

Misrepresentation of the Conscript Law

In spite of the protestations of the party workers and crowd-makers of the party that calls itself Democratic, that they do not sympathize with the rebels, they can be proven traitors at heart, by the character of their principles, the malignity of their falsehoods, and their implacable opposition to all measures devised for the vigorous prosecution of hostilities against the rebels.

Not satisfied with having opposed the passage of an act by Congress for keeping up the numerical strength and efficiency of our armies, they now are engaged through their editorial process and orators in misrepresenting the law since its passage, by characterizing it as unjust and partial in its provisions, when the reverse is really the case.

The Northern rebels who are the bell-wethers of the Democratic party, seem to be as blinded by their prejudices and inherent treason, as are their serpent prototypes, the slimy copperheads, and the rank weeds, foul swamps and miasmatic vapors that prevail in dog-days. The virus that thus obscures their own vision is being employed by them to inoculate their unthinking followers, who having eyes will see not, but with a subservient "blind leaders of the blind," to the ruin that must inevitably overtake those who in this national struggle are false to their God and country.

Upon no more liberal reasoning can the unblinking mendacity of the unprincipled men who are laboring to frustrate the plans of the Government be explained. Their misrepresentation of the Conscript Law is a case directly in point.

Although the provisions of the Conscript Act are all expressed in plain, clear language, within the comprehension of the dulled brain, yet the demagogues are at work feigning to construe it to the people, in order to breed a storm of popular discontent.

One of this class of false teachers addressed a Democratic Copperhead meeting in this place recently, on which occasion he stated that the effect of the new Conscript Law would be to draft all the poor men, and permit the wealthy to escape by virtue of their money, because the army would have to be filled up, and the rich would buy themselves off, hence the draft would have to be continued until a sufficient number of poor men, who could not pay substitute money, were called out to fill the call for troops.

Had the speaker referred to the desirous of imparting correct information to his hearers, he would read at least that portion of the law which he presumed to criticize with the wisdom of a Solon. But he did not dare to do this, for in that case the antidote would have accompanied the bane.

To show how largely he falsified the record, not only he, but the whole gang of credulous dummies who swallowed his lies, and have since then been daily repeating it on the streets, as a bugaboo to keep a certain class of honest-hearted men from leaving their ranks and joining the Union party, we will quote the section of the law that relates to substitutes, as follows:

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That any person drafted and notified to appear as a general, or before the day fixed for his appearance furnished an acceptable substitute to take his place in the draft, or he may pay to such persons as the Secretary of War may authorize to receive it, such sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, as the Secretary may determine for the procurement of substitute, such sum shall be fixed at a uniform rate by a general order made at the time of order in a draft for any State or Territory; and thereupon such persons so furnishing a substitute or paying the money shall be discharged from military duty in the draft; and any person failing to report after due service of notice as herein described, furnishing a substitute or paying the required sum, therefore shall be deemed a deserter, and shall be arrested by the Provost-Marshal and sent to the nearest military post for trial by a court-martial; unless upon proper showing that he is not liable to military duty the Board of Enrollment shall relieve him from the draft.

The circumstances. Instead of discriminating against the poor it throws a protection around them, and says they shall not be subject to extortion. The rich do not require any such protection. The law requires no more of any man than the wants of his country justify it in asking. No patriot will oppose its demands, in times like these, when the nation is fighting for its existence against traitors open and secret.

An Indiana Democrat in Warren. On Thursday evening last, "Hon. M. A. O. Packard, Member of the Legislature of the State of Indiana, and Chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations" (vide hand bill) delivered a speech before the Democratic Club in this place.

To one who has heard a regular literary Democratic speech, a description would be useless, for instead of playing on a "Harp of a thousand strings," they generally play on one string with but few variations. The burden of his song consisted of laudations of the Democratic party, and abuse of the Administration, both at Washington and Indianapolis, called Lincoln a tyrant and usurper, and Governor Morton anything but an honest man. He claimed (as usually) that the nation owed its former greatness to the policy of the Democratic party—said they were the conservative element which was to save the country; forgetting that it is but a few years since they denounced "conservative Whigs," and styled themselves "Progressive Democrats," under whose auspices slavery was to be abolished, and every other progressive measure fostered. Of course he was severe on the Union members of the Indiana Legislature, who prevented the passage of the infamous acts introduced by Democrats—drew a graphic picture of the gibbering mania and sightless unfortunate who would be compelled to wander up and down the State, because appropriation bills were not passed to furnish means to the Benevolent Institutions of the State, but forgot to mention that thousands and tens of thousands of dollars had been tendered Gov. Morton by loyal men, to aid in keeping in the State machinery. He asserted, with out a word of proof, that Gov. Morton had misapplied funds intrusted to him—said fraud was used in procuring the passage of resolutions by Indiana soldiers. (For specimen of fraud see communication from 29th Regt. in another column.)

As Democrats of his stripe generally are, he was opposed to the law, and much he was willing to see it enforced for the sake of drafting some of them. He thought we could not conquer the South, but did not suggest a method by which the Union could be restored—endorsed the Convention which recently assembled at Frankfort, Ky., as being Democratic, and didn't like Col. Gilbert's method of treating them, "of course he didn't"—"a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind."

But of all the stumbling blocks in the way of Democratic success, Union Leagues are the most obstinate. Golden Circles are all right—at least no word of complaint was uttered against them—word of interference with the execution of the laws, is all right—no word against the reasonable demonstrations by armed Democrats in his own State. It is all right for Democrats to harbor and protect deserters, resist officers when attempting to arrest them, and endeavor to release prisoners, all of which has recently been done in Indiana—but for a honest, loyal man to pledge his support to the Government and his influence against traitors, is something that must be attended to, and he was particularly earnest in urging Democrats to keep clear of the Union Leagues.

