

## THE PERIODICAL LOVE

Which Politicians Have for the Old Soldier Veterans.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—The republican party has always professed such great friendship for, and solicitude about, the soldier boys that a review of the legislation of the last thirty years ought to either indorse or disprove that claim. When the war of the rebellion broke out General Scott promised in a general order that the boys should be paid in treasury notes as good as gold. This promise was kept so far as the 60 million dollars of demand notes of July 17, 1861, were concerned. But Shylock was not going to be deprived of his golden harvest made possible by the war, and so when more money was necessary to pay the boys and purchase munitions of war we find that despite the patriotic efforts of Thaddeus Stevens and his co-workers, the greenback was discredited by not being receivable for duties on imports or payable to bondholders for interest. No matter how low the gamblers could force the greenback, the soldier boy was compelled to receive them at par, while the gambler bought them at as low as 35 cents on the dollar, with which they could buy a gold interest-bearing bond at par. The act of March 17, 1864, authorized the secretary of the treasury to sell gold; also to pay the interest on bonds one year in advance in gold.

But let us see another proof of their friendship. The act of February 25, 1862, provided that the coin receivable as duties on imports should be paid out as follows: First, to the payment in coin of the interest on the bonds and the notes of the United States. Second, to the purchase of 1 per cent of the public debt, etc. Third, the residue thereof to be paid into the treasury of the United States.

Now, old comrades, where did your friends exhibit any of the tremendous solicitude for your welfare in that act that they prate so much about now—that is, just before election? Didn't some of you old fellows have to wait four, six, eight or even ten months sometimes for your pay and then be paid in discredited, depreciated currency at that, while the man whose property you were defending was paid in gold one year in advance?

And now, boys, remember that same bondholder escapes taxation on his bonds, while you are taxed to pay your pension, if you are fortunate enough to draw one. More than that he can get \$90 on every \$100 bond in bank notes at 1 per cent. and loan to you at 10 or any other per cent. your necessities will demand.

They are loud in proclaiming that you preserved the republic, but when you need a little money to keep the wolf from your door, you are compelled by their legislation to go to some money-lender or banker, and beg the loan of a few dollars, whereas you ought to demand as a right the privilege of borrowing from the treasury of the republic your valor rescued from destruction.

Instead of issuing full legal-tender currency, as old Thaddeus Stevens wanted to, the Shylocks got control and saddled gold interest-bearing bonds on the people until now, after having paid over 2½ billions of dollars in interest, we find the so-called public debt larger, as measured by the products in which it must be paid, than at the close of the war.

And now, my comrades, let me ask you to tell me how this so-called public

debt was contracted? Uncle Sam paid you in greenbacks, or 7-30's, or compound-interest notes, and so he paid for all the munitions of war of every description. How, then, came he to be in debt after having paid as he went? When you study this thing right thoroughly you will, I think, conclude that the whole bonded debt is a fraud and ought to be repudiated.

Now, as to the claim that the rich men came forward with their gold and offered it to the government; don't lose any sleep over that, for Shylock isn't addicted to such capers. In 1842 when the debt amounted to less than 4 million dollars the secretary of the treasury could not sell bonds at par and said that "the stock must be either sacrificed to the Shylocks of the country or some other means be given the secretary to meet these pressing liabilities." So we find that Shylock is not much different now from what he was then, or when Christ kicked him out of the temple. But some of our modern financiers contend that the exception clause on the greenback was necessary in order to get gold. Was that true? Let's see what Secretary Fessenden says. In his report of December 6, 1864, he says, after finding that he could not borrow 50 million dollars from the bankers "and urged by the conviction that the large amount of suspended requisitions swollen to more than 130 million dollars, should be reduced, the secretary resolved to use all the means in his power to pay so much, at least, as was due to our brave soldiers who were suffering from the long delay in satisfying their just claims, but still continuing to serve their country with unflinching courage and uncompromising devotion." Now, boys, mark you, while you were waiting for the puposely discredited greenback, the lordly bondholder was getting his interest one year in advance in gold. Oh, how they do love the soldier's vote!

Fessenden continues: "More fully to accomplish his purpose the secretary resolved to avail himself of a wish expressed by many officers and soldiers, through the paymaster, and offered to such as desired to receive them 7-30 notes of small denominations. He was gratified to find that these notes were readily taken in payment to a large amount, our gallant soldier in many instances, not only receiving them with alacrity, but experiencing their satisfaction at being able to aid their country by loaning money to the government."

Wonderful, wasn't it, that the boys who were risking their lives in defense of their country should be willing to accept their own governments' money? It was not the boys in the army, or the farmer who furnished the rations, or the merchant who supplied the clothing, who refused to accept the greenbacks, but the gold gamblers and Jews from Wall street and London who combined to force gold up to 2.85 in order to fill their coffers at the expense of patriotic citizens, including the boys in the army.

