

Knoxville Weekly Chronicle.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1870.

OUR ENTERPRISE.

We publish to-day the first number of the CHRONICLE, in fulfillment of the promise made in our Prospectus, issued some days ago. In embarking in this enterprise, we yield to no hasty impulse, but begin a work which it has long been our ambition to undertake. We are fully cognizant of the onerous duties to be discharged and of the responsibilities we assume. We begin our labors fully determined to perform them with all the fidelity, zeal and ability we can command, but frankly confessing that we do not assume to possess all the accomplishments and talents which our high calling demands. The field of journalism is greatly extended, and, through the facilities afforded by our railroads and telegraphs, its sphere of usefulness is daily enlarging. It is now justly recognized as one of the professions, and numbers in its ranks the greatest intellects of the land. It molds and directs the sentiment of the country, and with the agencies at its command, wields an influence greater than any other profession. This influence, if properly directed and nurtured, is a powerful agency for the accomplishment of good, as it is, if perverted and corrupted, a fearful source of evil. The newspaper is to most of its readers the eyes and ears through which they see and hear the acts and opinions of their fellow-men. To all such it stands as the keeper of their conscience—the counselor whose wisdom they cannot question. In every community, the Press does much to give tone to public sentiment, and, to a great extent, tempers the animosities which men, adhering to different sects and parties, are too apt to entertain toward each other. We realize the responsibilities these influences impose, and appreciate the opportunities for doing good which they afford. We shall not avoid the former nor neglect the latter. Our aim will be to make the CHRONICLE temperate and impartial in all things—a firm, persistent advocate for what we believe to be right, and a consistent opposer of what is wrong. While doing this, we endeavor to discuss principles with a temper as not to offend with whom we are always honored and are convinced of

implements into which these metals enter, requires skilled labor and capital. The Old World, with its paupers and the accumulated wealth of ages, is our competitor in this great work. To contend successfully and profitably with such a rival, our mechanics and capital need protection and encouragement. We believe it to be the interest of every citizen of this division of Tennessee that we should demand of Congress a fair and just protective tariff, and the CHRONICLE will advocate that measure. With such assistance, East Tennessee will soon become the nursery of great industrial enterprises, and our cities and people rapidly grow in numbers and wealth.

As an encouragement to the Agricultural interests of East Tennessee, we will set apart a portion of our paper and give especial attention to collecting the latest and most interesting facts on all subjects relating to the farming class.

We do not deem it necessary in this connection to enter any more minutely into an explanation of the different departments we shall make of the CHRONICLE, but will only say that, in every respect, we will endeavor to make it a paper worthy of the support and confidence of our friends. We are persuaded that in establishing this paper we supply a want long felt and greatly needed, and we feel that at the very beginning we have the hearty sympathy and good will of many friends.

To every friend of the Republican party, of free schools, of American industry and of a liberal, high-toned journal, we look for encouragement, hoping by our diligence and enterprise to commend the CHRONICLE to them, one and all.

THE PRICE OF OUR PAPER.

Some of our friends may think the price of our paper too high, compared with the price of other Knoxville papers. We have started this as a permanent enterprise. To render it so, we must make the CHRONICLE self-sustaining. There are very few papers in the United States, of respectable size, published at lower rates than ours. We are not possessed of means sufficient to publish a paper without pay, just for the accommodation of the public. We have not started out for the purpose of breaking down any other journal by publishing our paper at a lower rate than they can afford to do. We propose to stand upon our own merits, and to act upon the old principle of "live and let live." We do not believe that our Republican friends desire us to publish a paper furnishing them with the news, at a pecuniary sacrifice to ourselves. We expect to be sustained, no matter what Democratic publishers may charge for their issues. We expect a circulation without making it a gratuity. We appeal to our friends to sustain us, and assure them that we will make a paper worth the money charged for it.

THE ELECTION.

