

# THE JEFFERSONIAN

Devoted to Politics, Literature, Agriculture, Science, Morality, and General Intelligence.

VOL. 20.

STROUDSBURG, MONROE COUNTY, PA. MAY 30, 1861.

NO. 19

## Published by Theodore Schoch.

TERMS.—Two dollars per annum in advance—Two dollars and a quarter, half yearly—and if not paid before the end of the year, Two dollars and a half. No papers discontinued until all arrearages are paid, except at the option of the Editor.  
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### A True Statement of the Issue.

#### A STRONG AND ELOQUENT SPEECH.

A great Union Prayer Meeting for the country was held by the people of Racine, Wisconsin, and its vicinity, in the First Baptist Church on Sunday week, at which the Hon. James R. Doolittle, U. S. Senator from that State, spoke as follows:

FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS.—The extraordinary state of our beloved country, is my only apology for responding to your invitation to speak upon that subject in this place and upon this holy Sabbath day. We are in the beginning of a new crisis in American affairs—a great crisis, the end of which God only knows. We stand in the presence of great events. We are, indeed, enacting a history; and for all time.—We are about to settle the great problem of man's capacity for self-government, and settle it forever. It is not therefore a party question, at all, upon which I speak to-day. It lies deeper, far deeper. It is no less than whether the Union and the Constitution can be maintained; whether we now have, or have ever had a government, under which any man should desire to live, or for which he should dare to die; whether the will of the people constitutionally expressed shall rule; in short, whether Presidents shall be chosen by the peaceful ballot, or be forced upon us by the bloody bayonet.

That's the question; and, upon that, I rejoice to say, Wisconsin speaks but one voice to-day. From town and hamlet, from native and foreign born, from old and young, from Republican and Democrat, there comes but one response, "The Constitution and the Union must be maintained; Liberty and Union shall be one and inseparable, now and forever; whatever stands in the way of their preservation, by God's help, we will trample in pieces." Before such an issue, all mere party issues sink out of sight. Mere political ties are considered like flax at the touch of fire. Henceforth there can be but one issue, for or against the Constitution, and upon that there can be no neutrality. He that is not for them is against them.

Without trespassing, certainly without intending to trespass upon the feelings of any one, I may be permitted to say, what all must now concede, that for more than two-thirds of the last year of Buchanan's Administration, vasillation and inactivity, to use no harsher term, presided at the White House. Traitors sat in Cabinet Council, aye, traitors, compared with whom Burr and Arnold were patriots and saints. Treason, open mouthed, defiant and unrebuked, stalked the streets of the Federal Capital; infested every Department; and at times in language not unsuited to Pandemonium, belched out its insolent ravings in both Houses of Congress. Our forts and arsenals were left unprotected, in utter disregard of the prophetic warnings and earnest remonstrance of Gen. Scott. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were sent south, on purpose to be seized by the rebels. The army in Texas placed in command of a traitor; every ship of war ready for service, except the Brooklyn, was sent to distant seas; and even the gallant Anderson, when sent up in Fort Sumter, was held powerless while traitors were binding him fast, and with the arms stolen from the government, girding him all around with batteries to destroy him.—That compelled him to evacuate.

O, my fellow-citizens, no language can give utterance to those emotions which swell every true American heart at the evacuation of that fortress; at the taking down of the Stars and Stripes which floated over it, and suffering it to go into the possession of traitors. But, great as that calamity, it has done a still greater good. It has opened, at last, to the eyes and brought home to the hearts of the American people, of all parties, in all its length and breadth and depth, the damning Calhoun treason, which for years, has been plotting the overthrow of the best Government upon earth, and with it the last hope of Constitutional Liberty for mankind.

Let us not deceive ourselves. This thing is not the growth of a day or a year; it is the studied and persistent work of many years. Its leaders now, throw off all disguises, and declare for more than thirty years they have been steadily at this work. The tariff was its pretext in 1830. Then, thank God, there was a man at the helm. Gen. Jackson was there to put down by coercion. He placed in due time a regiment in Castle Pickney. Though quelled by him then, it was only time. He saw, with a prophetic eye, that it would still live. "Its pretext, then," said he, "was the tariff question; its next pretext will be the Slavery question."

