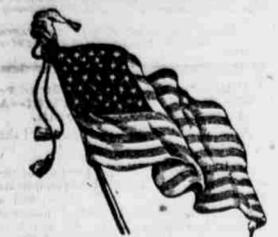


All communications intended for insertion in the paper, or upon business relating to the office, should be addressed "Belmont Chronicle, St. Clairsville, Ohio."



Flag of the free heart's hope and home! By angel hands to valor given! Try and save the world from doom! And all thy boys were born in heaven. Forever fast that standard sheet. Where breaks the sun but falls before us, With Freedom's sun beneath our feet, And Freedom's banner streaming 'er us!

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Fifth Volume of THE CHRONICLE, since our connection with it, will close with the next number. We ask all of our subscribers, who have not already done so, to renew their subscriptions at an early day, so that the paper may be sent on without any interruption. Subscriptions may be remitted by mail, where our friends have no other means of sending, or cannot visit town.

We do not want to stop a single paper we are now sending out; but if our friends do not renew, we must take it for granted they do not want the paper and stop it. On the contrary, we want many new subscribers, and think we ought to have them.

It is really a reproach and shame to the cause we do battle for that our list of subscribers is not much larger. We try to give the Union Party of this County a good organ, and we do think it is not sustained as it should be. Foreign papers are very good in their places; but it is the first and highest duty of the Union people of Belmont County to sustain LIBERALLY their Home Paper. On it they rely to do battle for their local politics and their local interests generally.

Our terms are a half dollar lower than the majority of County papers on our exchange list, and yet many of them, in smaller and poorer counties than Belmont, are better sustained.

IS THERE OIL IN BELMONT COUNTY?

Is there oil in Belmont County, in paying quantity? We say paying quantity, because the experiments already made demonstrate that there is oil in the County. On Captina Creek, at the well on Wm. Armstrong's farm, oil was obtained before the depth of 400 feet had been reached, in quantity nearly equal to one barrel per day. The work is temporarily suspended on this well, because, first, of the death of several members of the company; and second, because of a difficulty in getting through a vein of mud, against which they have not been able to guard.

At Bridgeport, an enterprising company has sunk a well to the depth of about 800 feet, and have a very strong flow of gas, with what they regard very fair prospects for oil. If this company shall obtain oil, it will settle the question, perhaps; but if they fail, we do not regard their experiment as any certain determination of any question in the premises, only that there is no oil just where their well is located. Now, it is a matter of very great importance that this question shall be fairly tested and settled, and it will be a long time before individual enterprise will so test it. We propose, therefore, to the people of Belmont County the organization of a large Joint Stock Company, with a capital sufficient to sink wells in four or five different parts of the County—say one or more on Wheeling Creek, one or more on Stillwater Creek, one or more on Captina Creek, and one or more on McMahon's Creek, or such other locations as may be determined by a meeting of the stockholders. The company, before sinking either well to secure leases, with options to purchase the fee, of sufficient land to make it a good investment if oil is found.

We make this proposition, and ask every man in the County who is willing to invest \$100 in an experiment of this kind—\$50 to be paid on the organization of the company, and the balance in five installments of \$10 each, as it may be needed for operating—to send his name and post office address to us; and if sufficient names are thus obtained, a meeting will be called to organize such a company.

Hon. George Bancroft, of New York, is to deliver the address on the occasion of the Congressional obsequies to the late President Lincoln, February 12th.

A GREAT SPEECH.

Hon. SAMUEL SHELLBARGER, of the Springfield District, this State, has made the greatest speech that has yet been delivered on reconstruction. Mr. SHELLBARGER makes no attempt at oratory; but as a logician and reasoner he takes us back to the days of WEBSTER and CALHOUN. Indeed, we do not think it has been equaled since the days of those mighty men.

Mr. SHELLBARGER takes the position that the eleven Rebel States were and are out of the Union; and before his array of authorities and his tremendous logic, the sophistry and the finely spun metaphysics of Mr. RAMMOND are scattered to the winds.