We are glad to be able to make the first number of the CHRONICLE the bearer of glad tidings to the Republicans of Knox county. We print elsewhere the returns of last Saturday's election, full and complete. From it our friends will see that we have won a decided victory. Just at this time, we feel that this triumph is very significant. Owing to an unnecessary and unfortunate division in our ranks last August, the Democratic party won a decided victory. Since that time they have persistently endeavored, by misrepresentation, to break down and discourage our organization. They were confident that they had succeeded, and felt certain of an easy victory. We entered the contest under very great disadvantages. We had no party organ to counteract the insidious, persistent, plausible inventions of the opposition press; the opposition had the prestige of their late victory to influence the floating vote; we had no organization, no united, working force in the districts of the county. We had, however, our firm convictions of right, and candidates who were all competent and honest men, and with these alone we overcame all difficulties and marched straight through to victory. It convinces us that Knox county is surely and reliably Republican upon every fair issue, by a good working majority, and that all we need do to retain this supremacy is to advocate firm, liberal, republican principles. If we give our friends a broad, enlightened platform upon which to fight, we know they will always come out victors.

We accept this triumph as an omen of the future, and as an encouragement to the enterprise in which we have now embarked, and we promise that the advantages it affords shall be improved. We will endeavor to see to it that hereafter our party shall fight their battles under better auspices. We shall not attempt to compete with some of our contemporaries in inventing sensational political canards, but we will strive to furnish for our readers facts and reasonings upon which to base convictions, and earnestness to carry them triumphantly through all controversies.

Robinson's Circus has ceased to exist.

GEN. GEO. H. THOMAS.

In the death of this great man, the army loses one of its ablest Generals, the country one of its purest patriots. Within the past twelve months we have lost many of the brave and true spirits who did so much to rescue the Republic from treason's toils. Raymond, Stanton and now Thomas, each, in their sphere, illustrious.

The story of Thomas' early life is easily told. He was by birth a Virginian, and connected with one of the most cultivated families of the State. His father was of English descent. His mother was of an ancient Huguenot family. Both were elevated and refined and taught their son those principles of honor and patriotism which have won for him an enduring fame. In 1836 he entered the Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1840, twelfth in a class of forty-two. He at once entered into active service as Second Lieutenant in the Third Artillery, and served with distinction in Florida and Mexico. He was brevetted Captain for gallantry at Monterey, and brevetted Major for conspicuous bravery at Buena Vista.

We need not here recite his services since the beginning of the rebellion, for they are part—and a glorious part, too—of the history of that great war. There is one thing, however, to be said of Thomas that cannot be said of his illustrious associates, Grant and Sherman. Unlike them, he was surrounded by influences in 1861 which made his position one of extreme delicacy. The people of his native State, amid the wild storm of passion then sweeping over the South, were persuaded to follow South Carolina into the rebellion. The attachments to home and kindred are strong and their influences were all brought to bear upon him. But he did not yield. There were no false notions of State pride or chivalry about him. His country had reared him a soldier and he could not betray her trust. He gave up Virginia and his people and followed his flag.

In the summer of 1861, he was commissioned a Brigadier General of Volunteers, and given a command in Kentucky. His first victory was the earliest triumph of our arms in the West. It was the battle of Mill Spring, and will ever be remembered by the people of East Tennessee. It was the first demonstration given to the proud chivalry of Tennessee and the South that their boast of "five Southerners to one Yankee" was a cruel, foolish delusion. The whipped and straggling soldiers from Zollicoffer's army, as they filled the streets of Knoxville, brought the first tidings of Thomas' victory, and satisfied the South that the war was not to be a holiday parade.

The modest, gallant, but inexperienced General, who was the central figure at Mill Spring, the first decided victory in the West, was a few years later the consummate, veteran commander who planned and directed the final triumph of our Western army at Nashville, which is now taught to the cadets at West Point as the most brilliant and skillful battles of modern times.

From Mill Spring to Nashville his record is replete with brave deeds and hard service. Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and Atlanta, are names indissolubly connected with Thomas. When Sherman went "marching to the sea," Gen. Thomas was left to care for Hood. This part of his military career is of great interest, for it embraces battles and marches planned and executed while he was left to his own resources, and in our judgment developed some of the most striking features of his character. We all know with what great anxiety his movements were watched by the people of the West while Hood's army was marching towards the Ohio. But for Cox and Schofield at Franklin, and Thomas at Nashville, what would have been the world's judgment of Sherman's march to the sea? The decisive victory at Nashville practically closed the active service of the great soldier.

As an officer, he was beloved by his troops, and enjoyed their fullest confidence. He was always modest and retiring, and as reticent as his great Commander-in-Chief. While he made no display of his constant solicitude for the comfort and lives of his command, they nevertheless soon learned these traits of his character, and reciprocated with the greatest affection and devotion. These feelings were well illustrated by their familiar but significant sobriquet of "Old Pap."