Calhoun found that he could never unite the South for Disunion upon the tariff question, for Louisiana would have a tariff upon sugar, and therefore, true to his fell purpose but changing his pretext, he said, "We must force the issue upon the Slavery question." For that purpose and to force that issue, he gave utterance in the Senate to that new idea which unites the Southern revolution which we now witness, and which threaten to rend and destroy everything in its way, even the Government itself. That new idea is that Slavery is the common law of the Constitution—the natural and best relation of Capital and Labor—the most safe and stable basis for free institutions in the world.

This Calhounism, entering into and taking possession of his followers, inspired them with the wildest fanaticism.—Claiming Slavery to be a positive good, it became of necessity, aggressive. It demanded a reversal of the teachings of the Southern pulpits, and they were reversed. It demanded a reversal of the teachings of their public schools, and it was done. A reversal of the doctrines of the press, and of the creeds of political parties, and it was done. Upon the same demand it has reversed the decisions of their Courts; the acts and resolutions of the Legislative bodies. It admits of no other opinion. It reigns supreme, despotic and intolerant as the Spanish Inquisition, in the seceding States, and controls the leading politicians in all the Slave States.

Not content, however, with controlling State action, and all domestic, it also demanded the control of every department of the Federal Government, of Congress, of the President and of the Supreme Court. It demanded of Congress the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and it was repealed. It demanded the invasion and subjugation of Kansas by five thousand men in arms, and it was done. It demanded the enforcement of the bloody Ruffian Code and it was enforced. It demanded the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution, though it came covered all over with fraud and perjury, and, as all the world knows, voted down by almost ten thousand majority.—In that, however, for the first time, it failed; and, thank God, Kansas is free. It demanded the Dred Scott decision reversing all the decisions of the Supreme Court, and of every State Court, North and South, and of every Administration from Washington to Polk, and that decision was made. Last Winter, made still holder by this decision, it demanded a reconstruction of the Government itself, a new Constitution by the express provisions of which this Calhoun idea should be adopted, and the institution of Human Slavery spread all over the free territories of Mexico and Central America, just as fast as we should acquire them. And—what was more insolent than all else—it declared that if even this last demand were granted to save the Union, there was to be no Union after all; for it would still burn with contempt the idea that the Constitution gives to the Federal Government any power to enforce its laws in any seceding State.

But all these acts and usurpations—the natural precursors of what we now see—belonging to the past. They are now swelled up in the fact that, with arms in their hands, these conspirators have seized our forts and arsenals, robbed our treasury, insulted and fired upon our flag, and, to crown the whole catalogue of their crimes, they have inaugurated war against the Government, and threaten to advance upon and seize the Federal Capital itself.

Great God Almighty! shall just vengeance sleep forever? That point, beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue, has been reached and passed long, too long ago, already. I would be as forbearing as any. I have hoped and prayed that this dreadful cup might pass; but if it must be drunk, God's will be done. I would hope and pray and labor still for a peaceful solution of this great National trouble, but if blood must flow, if it be His will that we must "tread the wine press of the fierceness of His wrath" before we reach the end, be it so!

We stand for the Union and the Constitution of our fathers; for the light and glory of nations. We stand for Constitutional liberty and equal justice to all mankind. In such a struggle, if true to ourselves, God the Almighty must be with us. Go on, then, young men, not a day, not an hour should be lost; fill up the muster roll of your company, ready to make a part of the first regiment from Wisconsin. One of my sons, old enough to bear arms, is ready and eager to join you; I say to him, "As your country calls you, my son, go, with God's blessing upon you, with strong arm and stout heart, fly to its standard, resolved on victory or death."

Robert Tyler has resigned his office as Clerk of the U. S. District Court, and "left" Philadelphia. The whole Tyler tribe are traitors. James Ross Snowden takes his place.

A crusty old bachelor says, the talk of women is usually about the men. Even their laugh is but "he! he!"