Old comrade, just lay yourself alongside a dollar when you read this, and I'll wager a hard tack agin' a canteen that you'll be astounded at the overwhelming proportions of an "honest dollar" in comparison with your carcass. Big! Why, they are so big and strong that Uncle Sam didn't dare lay hand on a single one, except by the owner's consent and on his own terms, while he would let you go ten months without one, because he was afraid to touch it until its owner said so. But what of your carcass? It possessed a

soul whose aspirations might lift you up above the drudgery and toil of the camp or march. Perhaps you didn't believe in killing your fellow man, but "fall in! fall in there, you lubber!" "Attention! right face! forward march!" and so through mud and rain your carcass must be driven at the command of your superior officers.

But where's the dollar? It don't recognize any superior officer to command it. Funny, isn't it, that Uncle Sam can lay his strong hand upon a living human being, and stand him up to be shot to death, if need be, and yet can't touch a single dollar except as collected by indirect taxation? Dollars big, did you say? Why, bless your soul they were so big that 300 of them would purchase an exemption from the draft. Think of it; a human soul and body bought for \$300.

But another proof of friendship as shown in the grant to railroads July 1, 1862. Some of you chaps were in pretty close quarters at that time, but that didn't prevent your friends from granting over 200 million acres of land and 64 million dollars of bonds to several railroad corporations. Of course you didn't want any of that land or money; you knew that you and your family could live on gratitude and glory, albeit that's deuced slim diet now-a-days, with a 10 per cent. mortgage clattering at your heels like the devil beating tan bark. But statesmanship wasn't satisfied with giving all this land and bonds, but allowed another mortgage to take precedence of that of the United States; and more than that, guaranteed the interest at 6 per cent., which is not payable until the end of thirty years. How would you like to get money on such terms—Uncle Sam to give you a farm and all the money necessary to improve and stock it without any charge for thirty years? Ah, that would be paternalism! Governor Patterson, in his report on the Pacific railroad, estimates the value of the lands, land grants, etc., to these roads at \$447,729,470.54. Whew! What lunk-heads we were to be fighting Johnnie Rebs at \$16 a month, instead of projecting Pacific railroads.

But, then, don't you know how they do love a comrade's widow—that is, an officer's widow? But if you were only a half a man known as a private (for it take two privates to make an affidavit in a pension case; one is not counted), your widow will draw the munificent, the princely sum of \$12 a month; that is, if she is perfectly decorous and didn't allow any Rats Burtons, or Fletcher Merediths, or Tin-Roof Campbells floating around her. But then you know a private's widow has no business to envy an officer's widow who gets all the way from \$30 to \$416 per month. You know we're so democratic in this country—this land of the free and home of the brave—that one

man's wife is as good as another, except an officer's wife.

But now we're to vote on November 6. What a worthy comrade is E. N. Morrill, to be sure! He'd just as soon skin a comrade as a common sinner, if reports be true. Didn't want the old boys to have a service pension—too much money going directly to the people without paying toll to the bankers.

And, boys, that is why the republican party, as managed by its leaders of to-day, is opposed to pensions of any kind, and here are the figures to prove it. The secretary of interior's report of June 30, 1890, gives pensioners in each state as follows:

Indiana	47,798
New York	50,266
Ohio	37,967
Kansas	23,321

Why! what ailed Kansas, the great soldier state? Eighty-two thousand majority didn't require pensions as urgently as they needed them in the other close states.

J. A. McCREARY.

Emporia, Kas.

## Yea or Nay?

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—In order that the voters of this congressional district may know what legislation will be favored or opposed by Charles Curtis or S. M. Scott in congress, let us have answers to the following questions: If elected how will you vote on:

- First—Pacific railroad debts—for foreclosure or extension of time?
- Second—Government ownership of railroads, telegraphs, mines, etc?
- Third—Retiring federal officers?
- Fourth—Civil pension list?
- Fifth—Paying difference between gold and greenbacks to soldiers.
- Sixth—Government loans direct to people on land at 2 per cent. per annum.
- Seventh—Coinage of silver.
- Eighth—Abolition of national banking system of issuing currency?
- Ninth—Abolition of all United States courts except the supreme court?
- Tenth—Compulsory arbitration?
- Eleventh—Increase of the regular army as proposed by the general commanding?

J. A. M.

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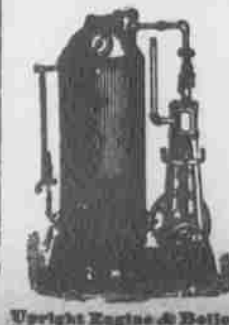
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