the bonds and coupons issued under it, will result in fastening all the more odious feautures of that bill hopelessly upon the necks of the people. A new funding bill must be framed providing for the proper funding of the debt, or the two-thirds of it belonging to us to pay, treating the principal *as* principal and the interest *as* interest, and calling in both classes of outstanding bonds, the old and new. If this is not done, the courts will unquestionably decide that the coupons of the last named bonds must be received in payment of taxes according to the express condition upon their face. The mere passage of a law providing that these coupons shall not be received in payment of taxes, will be of no avail. As long as they are suffered to outstand, they are subsisting contracts that cannot be impaired in their terms. So the courts will correctly decide.

Let the friends of a just, righteous, and perfectly fair and equitable funding bill, not be caught in any legislative trap by the superior craft of their opponents. The hour-glass wanes; the necessity of prompt action presses; the people are getting impatient of delay; what is done must be done quickly; what is not done will be taken into account when it is too late for delinquents to justify before constituents.

Repeal, then, the funding bill. Adopt no half-way expedients. Voting an outstanding bond or coupon "no contract," will be of no earthly validity, nor will any law which seeks to change the nature of an outstanding contract. The contract must be revoked; the bonds and coupons called in, and an entirely new deal made in the legislative cards. Nothing short of this will be effective. Look out for all dodges and small legislative tricks, for the bondholding thimble-riggers are sharply watching their game.

WE print elsewhere the resolutions passed by the National Virginia Settlement Association in regard to what the State may safely do in the way of promoting immigration. It strikes us that the several suggestions therein contained are much more sensible than any attempt on the part of the State to create an Agency of its own. The legitimate business of the State is to foster and protect its manifold industries by beneficient legislation, not to engage in the business it is only called upon to protect. For if the State can thus embark in any particular branch of business or industry it is called upon to foster, it may manifestly extend such a fostering hand to its own enterprises as to entirely crush out all others of an individual or associated character. It is no part of the duty of any State, by what authority soever it may govern or by what lenient or iron rule, to engage in the associated enterprises of individuals. Sir William Jones, in that grandest of all poems ever written upon the functions of a State, fully expresses in less than one line all that it should do in the way of promoting the public good. He thus defines *law*:

"And sovereign law, that State's collected will,
O'er thrones and globes elate,
Sits empress, *crowning good, repressing ill.*"

Its labor is to crown all the legitimate enterprises of its subjects with beneficent legislation, while it represses everything that militates against the general welfare. When it goes beyond this, it departs from the true functions for the exercise of which it was created. For it should be borne in mind that the State is created by the people; that the constitution or the sovereign law speaking the State into existence, is only the "collected will" of the people; that they are the parties to be benefitted by legislation, and not the sovereign agency that sits empress over them.

What individuals can do infinitely better than the State, the State should manifestly let alone.

ARLINGTON ESTATE.

To the Editor of the State Journal:

It seems you misunderstood the tenor of what I wrote about Mrs. Lee and Arlington, and consequently placed me in a partially false position. You have recently spoken favorably of woman suffrage, and the case of Mrs. Lee seemed to furnish an illustration in point. It appeared to me that Congress was about to take such action in this case as it would not have taken had the petitioner been of the other sex; hence, that these circumstances furnished a strong example of the advisability of giving women the right to exercise their opinions as men do and then they would be held to the same accountability.

But you overlook my deduction and take me up for opposing the claim of Mrs. Lee. Since you have done this, and speaking with more knowledge than I had, seem to correct me, I desire to ask a few questions on the topic you have brought into prominence, partly for my own enlightment and partly because I have no doubt some of your readers are as much in the dark as I am and would like as well to be enlightened.

Has the government a valid title to the property? I have understood that it has. Now, in the discussion of the question of the return of the property to Mrs. Lee, this is a pertinent question. I know that a large part of your readers think that the government satisfied itself on this point before the nations dead were buried there. Sensible men would hardly do otherwise.