Prentice thinks some of the Southern leaders may yet turn out to be high strung gentlemen.

Belleville, the home of Gov. Curtin, sends three hundred men to defend the Union—with a few more in readiness for his next call.

## CAPTURING THE CAPITAL.

Among the causes of apprehension for the safety of Washington which existed three weeks ago, the knowledge that that city had once been captured and sacked was quite a prominent one. Not fortified then, no defenses had been subsequently provided to protect it now. Fifty years ago, it was assailed by foreign enemies, but communities of friends surrounded it. Now, these neighboring communities were either openly hostile or were secretly plotting for its destruction. Those upon whom full reliance was to be placed for its defense were in the North, not armed nor ready to move for its protection, while even its own citizens were considered disloyal to the Government. Bodies of them were known to be organized to aid in handing it over to the rebel leaders whenever they came up to the attack, and the foul residuum of a traitorous Administration occupied a thousand positions in the public offices, in open league with the rebellion, given to it all the aid and comfort which their official employments so fully qualified them to afford. High officers in both army and navy were known to be unfaithful, and were constantly resigning, most of them uniting with the public enemy, and communicating every fact within their knowledge likely to render the Capital an easy conquest. The full extent of this treachery was not known a month ago; but, as the places left vacant by the traitors have been filled by honest men, its pervading magnitude is made apparent. It is one of the most shocking revelations of crime the world has ever seen. Thus known to be occupied and surrounded by public enemies as was Washington a few days ago, while rebel armies were gathering in remote States for its attack, the public apprehension was intensified by the remembrance of its former humiliation. If it fell so easily before the presence of a handful of enemies, what hope could there be for it when thousands of such were within its gates, aiding and abetting other thousands at its very threshold? Though the danger has now disappeared, yet it will be instructive to revive the story of the first humiliating overthrow of Washington.

In August, 1814, a British fleet of twenty ships, commanded by Admirals Cochrane and Cockburn, with about 4,500 troops, under command of General Ross, appeared in the Chesapeake. On the 21st they landed, without opposition, at Benedict, on the Patuxent. They had no cavalry, and but few cannon. They marched slowly toward Bladensburg, the weather being extremely hot. The inhabitants fled from their villages and farms without firing a gun, and the most exaggerated tales of the strength of the invaders gained currency and belief.—Some of the militia showed themselves occasionally as they advanced, but abandoned their positions as they came near them. Washington was the center of a regular military district, and 16,000 men, mostly from the adjoining Slave States, had been placed at the disposal of General Winder for its defense. But of this supposed army not one half appeared in the field, though the artillery numbered twenty-four pieces. These men are described as being raw and untried—none having ever been in action—the whole having been hastily collected, when it was ascertained that a British fleet was hovering on the coast. The Administration had grossly neglected all warnings to protect a Capital which they knew to be defenseless, and had provided little else than a flotilla of gunboats, under the command of Commodore Barney. Of these, Barney was compelled to destroy a portion and escape with his sailors, while the remaining vessels fell into the enemy's hands. Fear had doubled the number of the British, and Winder abandoned one position after another as they advanced, until he finally halted at Bladensburg. Here Ross attacked him, at noonday on the 24th, though his men were exhausted by a long march under the sun. The action lasted four hours, during which the British suffered severely from Winder's riflemen, but more especially from the artillery worked by Barney and his sailors. Had every other company done but half the execution that these sailors did, the British would have been defeated. Many of them were bayoneted at their guns, the militia gave way, and Winder ordered a retreat.—Barney continued to fight on, and gave up only when wounded and made prisoner, losing ten of his guns. The British made no pursuit. They were so overcome with the excessive heat that they threw themselves exhausted on the ground, where they rested until the cool of the evening, before resuming their march to Washington.

Thus ignominiously closed the battle of Bladensburg. Winder fell back on Washington. He next retired within the city, then withdrew from the Capital itself, thus retreating seven times in one day. As he entered Georgetown, his men were a mere mob. All discipline had vanished. Many of them fled to their homes in Virginia, and the army had ceased to be. When the British entered the city next morning, there were none to oppose them. But slaves and ruffians had already been active in plundering it. The British, who did not contemplate a permanent occupancy, were willing to ransom the city and retire. A flag bearing such a proposal was on its way to the American, Gen.

