

Abingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR

Friday, Feb. 27, 1863.

The Northern Democracy.

Many persons in the South entertain strong hopes of an early peace in the apparent dissatisfaction of what is called the Northern Democracy with the present abolition war, and their professed determination to put a stop to it. This party is composed of conservatives from all other parties, and is termed the Democracy in contradistinction to Black Republicanism. At first, when John Van Buren, Gov. Seymour and others, took their bold and defiant stand against the further prosecution of the war, we had some hope that they reflected the popular Northern sentiment, but the developments of time have shown that their patriotism has exhausted itself with its first outbursts, and we now have no more confidence in them than we have in the Abolitionists themselves. They want peace, but are only willing to have it upon the terms of the restoration of the Union as it was. Lincoln and Seward themselves ask nothing more. This, of course, the South will never agree to, and if there is a man in it that would, he ought to have his skin blacked and his hair kinked, and be doomed to perpetual vassalage.

John Van Buren, whose bold attacks upon the Federal Administration and seeming sympathy with the South in her wrongs and sufferings, is in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war if nothing else will restore the Union. And Mr. Vallandigham, who has over and over declared that he is in favor of peace upon any terms, contemplates it alone in the restoration of the Union. So with all Northern men who have condemned the war and advocated a cessation of hostilities.

The Northwestern movement is another cat in the meal. If there were a Confederate victory at Vicksburg to-morrow, the Northwest would be knocking at the door of the Confederacy for admission the next day; but, on the contrary, should there be a Federal triumph at Vicksburg, we would hear no more of Northwestern sympathy till another field should be made red with Yankee blood. Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, are the granary and the meat-house of the Lincoln army, and as such, they will have to bear a very large proportion of the Lincoln debt. To meet this, they must have the free navigation of the Mississippi river. If the North should have a prospect of holding that river, the Northwest will remain as passive as a kitten; if the South should hold it, then the Northwest will be as pugnacious as a tiger, and form a Confederacy of their own or seek identity with that of the South.

These are our opinions, predicated upon a limited knowledge of Northern character and Northern policy. We have little to hope for from Northern Democracy or Northwestern sympathy. If we ever have peace we must conquer it, and the sooner we all believe this and act upon it, the sooner we will have it.

Rather Unpatriotic.

We have incidentally learned that many of the farmers of the country—and how widespread may be the feeling we are not advised—have determined to put out as little corn and other grains as possible. The reason assigned is, that Government agents have gone upon the farms of rich and poor, and assumed to determine how much grain and forage each family might possibly need, and have taken the balance at such price as they thought proper to allow—often at one-third less than the market price of the country. It is true, the price these agents generally offer, and promise to pay, is enough in all conscience, but still, as the market price is much greater, the Government ought, as an inducement to the enlarged culture of the land, to give as much as can be had from private purchasers. We do not mean, by this remark, to justify even a semblance of extortion, but if the army is to be fed, it must be done by pursuing an enlarged and liberal policy towards the country.—Let Congress and the Legislature pass as stringent laws as they may, still, if the Government and its agents do not treat the people, who are engaged in producing the staff of life, with proper consideration, the whole country will be reduced to famine rations.

But to return. Though the farmers have, in many instances, been deprived in part of subsistence for their families, still it is no reason why any man should refuse to bond his whole energies to put every acre that can be cultivated, in the line of production. There is an old saw which says there is such a thing as "biting of the nose to spite the face." If the policy of the farmers who have purposed not to raise more than will subsist their own immediate families be carried into effect, we hazard nothing in saying they will not be permitted to enjoy the fruit of their labor.

Let all the energies of the country, we again say, be devoted to the production of the very largest possible amount of grain. The army demands it. The people demand it. The widowed wives and orphan children of the poor soldiers who have fallen in defence of your homes and property demand it. Mr. A. L. Hendricks, of Russell, manifests the proper spirit. In a conversation with him a few days ago, he remarked—"The army has taken all my grain, but I intend to raise more this

year than it can take." That's talking like a man and a patriot. Thank God there are many more such all over the country.