Is this $300,000 a fair price for the property? There are those who know something about real estate values, who are not members of the Republican party nor generally counted among the "loyal" either, but who help pay the income tax notwithstanding, who think this sum is more than the property is worth. We are not rich enough just now to be generous. You know the maxim: Generosity inflicts injury on some one.

Did this property belong to her, or did it, by the laws of Virginia, belong to her husband?

You speak of making her an exception to the general rule. Is Davis' Mississippi plantation returned to him, and if not, has he ever demanded its return or petitioned for pay? No. I would not make an exception, either for or against Mrs. Lee. I would let her stand just as others stand. I do not remember that others of her class have petitioned to the Senate of the United States for their property. I do remember that another woman did ask Congress for pay for her property and was refused. I do know that Congress has made special provisions for reimbursing loyalists of the South for the property taken from them during the war—loyalists, to the exclusion of those of opposite opinion—and Congress has so bound up with conditions those provisions that a suspicion of "aid and comfort" to the Confederacy will defeat all claim. The hunted and exiled loyalist who, at midnight, was taken from his bed by the home-guard and forced into the Confederate ranks or sent to Castle Thunder, and who, to escape bearing arms against the old flag, put a substitute in his place, would find it very difficult to convice that Commission sitting in Washington on the question of his reimbursement, that he had not so far given aid and comfort to the enemies of the government as to deprive him of the right to receive pay for his property. He is no titled aristocrat, and his petition to Congress would bear little weight beside that of the widow of the commander of the Confederate armies—a man who, whatever he was or had in 1860, either in education, wealth, or position, he owed to the government of the United States, which had lavished favors on him and his ancestry, educated him in her military school, and given him a high place in her army.—It will be difficult to convince the loyalists of the Valley, who had their barns burned and property destroyed by Hunter and Sheridan, that a special exception is not being made against them and in favor of those less deserving, if Mrs. Lee is paid for Arlington and they are refused pay for their property; and there are ten thousand others, all through the South, holding the same opinions of our government that she holds, who will see clearly that by right and equal justice they must be paid also.

I am not in favor of a Draconian law for the poor and untitled, and in favor of a special knight errantry for another because, perchance, she is a woman and a widow of a man who stood high in the annals of rebellion. A. M. C.

It may be possible that we overlooked a deduction in our brief note to "A. M. C.'s" former communication. In the clear sky of newspaper fame, the editor's quarry are the birds that fly, not the feathers that may accidentally slip from their wings. Our habit is to hunt for *facts*, not to fish for *deductions*; and this habit, grown upon us, must be our apology for the oversight to which our attention is called.

But we offer no apology for departing, as we do in this instance, from a uniform, and, at the same time, wholesome journalistic rule, which is, not to engage in any discussion of facts or principles outside of our immediate contemporaries of the press, unless the subject be one of paramount interest to our readers generally, and not a mere passing item of news, in reference to which we may have expressed an opinion as it flitted through our columns. We presume our correspondent desires no other or greater information on this subject than what his several interrogatories call for, and, presuming this, we answer him accordingly.

And, first, has the government a valid title to the Arlington property? Our answer is, we have no doubt it has a valid *tax* title, although we have never examined the record to see. We only know the fact, if fact it be, from general newspaper statement and rumor. But a tax-title always has an ugly looking tail to it in the shape of *an equity of redemption*, which, as we understand it, expired in Mrs. Lee's case while the action of the government made her, or at least treated her, as an alien enemy,—as one not entitled to such equity. For, if our recollection serves us right, the personal and loyal friends of Mrs. Lee in Washington, made a tender of the amount due for unpaid taxes, cost of levy, sale, interest, &c., before the expiration of the equity of redemption, which the government refused to receive. So newspaper statement and rumor alleged at the time, if we do not greatly mistake. Now, if these be the facts, the question with us is, *not* whether Mrs. Lee ought to have the property or its equivalent, but whether a great and powerful nation, like the United States, can afford to stand in such a dwarfed and diminutive attitude, before the civilized world, *as that of denying the right of equity to her?* That is the question with us; and no three hundred thousand dollars should stand for one moment in the way of getting us out of such a humiliating attitude as that, if it was in our power to help it.