We will try to print this speech next week. Whatever views we may take of his position, we believe the speech will do good and should be generally read. Its perusal will tend to purify the atmosphere and to set the people to thinking.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The President, on the 10th inst., sent a message to the Senate, in reply to the inquiry of that body why JEFFERSON DAVIS is confined and why he is not brought to trial. The message covers reports from the Secretary of War and the Attorney General, and does not otherwise respond to the Senate resolution except by referring to the annual message of the President. The Secretary of War explains that JEFFERSON DAVIS is held on charges of treason, of inciting the assassination of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, and of starving Union prisoners of war; that the President desired to have him first tried for treason, and that the Attorney-General advised Virginia as the most proper place for such trial, but that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court declines to hold a court within the limits of that circuit. The Attorney-General states the substance of the opinion heretofore given by him to the President, and there the matter is left.

U. S. SENATOR.

A caucus of the Union members of the General Assembly was held on Tuesday night of last week, Senator MARTIN, of Stark County, in the chair. The caucus will meet to nominate this (Wednesday) evening.

It is said the SCHENCK men were a little hasty in pressing an election. SHERMAN is said to have 34 votes, SCHENCK 30, BINGHAM 18.

The BINGHAM men hold the balance of power, and it is said they are not at all inclined to go over to either of the other candidates.

Hon. JOHN A. BINGHAM, M. C. from this District, made an able speech in the House on Tuesday of last week, in reply to VOORHIES, of Indiana, and in opposition to the "new party."

News Summary.

JEFF. THOMPSON, the rebel General, is a commission merchant in New Orleans.

GREAT destruction to steamboats at St. Louis is reported by the breaking up of the ice in the Missouri River.

THE Madison County Union says the shipment of logs from that place for the week past has been quite brisk.

AGENTS of the Post Office Department report the feelings in the South as bitter against the North as during the war.

THE late Hon. Henry Winter Davis, of Baltimore, was a graduate of Kanyon College, at Gambier, in this State.

GALLON now boasts of having 3,000 inhabitants, eight churches, and its morals are better than most railroad towns.

It is announced that the animal stock, wagons and tents of the traveling circus known as the "Equoscurriculum" will be sold at auction, at Lancaster, Ohio, next month.

GOV. ANDRUS has arranged for the establishment of a daily Union paper at Dayton, for the immediate creation of suitable buildings for a Steam Forge, for the manufacture of hammered iron and railroad car axles, on a large scale in Akron.

THE Youngstown Register announces that V. E. Smalley, Esq., its editor, having been appointed to a position in the House of Representatives at Washington, the paper will be in charge of Mr. H. D. Smalley, late of Stark County, Ohio, who will be assisted in the editorial department by J. M. Edwards, Esq.

THE Greenburg, (Ind.) Chronicle says that a general jail delivery occurred in that place, the six prisoners confined in it escaping by digging through the wall. Five are still at large. The sixth voluntarily returned after a few hours' absence, during which he had succeeded in getting quite drunk. It was from him the first intelligence of the escape was learned.

Gen. JOE JOHNSTON employs about five hundred of his late Confederate soldiers in the repair of the Orange and Alexandria pike and spade in the rebel and army camps. They work with knowledge and are glad to obtain a living in this way. Some of them formerly belonged to the first families in Virginia.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF GOV. JACOB D. COX, Delivered before the Senate and House of Representatives, January 8, 1866.

We are entering upon a new epoch in our history. The period of struggle for national existence is ended, and we have celebrated our thanksgiving to God for deliverance. The war administrations of both Nation and State have gone by, and we have begun an era of peace with its new duties and new responsibilities. We have proven that our Government is strong enough to resist the most formidable efforts to destroy it by force, and we are now to show whether it has such vitality that it can assimilate the different elements comprised under its rule, and harmonize the antagonisms necessarily remaining after so fierce a strife.

For years our energies and resources have been devoted to the simple duty of subduing a great rebellion; and what was demanded of us was undaunted courage and obstinate determination, concentrating our will and our power upon the single purpose before us, and refusing to be turned aside for any other object that was momentarily accomplished. We have pursued the harness of war; the grand army which saved the republic is disbanded; its veterans have been quietly absorbed into the mass of their fellow citizens, and all are now intently studying the problem of changing a Union restored by force, into one whose permanency shall be guaranteed by the consent of all will and common interests, and be based upon universal freedom and genuine republicanism. To do this will demand qualities of head and heart quite as high as any that have been called into exercise hitherto, and I have succeeded in finding the solution which we shall require in the days to come, and which are far greater than those of war. On the one hand are the dangers of receiving into full participation in the Government those who have been staking every thing upon its overthrow, and upon the other, the obligations we are under to the whole world to admit to the rights of citizenship those who have been excluded from it, and to whom we are bound to protect, come in to complicate both classes of difficulties.