Cotton Cloth and Yarns.

A few weeks ago we mentioned the fact that a number of the citizens of a neighboring county had sent an agent to North Carolina to procure cotton cloth and yarns for their own use, with complete success. A number of the citizens of this county, held a meeting in the Court House on Monday last, for a like purpose. They recommended that the people of each civil district hold a meeting on Wednesday next, at a central point in their respective districts, and appoint an agent.—These agents are to meet in Abingdon the Saturday following, and appoint a general agent to go to North Carolina and procure the cotton.

The foregoing, we say, was the suggestion of the meeting here on Monday, and we presume the people will carry it out. It should be borne in mind that those who need cotton for their own use, should take their money with them to their district meetings, and place it in the hands of the agents, who will keep a list of the names and amounts, and hand them over to the general agent at Abingdon on the Saturday following, who ought to be prepared to start on his mission the next Monday. They should be careful, also, to be as economical as possible, as large demands would certainly defeat the whole object. Indeed we do not know but what it would be better to apply for but the half of a year's supply. The agent, of course with his proper recommendations and vouchers, will proceed to the Governor of North Carolina, upon whose approval and order alone, cotton can be obtained from the factories.

We have been requested to suggest that the district meetings be held at the following places on Wednesday next:

- 1st Dis.—Abingdon.
- 2d do.—Col. James L. Davis.
- 3d do.—Isaac Fleenor's, (near 3 Springs.)
- 4th do.—Vail's Mill.
- 5th do.—Morell's Mill.
- 6th do.—Saltworks.
- 7th do.—Friendship.
- 8th do.—Grant's Store.
- 9th do.—Parks' Mill.

For the Virginian.

Masses. Editors: We, the undersigned, citizens of Washington county, earnestly solicit Col. A. C. Cummings to become a candidate for a seat in the House of Delegates, and pledge him our support.

SAMUEL H. DUFF,
ROBERT SCOTT,
DAVID CLARK,
JAMES S. MCCONNELL,
JAMES EAKIN.

From the Lynchburg Virginian.

France and the United States. The Herald of the 14th contains some highly important state papers which were communicated to the Yankee Senate on the 12th.—They comprise a correspondence between Mr. Seward and Mr. Dayton, concerning the propositions of mediation by the French Emperor, and the communications which passed between Mr. Dayton and M. Drouyn de Lhuys. Unable to lay these papers before our readers to-day, we only present the comments of the Herald:

Baron de Mercier's letter and Mr. Seward's vigorous answer to it, published in the Herald, must have caused a great sensation in diplomatic circles at Washington. In this city considerable excitement was caused by the correspondence in question, as from its tone it is easy to foresee that future relations between our Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Emperor Napoleon's Minister will be extremely unpleasant. We are at a loss to understand what course Mr. Mercier can pursue, save that of demanding his passports. He made an assertion compromising our Secretary of State, who, in the most distinct manner, contradicted his statement. As the Czar Nicholas would say, in private life, the course to pursue would be clear; between persons occupying the high positions which Mr. Seward and Baron Mercier respectively fill, it becomes a matter hard to decide. At this stage of our affairs it is hoped that all unpleasant complications may be avoided; but we feel assured that the letters which have just been made public by the French Minister and Mr. Seward, added to the Emperor Napoleon's misive to General Foray upon the Mexican question, to say nothing of the intrigues of the French Consuls against Texas, will cause ill feelings between the people of this country and France.