Ross being of the party which tore it, when they were fired on from the windows of a house, and Ross's horse was killed. The house was quickly entered by the exasperated enemy, its inmates put to the sword, and the building burned. This event banished all disposition to propose a ransom, and the work of devastation began. The Capitol, with the Congressional library and many public documents, perished by fire. The President's House, with the Treasury and State Departments, shared the same fate. The Navy-Yard, a new frigate just ready for launching, a sloop-of-war, schooners, barges, gunboats, and a vast quantity of stores, machinery, and buildings belonging to the Government, were also burned. Great numbers of cannon were destroyed and thrown into the river. Alexandria was spared at a high ransom. The President and his Cabinet escaped capture by a precipitate flight, and next day the British retired unmolested to their ships, loaded with booty.

This unexpected event occasioned a national panic. It was evident that Baltimore would fall next. The alarm there was indescribable. Thousands fled from it, and a run upon the banks brought on a suspension of specie payments, which caused all the other banks south of New-England to suspend. Even Philadelphia became alarmed for her safety, and established camps and threw up fortifications in her vicinity. Coin of all kinds, even coppers, disappeared from circulation, and the currency became exclusively a paper one of the vilest and most irresponsible character. The poverty of the national resources was deplorable, and widely different from what they are at present. There were no rifles, nor even enough flints. Our gunpowder was greatly inferior to the English. There was not then a cannon mounted for the defense of Washington, not a regular soldier there, not a fortress, not a breast-work of any kind within twelve miles.—All Virginia and Maryland were powerless to save it from capture by a mere handful of men. The result of this accumulated imbecility was the loss of the national capital.

It is for the purpose of repeating this havoc of a foreign enemy, only on a larger scale, that the leaders of the Southern rebellion had intended to attack Washington. If successful, they meant to lay it in ashes, as they knew they could not hold it. A month ago, it may have been in danger, but it is impregnable now. The enemy within its walls has been banished, and though Maryland and Virginia be filled with armed rebels, yet the Government has power for the tremendous emergency. This second attempt on Washington should so warn the country as to make it determined that it shall be the last. The National Capital should be fortified against all foes.

**Axe-ident and Incident.**  
Nehemiah had a careless habit, while talking, of tapping everything near him with whatever he had in his hand.  
Nehemiah, returning, hatched in hand from chopping, called upon neighbor Jones. I course of conversation he unluckily chipped a fine table of the farmer's.  
"See there, you careless lubber," exclaimed the farmer, "see what a large dent you have made in my furniture."  
"Yes," meekly answered Nehemiah, who was something of a wag, "but that was an Axe-ident."

"Very likely," cried the enraged farmer, burying his fist in the offender's pliz, "and that's an Incident."

**War Talk.**  
The war which is upon us is the great topic of conversation in the streets, the public places, and the family fireid.—All sorts of remarks are made—some patriotic, some sorrowful, some amusing.—One young girl, much alarmed at the idea of her male friends being called upon to go to war, and perhaps to be killed in the conflict, exclaimed, with tears in her eyes, "How very dreadful it would be to live without men!"

**A Bank Bill.**  
"You call that good, don't you?" said Mr. Fushaw, offering a \$5 note on a Providence bank at the bar of one of our tets.  
"Oh, yes!" replied the attendant, "it's good, undoubtedly, but, like Deacon Cranston's piety when he gets swearing mad, it is not immediately available!"

A good story is told, and it is true, of a Virginia emigrant, who stopped at Williams a few days ago. There was considerable doubt in the minds of many whether the man was really what he represented himself to be, or a spy. He told several persons who were standing around him that he was so well known in Virginia as a Union man that \$500 was offered for his head. "Why don't you go back and claim the reward," asked a wag who was present. "I would," was the reply, "if I wasn't afraid they would pay me in Confederate bonds." It was unanimously agreed, after this reply, that the man's loyalty was above suspicion.—*Car. of Post.*

The growing crops are in a very flourishing condition in all parts of the country except the fruit crop, which has been considerably damaged by late frosts.