But it is not alone of his military record we would speak. He rendered very important service after the war by his firm, impartial administration of the reconstruction laws. He knew full well the spirit and temper of the people over whom he was given authority. The laws of Congress he believed to be right, and he executed them faithfully. He realized what many others failed to comprehend—that the country dared not sacrifice in reconstruction what had been gained by the blood and treasure expended in war. He was the firm, true friend of the loyal people of Tennessee, and they loved and honored him.

When Andrew Johnson offered him rank and position if he would favor "My Polley," he indignantly rejected his bribes in terms his friends will never forget.

Whether we contemplate his character as a General, leading armies in battle, or as a military commander exercising civil authority, we find it rounded and complete, without a weakness or vice, and we believe with Gen. Sherman, that the people of this country will always look upon him as the "beau ideal of an American soldier."

PRESIDENT GRANT'S ADMINISTRATION.

The Republican party may well feel proud of the first year's record of President Grant's Administration. As a party, it has had more trying issues to determine since the beginning of the war than any other ever in control of the powers of our Government. Its record through the perilous decade just closed is one of the grandest presented in history. We need not recite its achievements, for they are indelibly impressed on the memory of every American. The more exciting and interesting questions growing out of the reconstruction of the rebel States had practically been settled before President Grant assumed his Executive duties. There were other questions, however, perhaps even more important, certainly more difficult, which his Administration found at his inauguration demanding immediate consideration. Those questions affected directly every interest in the country, and were of a nature demanding the highest order of statesmanship. Trifling, experimental administration would have involved the country in confusion and irretrievable ruin. The order of statesmanship demanded was supplied, and we think the results that have followed challenge comparison and silence criticism.

The close of our gigantic civil war left our people burdened with a debt of over \$8,000,000,000. The business of the country was extended and expanded beyond its legitimate bounds by the extraordinary inflation of the currency issued by authority of Congress. The Government, for the four years immediately succeeding the war, was administered by an ambitious, self-willed man, who studied harder how to force upon the country his own peculiar policy of reconstruction, than how he could best restore tranquility and prosperity to a disturbed and embarrassed people. The officers of the country were, in very many instances, filled by incompetent and dishonest men. The heavy taxes imposed and collected were misapplied, and demoralization and corruption permeated the departments of his Administration.

Under such circumstances, President Grant assumed the onerous and trying duties devolving upon him. His ambition was to restore integrity and capacity to every department within his control, and to give authority only to men who would faithfully and zealously carry out the platform upon which he was elected—Retrenchment and Reform. The results of his first year's work show conclusively that his ambition has been realized, and we accept them as a sufficient guaranty for the future. A year of retrenchment and reform has resulted in reducing the public debt \$100,000,000, with a gold balance in the Treasury of over \$98,000,000. The premium on gold has steadily fallen from 131 1/2 to 114, and there is every reason to believe that before many months the financial problem which for five years has promised so much trouble will solve itself by resumption. That these great results are the fruits of the strictest integrity and greatest prudence in the management of public affairs is conclusively established by the fact that the public revenues have been largely increased under substantially the same rates of taxation collected by the preceding Administration, and the public expenditures have been reduced under the same demands.

As additional proof of this it is shown that without an increase of one cent in the rates of taxation, the revenue under Grant's administration has increased \$23,000,000—i. e. from \$370,000 to \$393,000,000. Again, with a duty of \$2 per gallon on whisky, Mr. Johnson collected during the last half of the fiscal year, \$13,500,000, while with the tax reduced to 65 cents per gallon, Gen. Grant has collected \$24,500,000, an increase of \$11,500,000.

As other and important results of one year's work, we recite the great appreciation of the Government credit, as shown by the facts that the bonds of 1881 are above par in gold, and that the purchasing power of its currency is increased; the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment, through which equal political rights are assured to all in the land; the large reduction in the expenses of our army and navy; the radical changes in the Indian policy, which, if encouraged by Congress, will give us an enduring peace upon just and humane principles; the reduction of one-half in the rates of ocean postage; and again, the dignified, peaceful footing on which our foreign relations stand. As the crowning triumph to all these results, the people, through the mediation of President Grant, will soon find themselves relieved in a great measure from the heavy burden of taxation which has for some years weighed upon them, for, in response to the recommendation of the President and to the urgent demands of the press and people, Congress is about to reduce the taxation fully \$50,000,000.

