

Lincoln's Proclamation.

If the usage of Lincoln, the modern tyrant, proclaiming liberty to four millions of blacks, now happy and contented, who neither desire nor are prepared to receive that which is sought to be forced upon them, and inciting them to servile insurrection, murder, rapine and other crimes, at the mere mention of which humanity shudders, were not merely a proclamation of his brutality and blackness of heart, which will surely invoke the indignant resentment of the civilized world, and call down upon his head the general scorn and execration of mankind, it might be with other feelings than those of profound contempt, that it is received by the good people throughout these Confederate States. But we know that he and his minions are powerless to do that which he has proclaimed to the world in a public lie, as an accomplished fact, and it causes us no uneasiness. Our latest dates give us no intelligence as to the influence this document will produce upon the leading powers of Europe. In this particular we are still left to conjecture. But we think its effect abroad will be entirely different from that anticipated by its author when he published it to the world. While fanatical England, from selfish and interested motives, might desire and be willing to see the social institutions of the South broken up and destroyed, her slaves liberated, and the painful scenes of San Domingo and Hayti re-enacted upon her soil, we cannot believe other powers will receive the accomplishment of these events with the same complacency. She may consider the destruction of the great cotton and sugar interests of the South, as securing to her a complete monopoly of these staples from her plantations in the East Indies and upon the coasts of Africa, and that the supply of raw material from these sources will be sufficient for her manufactures, and to rescue her millions dependent upon this branch of industry from starvation, yet it would be barely sufficient, and there would be but little raw material left to supply the growing demand of other countries. In this event, what is to become of the immense manufacturing interests of France, scarcely inferior to those of Great Britain? There are millions of her people engaged in, and dependent upon, the manufacture of cotton fabrics for support, a number of people, probably greater than the entire population of these Confederate States. The cotton States are, and must be, the only sources of supply for this immense demand. Will France be willing to see it—will she permit the destruction of this agricultural interest, which gives employment to so many millions of her people, and at the same time, the means of subsistence, when it is in her power to prevent it? The only remedy for social disorders known to, and exercised by, the people of France, is that of revolution; and their Emperor is aware, that should his laboring subjects be thrown out of employment, and deprived of the means of support, for a period so extended as to tax the ability of their government to a greater extent than at present, and which will be the case if this present war should continue much longer, that revolution is the inevitable consequence, and that he must sit uneasily upon his throne. With a knowledge of these facts, he is unwilling to jeopardize the present powerful position which he holds among the nations of the world, that he may have brought home to him the practical realization of this last great "joke" of the splitter of rails and of Empires. We think it more probable that he would recognize the independence of the Confederate States. When Lincoln issued his first proclamation, that if the States in rebellion did not return to their allegiance in sixty days after the publication thereof, that all slaves belonging to rebels should be free that might come under the jurisdiction of his armies, the first intelligence received from Europe is that the Emperor of France has proposed to other European powers, that they mediate in the affairs of this continent, call for an armistice, and endeavor to adjust, by peaceable arbitration, the questions at issue between the Confederate and United States. And now that Mr. Lincoln has done what he then threatened to do, would it be unreasonable that Napoleon should renew his proposition, and if England and Russia still declined to co-operate with him in his humane effort to stop the further progress of a war the most inhuman that ever disgraced

the annals of history, that he should alone take the initiatory step, thereby ensuring peace to this continent and thwarting England's scheme of self-aggrandizement in securing to herself the exclusive monopoly of the great commercial staples of the world, and compelling her to co-operate with him from considerations of interest, which she knows no criterion in the administration of her foreign affairs but expediency and interest, similar action on the part of Russia and other powers would speedily follow. After France had taken the initiatory step, it would be expedient for England to co-operate with her, that she might enjoy with her the benefits accruing from the establishment of our independence.

France, by such a course, would secure the good will of our Government and of our people, to such an extent that they would be willing to make such commercial treaties with her as would secure to her, for the present, our chief carrying trade, which would, in a short time, be one of the greatest in the world, and also secure the great bulk of our surplus cotton and tobacco for the French market, which would ensure to her a degree of commercial and general prosperity unknown before in her history.

May we not, then, indulge in the belief that this iniquitous proclamation, revolting to every instinct of humanity, and which was flung as a fire-brand into the midst of our social fabric, may cause that recognition which tardy justice has so long withheld from us, and that we may assume that proud position among the nations of the world, to which we were entitled by right from the beginning, and now doubly so, by the exhibition of an invincible spirit—a heroic determination to be free and independent—a willingness to make every sacrifice of blood and treasure—and a general high and patriotic course, which has excited and emboldened the admiration of the world? We are confirmed and strengthened in these opinions by the fact of large numbers of French soldiers being massed on the borders of Mexico, from whence, if necessary, they may be speedily thrown to our assistance; and by large French fleets hovering around the Mexican coasts. These facts are significant in connection with the above considerations, and Napoleon's known character for striking, and then giving the why and wherefore for so doing.