From the commencement of the rebellion we were inclined to look upon France as a friend. She was not making an ill-omened commerce with the rebels. She made no endeavor to break our blockade, and sold no ships to the insurgents; nor did she construct and fit out pirate vessels to prey upon our commerce. So we felt annoyed at England, who did all this, and we were friendly disposed towards France, who did not. But now it is forced upon our conviction from all sides that France is really inimical to us. We have the assertion from the Emperor himself, who says that France must stay our progress on this continent, and who chivalrously undertakes the task at a moment when we are hampered by a gigantic rebellion. M. Mercier states that he went to Richmond at the instigation of Mr. Seward. The latter flatly contradicts this assertion. Singularly enough, at this juncture of affairs, we find in the columns of a French periodical an article which goes to prove that M. Mercier went to Richmond with other motives than those he acknowledges. M. Cucheval Clarigny, a writer in the service of the French Government, states in the *Annuaire des Deux Mondes* that it was French influence that determined the Confederates to defend Richmond. It must be borne in mind that at the date of M. Mercier's visit to Richmond the rebels were inclined to abandon

that place, and that they had determined upon removing the seat of government to some other city. They, after M. Mercier's visit, concluded to remain, and did so successfully; and now we find a prominent French writer assuring us that Richmond held out at the instigation of France. It is clear that M. Cucheval Clarigny would not have hazarded this statement in Paris had he not been fully informed upon the subject.

The unfavorable statements made so constantly by the semi-official organs of the French government as regards the position of our administration; their desire that France should mediate, all of course, with a view to the severance of the Union, are persisted in with a bad grace, knowing as they do, how offensive to loyal Americans would be any foreign intervention or meddling. We fear that any abrupt or incautious policy at this moment might result badly for the entente cordials between our government and that of the Emperor Napoleon. His alliance with England is on its last legs, and as he is ambitious to elevate the Latin race at the expense of our power and prestige, he might gladly seize upon any occasion to rend asunder even the semblance of good feeling which exists between us, and thus have done altogether with the Anglo-Saxons. We would warn our authorities at Washington to exercise the greatest caution and delicacy in handling M. Mercier, and the most untiring expedition in building iron-clads and arming them heavily; for if we must have a foreign war, let us by all means be prepared for it.

Mr. Seward's straightforward letters in connection with the correspondence between Mr. Dayton and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, which we publish to-day, put him before the people in the best light. As regards the charges made against him by Baron Mercier, he makes no deviations nor explanations, but uncompromisingly denies them. This places M. Mercier in a most unpleasant predicament, and will most likely lead to his recall, as he can no longer continue his relations with Mr. Seward. It remains to be seen how the Emperor will look upon the matter; and, as we said above, as long as a doubt exists let us prepare for the worst. The Emperor of the French, should he be inclined to take advantage of this incident, will find that his calculations as to the diminution of our power are sadly at variance with the real state of the case. A foreign war thrust upon us at such a moment would rouse the people of the North to a display of their real power, and the world would then find out what twenty-two millions of people, moved by a single purpose, can accomplish. It is useless for us to add how greatly any trouble with France is to be deprecated; but we must insist upon the maintenance of our national dignity, and a firm demeanor towards those who would take advantage of our troubles to deeply wrong us.

Northern Finances.

A System of Taxation on the Banks—Exciting Debate in the Senate—the War Lugged in—Sharp Political Controversy—Northern men Charged as Traitors, &c.

During the discussion in the U. S. Senate, on the 13th, of the bill to provide the ways and means for the support of the Government, a warm political controversy sprung up, and came near leading to a scene in the Senate chamber. The discussion assumed a wide scope, and dragged into the controversy the whole subject of the war, and the respective positions of some of the most prominent men of the North—Ex-president Buchanan, General Cass, Secretary Stanton, Judge Douglas and others. We give a sketch of the debate: The bill to provide for ways and means to support the Government being taken up, an amendment was adopted making the interest on notes authorized by the bill, and certificates hereafter issued, payable in lawful money, instead of in coin; also an amendment reducing the amount of notes to be issued to one hundred and fifty millions, instead of three hundred millions, including the amount issued by the resolution of January 17, 1863.