These are results which must satisfy the most exacting and gratify the most sanguine. They lay a broad, enduring foundation, which the President will doubtless strengthen very materially before another year shall end, and upon which the party can safely risk the chances of a popular verdict. The people of this country have had enough of politicians and demagogues in high places. It is not difficult to find Presidents who are fluent in speech and ready with theories, but it is the rarest thing for us to find in our Chief Executive

one who has the ability to see clearly and the boldness to comply fully with the wants of the nation. So long as President Grant gives us monthly statements of the public debt, which show that the retrenchment and reform of the first year of his administration is still followed, we promise him a continuation of the full measure of public confidence he now so evidently enjoys. If Congress will keep steadily in view this same polar star, and be guided to like satisfactory results, it will enlarge and strengthen the foundations upon which the party rests, and give us in 1873 such a record as will secure to President Grant as our leader the unqualified endorsement of a united and prosperous people.

REVENUE TAXATION.

We do not flatter ourselves that we can do very much towards inducing Congress to relieve the people in part from the burden of taxation now resting upon them. We know, we think, the sentiments of the people of this part of the South, and we believe that while they have cheerfully sacrificed very much for their Government, and while they are willing to sacrifice more, they yet feel that Congress should do something towards lifting from their shoulders a portion, at least, of the heavy burdens entailed by the war. It is within the power of Congress to do this, and we know that it is the wish of the people that it should be done. The best of citizens are weary of this tax which they feel constantly bearing upon them, and very justly conclude that this generation need not bear alone all the burdens of the war. A reduction of \$50,000,000 could be made without in any way impairing the credit of the Government or embarrassing it in the discharge of its obligations. It might possibly interfere somewhat with the theories of some of our officers of Government, but we do not know that this would be at all objectionable.

We believe such a reduction would give universal satisfaction to the tax-payers, and do much towards relieving many honest men from embarrassment. We hope Congress will give heed to the wishes of the people, and with President Grant show that they have no policy to enforce against their will.

HOW TO REMIT.

Money sent to us in registered letters, by Express, prepaid, or by Postoffice orders, will be at our risk—otherwise, at the risk of the sender.

SEND US THE NEWS.

We extend a special invitation to our friends to send us brief and pointed letters, giving items of interest in their several localities. We desire to have something of local interest in every issue for our East Tennessee readers.

NOTICE.

Communications upon subjects of public interest will always be acceptable. The name of the writer will be required in each case, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith and for our own protection.

The publishers will reserve to themselves the privilege of rejecting such articles as they may deem objectionable, but if requested will preserve and return rejected manuscripts.

TO OUR FRIENDS.

The want of a Republican organ has long been felt in this community. We have undertaken to supply this want. To make our paper what it should be, we must have the aid of friends. We appeal to the Republicans of East Tennessee, and of the nation, for an earnest support. We will use all our energies to render the CHRONICLE a wide-awake, progressive sheet. Shall our labor be rewarded?

SEND ON YOUR CLUBS.

It will be seen that we make liberal deductions on club rates. Under this arrangement, there is no reason why the CHRONICLE should not find a place at the fireside of every Republican in East Tennessee. With the proper effort, our circulation might, in the course of a few weeks, exceed that of any journal ever published here. Shall we have it? A spirit of liberality on the part of our friends will be met by a corresponding spirit of enterprise on our part.

We call attention to the communication entitled "The duty of Republicans," printed in another column. The suggestions made are timely and well considered, and we hope our friends in every district and county will act upon them. We want organization, and good, reliable men as candidates. With these we can always succeed in East Tennessee.

Vote of East Tennessee.

The recent vote in East Tennessee upon the New Constitution has surprised a good many of our opposition friends. Many of them thought the Republican party in a hopeless minority, but the election returns show the contrary. The Athens Post, in the following article, admits that Republicans still live in this section:

"We had hoped before the election that there would be a small majority of votes in East Tennessee cast in favor of the New Constitution. But several counties have voted contrary to the general expectation, and the chances are, from present advices, that there will be a small majority the other way. Radicalism struck its roots pretty deep into the soil of East Tennessee, and nothing but constant, unremitting labor and effort will ever rid us of it entirely."