The Johnson Bushwhackers.

We are almost afraid to insert any intelligence from Johnson county, Tenn., for the reason that we have been so often deceived, not designedly, but by persons communicating to us what they believed to be true, but which subsequently proved to be erroneous. For instance, two gentlemen of veracity informed us at one time that there were several hundred Tories encamped in a certain neighborhood, with a view of getting to the Lincoln army; other gentlemen, of equal veracity, afterwards informed us that the estimate was greatly exaggerated, and that there were not more than a dozen or two Tories encamped at the place designated, if even that many. This left us in doubt as to which story was true, and the doubt never has been dissipated.

Again, as reliable a man as there is in Johnson county told us sometime ago, that a volunteer company for Southern service had been organized at Taylorsville, and that another was in progress of organization, with a fair prospect of success. A short time after, another man from the same county of equal veracity, stepped into our office apparently much excited, and rudely pronounced the statement false. We were at a loss which to believe, and so the matter rests up to the present moment.

We now have another item which we believe to be true, as we not only have it from good personal authority, but also find it recorded in the Lynchburg and Knoxville papers, from other sources. We allude to the fight that Col. Folks and 50 or 60 of his cavalry had with a company of bushwhackers, near Dugger's Bridge, in Johnson county, on Friday, the 23d ult. When first discovered, Col. Folks ordered his men to charge them through the river. This they did, and the Tories took to their heels and made their way to a high steep cliff that overhangs the river. The cavalry dismounted and pursued them, and succeeded in capturing their leader and five or six others, the balance making their escape through the bushes and ravines where cavalry could not follow them. The leader's name was Taylor, a noted bushwhacker, with a regular commission from the Lincoln Government in his pocket. His respite was short,

for no sooner was he identified, than the top of his head was blown off. One or two of his men were shot, and two others hung to the nearest limb. One of the latter was a bonafide Yankee, from the land of wooden nutmegs. A boy of about 15 was retained as a prisoner and carried to camp, on the promise that he would reveal the plans and purposes of the gang, since which we have heard nothing. Col. Folks is doubtless doing a good work in Carter and Johnson counties, and ought to be sustained and encouraged.

This is the more necessary, as there is now a band of robbers infesting Johnson county, whose depredations ought to be looked into. On Sunday night, the 25th ult., they visited the neighborhood of Shown's X Roads, and robbed several Southern gentlemen of every thing they could lay their thievish hands upon. There were some 15 in the gang, some of whom were known to the persons robbed, and if any one will furnish us a list of their names, we will give them a more extended notoriety than they might relish. We understand they went to one gentleman's house, and stole shears, candlesticks, a piece of new carpet, all sorts of blacksmith and carpenter tools, and even tried to carry off his grindstone. Indeed, they stole from him and others everything they could find and conveniently carry. These depredations will continue until there is a sufficient force sent there to scour the whole country, and catch the marauders or drive them entirely off. It is out of the question that any loyal community should be thus kept in terror while they have a Government that ought to protect them. If the force is furnished Col. Folks he'll do the work, but he cannot do it with his present handful of men. We hope the proper authorities will attend to this matter, and hence we call their attention to it.

The Blockade Raised.

The raising of the blockade of the port of Charleston results in greater benefit than many suppose. The Richmond Examiner thus states the law:—"The dispersion of the blockading fleet by the arms of the power blockaded, raises the blockade! It may be renewed by a formal notice of sixty days, and its enforcement by a fleet too powerful to be again assailed by the Confederate force; but until those sixty days have expired, the port is open to neutral vessels. Both their entrance and their clearance is guaranteed by the law of nations, and will doubtless be protected by the appearance of the fleets of the neutral powers, which will make their way to the scene as soon as the news reaches them.

The Ground-Hog Sign.

It is an old Dutch saying, tho' we do not know that it is to be found in the Dutch Almanacs, that the Ground-Hog comes from his winter retreat on the 1st day of February, and if he sees his shadow, he goes back and stays six weeks. Others say the 2d day of February is Ground-Hog day. If the latter be right, we are to have six weeks winter yet, for the 2d was a bright day, all the ground-hogs could have seen their shadows, and probably retired and pulled the holes in after them, for there was a respectable snow on the morning of the 3d, and the air was as keen as a razor.

Cotton Yarns and Cloth.

A gentleman, commissioned by a number of the citizens of Greenbrier county, went into North Carolina, not long since, to procure cotton cloth and yarns for their own use. Waiting upon Gov. Vance, with the proper vouchers that the goods were not intended for speculation, the Governor furnished him with an order to the factories, by which he obtained spun cotton at \$2.50 per bunch, and cotton cloth at 40 to 50 cents.

Would it not be well for the people of the civil districts of this county to make like arrangements, and thus supply themselves, and save themselves from being fleeced by extortion?