Mr. Clark moved to amend the proposed tax of two per cent. on the circulation of the banks, so as to make it one per cent. for two years and two per cent. after that.

Mr. Harris, (Republican,) of New York, said he could vote for no such amendment, as he deemed it a declaration of war against the banks. It was a notice to them that they must wind up their affairs in two years. The banks had nobly supported the Government, and he would not vote to destroy them.

Mr. Clark said he offered the amendment to relieve, not to destroy, the banks. If the scheme passed yesterday was to go into effect, that circulation must take the place of bank circulation. He was ready to sacrifice anything save the Government.

Mr. Chandler, (Rep.) of Michigan, said the question was whether we should support the Government or protect these State banks at all hazards. He thought the Senator misapprehended the question. What would the banks be worth if the Government went down? They would be worth nothing. This question was far greater than banking.

Mr. Richardson said that the Senator from Michigan [Mr. Chandler] seemed to think that no man could be loyal who did not support every measure of his. He believed that there was no man in the country who stood in so doubtful a condition as that Senator. Before the war commenced he wrote a letter to the Governor of Michigan that this country was not worth a rush without a little blood letting; and he stood before the country as having said, when Gen. McClellan was about to attack Richmond, that it would be better that those thousands of men should perish than that the General should win a victory there.

Mr. Chandler—Does the Senator make that charge?

Mr. Richardson—I say it has been so stated.

Mr. Chandler—Well, sir, it is a falsehood, whoever states it. There is not the least foundation for such a statement.

Mr. Richardson—The Senator is late in making a denial.

Mr. Chandler said if he had spent his time in denying all the newspaper lies about him, he would have had no time for other duties.

Mr. Richardson said he accepted the denial of the Senator; but he thought that the Senator was as much responsible as any one for the war.

Mr. Chandler said, as far as his loyalty was concerned, his record was before the country. He was proud of it, and had nothing to take back from any of it. Two years ago there

were traitors in these halls, trying to break up the government. He believed there was no way to save the government except by force of arms. The people believed to-day as he believed then, when the party of that Senator were saying that it was wrong to coerce the rebels. Who had the control of the administration of the government when the rebellion began? Who had control of the navy yards? A traitor. A traitor had charge of the capitol police. A traitor—Breckenridge—sat in that chair. There was some one responsible for the war, but it was not him. If he had had his way, these traitors would not have gone free from the capitol. (Applause in the galleries.) Take all the men in the rebel army, and among them there were no Republicans, and none who ever had any sympathy with him or any of his party. They were all democrats or Union men, such as we had here two years ago. You might go through all the men crying down the currency of the country, and they were all Democrats. The rebellion commenced long before the 4th of March, 1861, in the Charleston Convention, where the Senator from Illinois had a seat. But this country must not perish, and would not perish. There had been great complaints because some traitors had been arrested, and if he had had his way, some of them would have been hung. The great danger of the country was not from the South, but from traitors North. The seat of the rebellion was not at Richmond, but among the copperhead traitors of the North.

Mr. Richardson replied at some length, he contended that while the Senator from Michigan was bravely writing private letters rebuking rebellion there was only one man of the party to which he belonged in the Senate (Judge Douglas,) who did rebuke the rebellion. If any one was supporting the administration of Buchanan, it was the party now in power. Where did the present Secretary of War come from, but fresh from Buchanan's Cabinet?

Mr. Lane, (rep.) of Kansas asked if he did not know that Stanton was in favor of relieving Fort Sumter?

Mr. Richardson—No, nor no body else knows it. The administration has stood sponsor for Buchanan's Cabinet by placing all in power except those in rebellion.

Mr. Howard, (rep.) of Michigan felt his duty to defend one member of that Cabinet. It was well known that General Cass did all he could, made every effort to induce Buchanan to relieve Fort Sumter.