And this virtually answers the second inquiry put by our correspondent. The question is not, "are we rich enough to be generous," but are "we just, fearless and great enough to do right?" Shall the government, against which no statute of limitation is allowed to run, take advantage of such a statute against a woman who is helplessly in its power? This is the question to which the civilized world looks for an answer; and, while we occupy such a position, we cannot afford to stop and higgle with a woman about the price of a piece of land we have thus taken from her.

Whether the property belonged to Mrs. Lee or to her husband by the laws of Virginia, we know nothing more than what general newspaper statement and rumor allege, except that it originally came by descent from Washington to Mrs. Lee. Our correspondent entirely mistakes the case of the Arlington property when he asks whether "Davis' Mississippi plantation" should be returned to him on the same principle of restitution. The government has unquestionably the right to hold the property of Mr. Davis as confiscated during the term of his natural life, but not one moment longer. It cannot cut off or intercept the succession. That is as fixed as adamant in the constitution. General Lee is dead. Let only his virtues live after him. Inter all else in his grave. Greatness and magnanimity to a fallen foe can do this. Enmity to the dead need not show itself in malignity to the living.

Our correspondent mistakes, too, in the case of the "loyalists of the valley."—Were the government to undertake to pay all losses occasioned by the destruction of property by the army, it would swell the national indebtedness beyond the capacity of any government in the world to liquidate. It would do this were the losses limited to those only who are willing and ready to purge themselves of all disloyalty. The cases are not parallel. Mrs. Lee does not ask payment for property destroyed by the Federal army, but for property taken by the government for its own use during the war, *and withheld from her since.*

But let us say right here, that we do not care to discuss this unprofitable subject one inch further. We have expressed our opinion. We yield to others the right to express theirs. But, once for all, let us say this: That it is not Mrs. Lee we are anxious for, nor do we care, so far as this case is concerned, whether she sympathized for or against the rebellion. All that is mere "leather and prunella" as compared with the humiliating attitude of our government before the civilized world, occasioned by withholding the equity of redemption from Mrs. Lee in a property descended to her from the "Father of his Country." That is all.

A BILL was up yesterday in the Maine Legislature, providing for the right of the women of that State to vote in the coming Presidential election. It is not probable that the bill will pass, but a strenuous effort will be made to that end by the woman suffragists, who would delight to call Maine the bright particular "star in the East."

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As additional prizes, we offer a WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY, unabridged, worth $12; a two-horse, DIXIE PLOW; set of best Agricultural Works, worth $10; Fowler and Wells' publications; New Music of Peters & Co., worth $10; also, sets of valuable miscellaneous books, worth $10 each; also, orders for nursery stock, worth ten dollars each. One of the above prizes will be awarded to each club of fifty, and prizes of one-half the value, in our discretion, to each club of thirty. Each competitor may indicate the prize which he prefers, and it will be awarded to the first who has so expressed preference. Please state what prize you aim at. This will not prevent you taking any smaller prize should you fail to secure the higher.

Every club of five will be entitled to an extra copy of the WEEKLY. Canvassers along the lines of the railroad will find it to their interest to include also the DAILY, and SEMI-WEEKLY, especially, in their list. Every subscriber for the SEMI-WEEKLY will count as two for the WEEKLY, and for the DAILY in same proportion.

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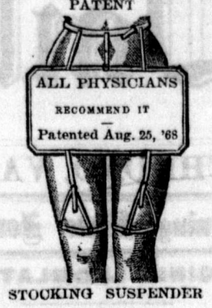

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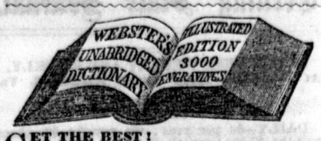

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