Gen. Price passed this place, Sunday morning last, on his way to Richmond. Gentlemen who saw him on the cars, say he is a noble specimen of a man—of dignified and commanding appearance.

The cars coming West were detained from Monday evening till Tuesday morning east of the Seven Mile Ford, from a rock slide in one of the deep cuts of that locality.

Col. Arthur C. Cummings, of this place, has been appointed by the Governor of Virginia a Visitor of the Virginia Military Institute, at Lexington.

Gen. Prior's force at Suffolk was 8,000—that of the enemy 15,000.

The Movement in Illinois.

A Startling Spread of Disaffection to Lincoln's Government—Not a Dollar to be Voted to the War.

The disaffection in the Northwest is most startling in its rapid progress. The splash of the proclamation in the public mind has extended its waves so far that there is hardly a foot of placid surface on which the Gorilla may sail his crazy wreck in safety. A few days since the largest Democratic meeting held in Illinois for two years assembled at Springfield in the Capitol of the State. The Hall of Representatives was crowded to suffocation, and the most enthusiastic applause greeted every expression of the speakers which denounced the President's proclamation, and a war carried on for the purpose of freeing the slaves of the South.

William A. Richardson was the first speaker. He declared his determination to oppose the Executive usurpations of the national administration, and to give no aid to a war carried on to subvert the Constitution by freeing the negroes by a Presidential proclamation. R. S. Merrick, of Chicago, said that he would suffer death before he would give one dollar or one man to the abolition war carried on under Lincoln's proclamation. The sentiment was received with tremendous applause.

Judge S. S. Marshall declared that no more citizens of Illinois should be illegally arrested and carried beyond the limits of this State and lodged in a Government bastille. He said that the Democratic party had made up its mind to resist the unlawful usurpations of this imbecile Administration, to protect their rights here on the soil of Illinois.

Thomas C. Goudy, of Chicago, spoke with great earnestness and eloquence, taking the ground that the proclamation was a violation of the Federal Constitution and the laws of civilized war; that while the army and navy of the United States is used to re-establish the authority of the Government, maintain the Constitution and enforce the law, it is the duty of all good citizens to sustain the war; but when used to emancipate the negro the war must cease. As to the remedy for existing grievances, the voice of the people has already been heard through the ballot-box, and the Administration should also be warned by the authorities of the States and their Legislatures as well as public meetings, that further usurpations would not be tolerated; and, after every other expedient had been resorted to, the only remaining right of the people to preserve their liberty and their Constitution as our fathers made it, was the right of revolution. He said there was no danger of anarchy, because the State Governments would be untouched, and a Union could be made upon true republican principles by the States again; but in order to do this, we must preserve the sovereignty of the States intact. If the courts are permitted to act, and the habeas corpus writ regarded, this affords a remedy; but when deprived of these, the only remedy is resistance to the usurpation of the Administration. This war must not be prosecuted to maintain Abraham Lincoln in power or emancipate the slaves, but only to re-establish the Government.

The Committee on Resolutions submitted the following, which was unanimously adopted amid great applause:

Resolved, That the emancipation proclamation of the President of the United States is an unwarranted in military as the civil law—a gigantic usurpation, at once converting the war, professedly commenced by the Administration for the vindication of the authority of the Constitution, into a crusade for the sudden, unconstitutional, and violent emancipation of three millions of negro slaves—a result which would not only be a total subversion of the Federal Union, but a revolution in the social organization of the Southern States, the immediate and remote, the present and far-reaching consequences of which, to both races, cannot be contemplated without the most dismal forebodings of horror and dismay. The Proclamation invites a servile insurrection as an element in its emancipation crusade and means of warfare, the humanity and despotism of which are without example in civilized warfare, and which we denounce, and which the civilized world will denounce, as an ineffaceable disgrace to the American name.

Such determined and enthusiastic feeling, says a correspondent, as was exhibited at this meeting, has not been exceeded since the war began.

Circuit Court.

His Hon. Judge A. S. Fulton held a special session of the Circuit Court last week.

The only case before the Court was an injunction obtained by Stuart, Buchanan & Co., against Kelley and others to prevent the defendants from manufacturing salt at Saltville. The cause was important, involving the rights of parties who had neither leased or sold to Thos. L. Preston, among others, W. Y. C. White, party defendant.

The cause was ably argued by B. R. Johnson and J. W. Johnston for plaintiff, and by J. W. Sheffey, J. C. Campbell and O. S. Bekem for defendant.

The injunction was dissolved. An appeal will be taken for the plaintiffs.—*Wychesville Dispatch.*

Gov. Stanley has resigned on account of the emancipation proclamation. McClernand's forces had landed on the Louisiana side of the Mississippi. Two Brigades were engaged in opening the canal.

Cotton in New York greatly excited; opened at 82, closed at 86 for average middling; good 89 and 90. Gold opened at 154; sterling 77 and 172.