Congress and the President are now at work upon the details of complete restoration of civil government in the States lately rebellious, and we, in common with the whole country, are watching their progress with the most earnest hope that they may speedily agree upon a national policy which shall be satisfactory to all. I do not regard this a proper time to discuss specific measures which are before our federal legislature and authorities, but all our public acts in our State organizations, as well as in our National capacity, must be more or less modified by circumstances shaped by the facts of the case, and it seems necessary, therefore, as a preparation for every species of public duty, that we should look with special care at all dangerous tendencies the war may have developed and recall the general principles which should guide our action as servants of the people. It is in the exercise of this duty, therefore, that the institutions of a country are in the most danger of change, and perhaps no nation ever passed through such a convulsion as ours and then returned to the principles of government and exact form of constitution which it had before. The maxim that revolutions do not go backward, but forward, to have even wider and deeper significance than has been popularly given to it. The same law of progression which has made the convulsions of monarchical governments tend toward the development of popular liberty, has in our republics, when led and directed by the right kind of leadership, thence by easy stages to anarchy and utter disruption. A victorious majority, flushed with its triumph, finds it easy to forget the rights of minorities; and it remains for us to prove whether, in our day, the old cry of "Woe to the conquered" may be silenced by a truly republican determination to administer the government for the real advantage of all of the defeated rebels as well as of the loyal victors.

The war was not waged by us, who remained faithful to the Government, to subvert any of the principles of human liberty upon which that government is based, but to confirm them, to establish them. The one great doctrine which has been settled by the war is that the National Union cannot and shall not be destroyed by the action of any of the States composing it; but its continuance, its modification, or its dissolution shall be determined by the action of the whole people, under the forms of the federal constitution. The one great social change which has been determined by the same event, is the abolition of slavery, the existence of which was staked upon the success of the rebellion, of which it was the cause. These things have been decided in the dread court of last resort for peoples and nations. By as much as the shock of armed hosts is more grand than the intellectual host of lawyers; as the God of battles is a more awful judge than any earthly court; so much does the dignity of this nation, and the honor of her name, depend upon the right of her people to establish them. We are now in a position to pledge our lives and our fortunes to save our country, then the blood of the martyrs of heroes who have fallen rests with murderous guilt upon our souls, and we should never consent that the great principles which we have staked upon this war should now be sacrificed, now as hereafter, with any benefit of justice however learned, especially when such judgment must determine his own cause, since he must have been for or against the country in her struggle. There are some things to which courts of law are not competent, and a court of appeal to God when it comes the sword is one of them. We may, when necessary, try individual traitors, and the people of the United States will appear as prosecutor, but not as defendant at the bar.

Being conqueror, the Government has the undoubted right to impose terms upon the conquered, but in the statement of what should limit and define those terms, difficulties arise. We are apt, indeed, to listen with impatience to any limitation of our control over those who are subject to us. The pleasures of rulership and the joy which is felt in the exercise of power, are almost irresistible temptations to the frailties of human nature, and professed Republicans have been as subject to their temptations as other men. In a time like this most of us feel the necessity of checking our impulses and passions, challenging the motives and consistency of our actions, and fastening our attention by effort upon principles of government and of human rights which have been axioms to us during the period of the growth of our institutions and of conflicts between us and powerful foreign powers. However unwelcome the task of self-examination, we are searching for the ancient conqueror was accompanied by a slave in his triumphal car, who reminded him of his humanity and his weakness; we must act as our own prompters to moderation and justice, and remind ourselves of the rules which should control our action, and of the principles which are axioms of our nature. We need no stimulus to anything which runs with the whole current of popular impulse and feeling; such things

will take care of themselves, but no duty can be more important than that of stopping occasionally to weigh what seems to cross our desires or to question the direction of our progress.

We have the right and are in duty bound to insist upon sufficient guarantees for the future safety of our rights, and these guarantees must be such as shall not be inconsistent with a republican government for those who give as well as for those who receive such security.

Conquest does not rightfully give unlimited sway over the persons and property of the vanquished, and their rights may be diminished no farther than is necessary for the public safety.

If it were proven that it would be impossible for us to live safely, as sharers of a common government, with the people of any State or community, our republicanism might justify us in holding them, but it did not justify us in holding them, and this proposition is true without reference to race or color.