Mr. Richardson said he meant the last members of the Cabinet. He continued at some length, referring to the course of Judge Douglas and his party as doing all they could to preserve the Union by compromise for party purposes.

Mr. Harris wished to call the attention of the Senate to the amendment. He was opposed to it, because he believed it was intended to exterminate the banks.

Mr. Clark's amendment was then adopted—yeas 23, nays 15.

The question was then taken on the amendment as amended. It was adopted—yeas 20, nays 17.

Mr. Lane, of Kansas, said he wished to state that, from first to last, Mr. Stanton had advocated the reinforcement of the forts of Charleston harbor, and the maintaining the authority of the Government every where within the United States, and any other statement was untrue.

Mr. Richardson said he did not desire Senators to make points for him which he did not make, and all this talk about untruth was foreign to the discussion he had made. And he desired to say to the Senator from Kansas, now here in his place, that while he permitted no man to make statements in reference to him that he had said anything untrue, he had made no statements in reference to reinforcements of troops at Charleston. If they sought to make a foreign issue with him they could have the issue direct, without seeking a foreign issue.

Mr. Lane said that the Senator from Illinois had said that there was no evidence that Mr. Stanton had advocated such reinforcements.

Mr. Fessenden objected to the discussion as out of order.

Mr. Lane—I want to say to the Senator from Maine, that when any Senator makes it wrong statement, injurious to any member of the Cabinet, I will denounce it, even if it be the Senator from Illinois.

The Chair called the Senator to order.

Mr. Richardson, [in his seat]—And I want to say to the Senator from Kansas or any other man, that I am responsible for every thing I say here.

Several amendments were rejected, and the bill was reported to the Senate.

The vote was again taken on the amendment taxing bank circulation one per cent. for two years, and two per cent. thereafter, instead of the sliding scale proposed by the House, which was agreed to.

The correspondent of the New York Herald, speaking of the great excitement growing out of the debate, says:

The seats of Senators Richardson and Lane are in close proximity, and when Mr. Richardson sat down, there was considerable angry gesticulation between them, and a scene was apprehended.

From the Rio Grande.

The Hopston Telegraph gives an extract from a letter dated Brownsville, the 5th inst. from which it appears that the Mexicans are being organized in robbing parties, under the auspices and proclamation of the U. S. Consul at Matamoros, Mr. Pierce. A party of one hundred of them lately came over and attacked a train of wagons, killing six men and carrying off the mules and goods. They were under the Federal flag. News has since come in that a party of men crossed the river and attacked 75 Mexicans, killing 18 of them, and capturing 62 horses and other property. Fears are entertained that they may attack Brownsville, as there are now no forces there to prevent it.

New Hampshire.—Information has been brought to the Northwest from New Hampshire, by a prominent citizen of that State, that the election on the second Tuesday of March will be severely contested by the peace Democrats. Ex-President Pierce is manager of the campaign, and is outspoken in his opinion of the war. He has taken position with Vallandigham, Ben. Wood and others.—The Republicans claim that there must be a military success for them to carry the election.—*Richmond Whig.*

The Position of Kentucky.

RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Arraignment of the Federal Administration.

Her Delegation in Congress called upon to oppose any further aid in Prosecution of the War.

The following are the resolutions introduced in the Kentucky Legislature in relation to the war, of which the telegraph has advised us. It will be seen that they are of an important character, and are bold and defiant in their arraignment of the Federal Administration.

The preamble which preceded them is very lengthy, and consequently we omit it. It is a scathing and blighting indictment of the Lincoln Administration for its manifold and flagrant acts of tyranny, outrage and oppression:

"In view of the foregoing facts, the truth of which cannot be denied, we do firmly believe, and solemnly declare, that any assistance furnished the Executive in the further prosecution of the war, upon the basis of his present policy, tends immediately and directly to the overthrow of both the Federal and State Governments; Therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That Kentucky will, by all constitutional means in her power, protect her citizens in the enjoyment of the elective franchise; the benefit of the writ of *habeas corpus*; the security of their persons and property against the unconstitutional edicts of the Federal Executive, and their enforcement by the army under his control.