## The Stay Law.

The following is a copy of the Stay Law, as it finally passed the Legislature the night before their adjournment:  
*An Act relating to Judgments and Executions.*

SECTION 1.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That upon all judgments now remaining unsatisfied, or which may be obtained within six months from the passage of this act, or upon which a sale of real estate has not yet been confirmed, there shall be a stay of execution for one year from the passage hereof, as regards judgments now existing, and from their date as regards judgments obtained within six months after the date hereof; *Provided*, That the defendant is possessed of real estate within the respective county or counties in which such judgments shall have been obtained, or in any other county within the Commonwealth to which the said judgment shall have been transferred, subject to be sold for the payment of such judgment, worth in the opinion of any Court, or Judge in vacation, justice or alderman having jurisdiction of such judgments, at a fair valuation, a sum sufficient to pay or satisfy the same over and above other incumbrances, and the amount exempted from levy and sale on execution, or said defendant shall give security for the payment of the same, to be approved by the court or a Judge thereof, in vacation, or the Justice or Alderman before whom the same was obtained or may be depending, within 60 days from the date of the judgment or from the passage of this act, which security shall consist of one or more persons, who shall satisfy the court, Judge or Justice, by oath or affirmation, and such other evidences as may be required, that they are the bona fide owners of real or personal estate within the county where such judgment has been entered, worth, at a fair valuation, double the amount of such judgment, over and above all other debts and incumbrances, to which security the plaintiffs may file exceptions, as now provided by law, and that in all actions now pending or instituted within twelve months after the passage of this act, in any of the courts of this Commonwealth, on notes, bills, bonds, or other instruments, for the payment of money, or for the recovery of book debts, wherein the defendant or defendants, at any stage of the proceedings, before actual sale by the Sheriff, shall have filed an affidavit setting forth that the majority of his, or their creditors, whose demands exceed two-thirds of his or their entire indebtedness, have agreed in writing, to extend the time of payment of the debts due them respectively, the Court shall direct the Prothonotary to report the terms of the said extension upon evidence submitted to him by the defendant or defendants, and thereupon the Court shall enter an order in the cause that no execution shall issue except at the periods when and in the proportions which it shall appear by the report of the Prothonotary that the majority of the creditors of the defendant or defendants, whose demands exceed two-thirds of his or their indebtedness, have agreed, as aforesaid, to extend the time of payment of the debts due them respectively; and *Provided*, further, that the provisions of this act shall extend to judgments entered, or to be entered, as well upon bond and warrant of attorney, as upon mortgages, to secure the same, and to any subsequent grantee or owner of the premises so bound as well as to the original obligor or mortgagor, and also to all judgments or debts upon which stay of execution has been, or may be waived by the debtor, in any original obligation or contract upon which such judgment has been or may hereafter be obtained, or by any stipulation entered into at any time separate from said obligation or contract; *And*, *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to stay any execution that may be issued after the expiration of sixty days from the passage of this act for the purpose of collecting interest due or to become due upon any judgment for any sum not less than five hundred dollars heretofore obtained, but no such execution shall be issued for less than six months' arrearages of interest; *provided*, That this act shall not apply so as to stay the collection of interest on judgments, interest for the security for the payment of money to widows, orphans or minors; *And*, *Provided*, further, That this act shall not apply to any judgment obtained for the wages of labor, or to debts contracted after the passage of this act, but shall apply to all corporations whether defendants or holders of collateral.

SEC. 2. That in all cases in which a defendant shall be entitled to a stay of execution, under the provisions of this act, and shall neglect or refuse to claim the benefit thereof, any mortgagee of the premises levied upon, or other lien creditor whose estate therein would be affected by sale of the said premises, shall have the like right with the defendant to claim such stay of execution.

SEC. 3. That upon all judgments heretofore entered, or which may hereafter be entered upon conditional verdict, stipulations, or warrants of attorney, in action of ejectment, a like stay of execution shall be had upon the same terms and conditions provided in the first section of this act.