The speaker said he expected to be called a copperhead, and surely the amount of venom he exhibited would entitle him to be ranked with that class of reptiles.

I don't like to see such epistles as "O. B." printed. How does such talk say to a true American patriot? He will say, "Well, now, I did not think this war was conducted in that manner; but 'O. B.' claims to be a soldier, and I don't think a soldier would write thus without some foundation." Thus you see it is only calculated to make disturbance here in the North.

Now my advice to all such men as "O. B." is to write no more such falsehoods. If they can't stand the fire of the "gray backs," and get away with their lives, let it be understood, and not tell such willful falsehoods as are printed in the columns of the Constitution of March 24th. I think the editor did not know of any such trash being published in his paper, or he would have prohibited its appearance.

Yours truly,
L. I. C.

The Infernal Clergy.

At the Copperhead meeting at the Gaskill House, last Thursday evening, the speaker said that he rejoiced that the infernal clergy were not exempt under the Conscript Law, for clergymen are dangerous to the country.

Now infernal means hellish. He calls the clergy hellish. At the utterance of this noble sentiment, the copperheads lustily cheered the speaker. It met their hearty approbation. Clergymen consider themselves complimented when abused by such low creatures.

It is nothing new for the copperhead Democracy to hate the clergy, and churchmen and schools. They know that Christianity and popular education are dangerous to rebels, and fear that the power of knowledge and virtue will crush out treason.

No class of men are more patriotic than ministers, or have more power to support the Government. Clergymen do not ask to be exempted from their service, which they can render to their country. Vallandigham goes it—Let your not be to "Death to the Clergy, and down with public schools!"

The "Warren Constitution" and Soldiers' Letters

HOWLAND, Ohio, March 30, '63.
Editor Chronicle: I have been looking over the columns of the Constitution, and observed several letters said to be from soldiers, but I think there must be some mistake in the matter, for some of these letters differ so far from a true soldier's views, that I cannot exactly credit them.

I wish particularly to refer to a letter published in the Constitution of March 24th, and signed "O. Brobst." He says he is at home, in Illinois; that he saw some hard times while in the service; that there was more danger of starving to death than of dying by rebel bullets—He is satisfied about this war, and I will add that I doubt not the true soldiers are satisfied with his services in the army. I presume "O. B." was a "bounty man"—was bought for a few dollars to join the army, and like many others, perhaps, made a big show while the money lasted, but when that was gone, he was "played out." The patriotism of many such soldiers, while they have money, is about XX, but when the money is drunk up, as I presume it was in this case, their patriotism is gone.

He speaks of forced marches, but that is nothing new for soldiers as him, if there is any chance to get away. If there were any "gray-backs" about, I presume this is the kind of forced march he has reference to, judging from his letter. No doubt there was more danger of his starving to death than of being killed by rebel bullets, for while he was skulking about the woods to get as far as possible from bullets, he could draw no "hard tack." And where the army marches, forage is quite scarce, and it would be a natural consequence for a soldier to get hungry under these circumstances.

If he had been the clear grit, and stood by his post like a man, I know that he would not talk as he does. He says that all the Illinois troops are coming home as fast as they can, &c. If they are all such soldiers as he is, the sooner the Government lets them go the better—it will save expense. They say they will not fight for the nigger. No one is asking them to fight for niggers. They are cowards, and they know it, and think a poor excuse is better than none.

"O. B." speaks of the 11th Illinois regiment all leaving at one time, and going home faster than they left. I presume they were wanting to get home to get three or four hundred dollars each to take some drafted man's place. I think they understand playing off pretty well. Like "O. B.," they prefer playing off on half rations, than standing by the flag on full rations. This is one great difficulty in our army. There are too many such patriots. A few such will dishearten twenty brave men.

"O. B." speaks of being in battle, and of the horrors thereof, &c. "The truth is that he had to see so many men slaughtered, but that the slain are men—they were not dead, they were not more in danger of starvation than of being struck by rebel bullets. I presume "O. B." was an abolitionist; he says he never knew one in the army but would run when called out to fight.

He adds that any one can satisfy himself by calling on Colonel Smith, or any of the Captains of the 102d Illinois regiment. I would prefer calling on some regiment that has seen some service in the field. I do not say "O. B." was not in a battle, but I don't think he would talk so much about starving if he had been on hand to draw his rations. I think he was playing off—he talks like one of those traitor cats. I am a soldier myself, and have been in the army as long as "O. B." if not longer, and can show marks of rebel bullets, and I have seen some tough times, but never in any more danger of starvation than of rebel bullets. Arrest any soldier that has ever real, ardent service, and see if he ever says "No any."

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From the 125th Regiment.

CAMP NEAR FRANKLIN, TENN., March 10th 1863.
Dear Chronicle:—Have just been reading a copy of the "Warren Constitution," and I feel so indignant that good old Trumbull is polluted by the publication of so vile a sheet, a sheet so utterly void of sympathy for the true patriot, and our most holy cause, that I cannot resist the impulse to take my pen and through the medium of your paper, say to our friends at home, that they may say to our enemies the publication of the "Constitution," and its supporters as truly our enemies as those who with the deadly rifle seek our life on the battle field. Yes, more, and were it our privilege to choose between the two, which should be the mark for our rifle, we would not hesitate to aim first at those who seek to discourage the soldier by misrepresentations and falsehoods and who strive to create distrust and strife at home; for we should feel that so doing that good old Trumbull is polluted by the publication of so vile a sheet, a sheet so utterly void of sympathy for the true patriot, and our most holy cause, that I cannot resist the impulse to take my pen and through the medium of your paper, say to our friends at home, that they may say to our enemies the publication of the "Constitution," and its supporters as truly our enemies as those who with the deadly rifle seek our life on the battle field. 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