Representation is not a privilege conferred upon majorities, but it is most efficient for good when it approaches most nearly to giving voice to the Legislature to all minorities, and this proposition is true without reference to race or color.

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Military government is in its very essence a despotism, and any long continuance of it after the cessation of armed resistance is contrary to, and a confession of the failure of, the principles of our government.

These and many similar general maxims of government are the intellectual diet upon which every living American has been bred, and of which we have been such earnest propagandists that no one can deny them without incurring the contempt of the civilized world. They are not mere abstractions, it is true, but we need to bear them in mind none the less carefully for that. All rules are abstractions, whether they be the formula for solving the problems of government or of other sciences. We recall them to test the work, and we reckon ourselves to be making good progress in proportion to the faithfulness with which we have adhered to them.

In the heat of our just wrath against those who would have swept republicanism from the continent, had they been successful, we are in danger of forgetting principles to which we owe allegiance, and therefore I should like to have you give ground for a moment to the consideration of the principles which should be the basis of our government.

No statement of our condition and our duties would be complete which did not speak of the debt we owe to the sad array (almost an army in itself) of the maimed and disabled heroes to whom the return of peace brings no bright prospect for their own future. Their dead may be supposed to look down in glory and in pride upon the work they have accomplished by shedding their blood, and our money of them becomes rather exultant than painful; but these sick and crippled ones are condemned to look upon the general prosperity and joy, feeling that they have been sacrificed to the good of nearly everything which health and vigor would have secured them. If we should give them cause to think their country is ungrateful, we shall double their misery and prove ourselves unfaithful to one of the most sacred duties which can be imposed upon us.

The great debt we owe to the heroes of a State Soldiers' Home, but it is manifest that it will provide for a very small part of those who have good claim upon us, if indeed any system of congregating the pensioners in permanent asylums can accomplish the desired end. I believe the people are ready to do their whole duty in this matter, and will expect those whom they have entrusted with the legislative power to provide adequately by law the best practicable system for discharging this great debt of honor. This disposition on their part has been manifested not only in the noble and generous private contributions through societies and commissions, by which the comfort of our soldiers in the field and the efficiency of our military hospitals were wonderfully increased, but the same spirit has prompted numerous local monuments to our dead, and will, I trust, grow into some permanent memorial on behalf of the State at large, in keeping with the dignity of our position and with the depth of our feeling. In these as well as in other ways, the late war has brought great burdens upon our State, but its prosperity has been such that they have been borne without impoverishing our people, or creating the public resources. Our State debt has been diminished during this very period of commotion, and such has been the thrift of the community and the success of business enterprise, that we see on every hand the evidences of accumulating wealth. Ohio, the first-born of the old nation, has been true to the principles of that great act of statesmanship, which dedicated the northwestern territory to freedom and free labor, and now more than ever before is realizing the benefits of the wisdom which then launched her upon a career of unexampled growth under the auspices of religion, intelligence and freedom.

A different policy, based upon a false and unjust system of labor, has brought forth its matured fruit of rebellion, followed by desolation and ruin. God grant that the lesson so sternly taught by experience may be wisely learned by all, and that the return to the right path may everywhere speedily result in such abandoning of the past, and well-being that past stripes and sufferings may be forgotten in the universal joy!

THE Memphis Appeal, an original accession paper, is driven by stress of circumstances to make the following reflections:

"It is useless to disguise the situation of the Southern people any longer. They and their destinies are utterly at the mercy of the Federal Government to shape—to make or to mar—as that Government pleases. And, although it is universally conceded that the policy adopted by the President toward them has been unexpectedly liberal and magnanimous, attracting even the favorable comment of all those intelligent Europeans who sympathized with them during their tremendous struggle, yet this liberty and this magnanimity should not be presumed upon too far—as seems to be the tendency in certain quarters, and the requisities made of them should never be for one moment lost sight of or forgotten. Beyond all peradventure or possibility of evasion, they must be yielded promptly—and, although it is universally conceded that the policy adopted by the President toward them has been unexpectedly liberal and magnanimous, attracting even the favorable comment of all those intelligent Europeans who sympathized with them during their tremendous struggle, yet this liberty and this magnanimity should not be presumed upon too far—as seems to be the tendency in certain quarters, and the requisities made of them should never be for one moment lost sight of or forgotten. 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