2. Resolved, That by the constitution of the State of Kentucky "the right of the owner of the slave to such slave and his increase is the same and as inviolable as the right of the owner to any property whatever," that "Kentucky understands her own interests too well to be thankful for gratuitous advice as to the mode in which she should manage them; and when she wants the assistance of any outside administration of her affairs, she claims the privilege of originating the suggestion," consequently the proposition made by Abraham Lincoln for her to emancipate her slaves is hereby rejected.

3. Resolved, That the object and purpose of the war having been perverted by the party now in control of the Government, in violation of its oft repeated and most solemn pledges, our Senators in Congress are instructed, and our Representatives are requested, to oppose any further aid in its prosecution by furnishing either men or money.

4. Resolved, That the proclamation of the President dated September 22d, 1862, and January 1st, 1863, purporting to emancipate the slaves in certain States and parts of States; set forth therein, are unwarranted by any code, either civil or military, and of such character and tendency as not to be submitted to by a people jealous of their liberties.

5. Resolved, That the act of Congress, approved by the President, admitting Western Virginia as a State, without the consent of the State of Virginia, is such a palpable violation of the constitution as to warrant Kentucky in refusing to recognize the validity of such proceeding.

6. Resolved, That Kentucky will cordially unite with the Democracy of the Northern States in an earnest endeavor to bring about a speedy termination of the existing war; and to this end we insist upon a suspension of hostilities and an armistice, to enable the belligerents to agree upon terms of peace.

7. Resolved, That Commissioners from the State be appointed, whose duty it shall be to visit the Federal and Confederate governments at Washington and Richmond, and urge them respectively to agree upon an armistice for the purposes herein contemplated.

8. Resolved, That the Governor of Kentucky is requested to forward a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to the President of the United States, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Gen Johnston and Judy Paxton.

We heard of a little incident yesterday that may profit some of our Northern foes if this paper fall into their hands, and they will take the trouble to peruse it.

General Joe Johnston was receiving his friends at the Lamar House on Sunday. He was surrounded with many gallant officers who had called to pay their respects, and conversation was at flood tide, when there came a smart rap at the door. An officer, shining with stars and gold lace, opened the door, and there stood a venerable negro woman with a coarse sun-bonnet on her head, and a cotton umbrella under her arm.

"Is this Mr. Johnston's room?" asked the American lady of African descent.

The glittering officer nodded assent.

"Mister Joe Johnston's room?"

Assent again being conceded, the worthy woman said, "I want to see him." In she marched, sans ceremony, and familiarly tapped the great military chieftain on the shoulder. He turned and clasped her cheek hand in his, while she for a moment silently perused his features. At length she spoke.

"Mister Joe, you is getting old."

What followed? We cannot report the conversation, but we do know that as the General affectionately held his old nurse's hand, and anguished her useless enquiries, large tears rolled down his military cheek, and among the dashing and restless officers who witnessed the interview, "what a scene to the melting mood," there was not a dry eye. We may say in the words of a well-known plaintive Ethiopian song, "the tears fell down like the rain."

The venerable negro who made the commander of the Armies of the West cry like a baby, was Judy, slave of Dr. Paxton, who had "toted" Joe in her arms when he was not a General, and nobody knew that he would be.—*Knoxville Register.*

Highly Important from Kentucky.

The Winchester (Tenn.) Bulletin of the 20th has been informed by one of our Confederate Judges, who has just arrived from McMinnville, that news has reached that place from Kentucky, which he considers reliable, that the Legislature of that State passed resolutions on the 12th inst., calling on their Governor to issue a proclamation calling all the Kentucky troops in the Federal army home at once, to assist in preventing Lincoln from carrying out his emancipation proclamation.