SEC. 4. That the provisions of this act shall be construed to apply to all judgments in which a sale by judicial process has not been actually made.

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## An Unreported Incident of the Secession Programme.

A well known merchant of this city, who was in New Orleans on the day Louisiana passed the secession ordinance, and who witnessed the illumination in honor of that treasonable act, has related to us, with ardent that we would suppress names, the following racy incident, which like illustrates the traditionary "when a woman won't she won't" characteristic of the sex, and the fact that the Union people of the South have, at this time, no voice in the newspaper reports of the disunion section. It so happened, that on the day of the illumination the captain of a Mississippi steamboat and his lady were stopping at the St. Charles, and occupied a front room on the third floor—the first floor of chambers—exactly in the centre of the hotel. The Captain was a Union man, and—as the sequel will show—so was his wife. All the city was agitated during the afternoon in prospect of the grand gala night. The St. Charles was to be illuminated, of course. Accordingly some time during the afternoon a servant knocked at the door of the captain's room, carrying all the necessary trappings for lighting up the chamber windows. Mrs. ——— opened the door, when the following dialogue ensued:

Lady.—What have you got there?  
Servant.—Candles, missus, to light your window for de illumination.  
L.—Well, you can return them to where you brought them from, as I shall not allow them in this room.  
S.—(Not to be told so easily, resumed.) Oh, but massa told me to put up de lights and so I've got to put 'em up.  
L.—Can't help that; this is my room, and I shan't allow the windows to be illuminated for what I am opposed to; so that ends it.

This closed the first act. The servant reported to the proprietors, who immediately proceeded to the lady's room with a view of convincing her of the importance of permitting the servant to make ready for the grand evening light-up. Said they, "This room is the most central in the entire front, and not to illuminate it will be to mar seriously the effect of the whole;" to which the lady replied:

"I am sorry, gentlemen, to cause you any inconvenience, but I believe this room for the time being, is ours by right, and I most positively decline, in any, to add *reluctant* to a great outrage, as I conceive the whole disunion movement to be. My husband (who was out at the time) is a Union man, and I am a Union woman, and this room cannot be illuminated."—A few more words were exchanged, which ended by the lady politely requesting the proprietors to leave the room. Determined not to be outdone in a matter of such grave importance, the Captain was next found and appealed to. He heard their case; said his wife had reported him correctly on the Union question; nevertheless, he would go with them to the room and see if the matter could not be amicably arranged. Scene third ensued. The Captain's disposition to yield was not to be seconded by his better-half.—They next proposed to vacate the best chamber in her favor, in some other part of the house, if that would be satisfactory, but the lady's "No!" was still as precatory as ever. Her point was gained, and the St. Charles was doomed to have a dark front chamber.

Pleased with this triumph, Mrs. ——— devised the following manoeuvre to make the most of her victory:—Summoning a servant, she sent him out to procure for her an American flag, which, at dusk, she suspended from her window. This made the fourth act in the play, and as the fifth is always indispensable, it had its place here.—When evening came, the streets, animated by a merry throng, were illuminated, but, alas! the St. Charles was disfigured by its sombre chamber, when suddenly a succession of lamps, suspended on both sides of the flag, revealing the Stars and Stripes, were lit up, and the ensign of the Union waved from the centre of a hotel illumined in honor of its overthrow! The effect was to give the impression that the whole house was thus paying homage to the American flag; and what is most significant, is the fact that the latter was greeted by the passing crowd with vociferous applause. So much for the firmness of a true Union woman.—*Philadelphia Press.*

A great curse of American folly is the folly, or, in many instances, rather the crime of appearance making. How many a ruined family might be well doing and happily circumstanced but for their folly,—how many a crime would never have been committed if it had not been for this social curse!

A Dandy being told that he would soon have to wear a wig, as he was getting gray, exclaimed indignantly, "No, sir, I will dye first."

If there is a class of men ever ready to pump you to any extent, if you only give them a handle.

He who enters upon a career of crime must probably come to either a halt or halter.