

THE DEMOCRATIC ADVOCATE

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THE DEMOCRATIC ADVOCATE.

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Is a remedy four degrees stronger than the above, and intended for special cases of long standing.

WATER'S CLOCKS.

WATER'S CLOCKS, SILVER PLATED WARE, SPECTACLES.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives! After a brief interval the Congress of the United States resumes its annual legislative labors. An all-wise and merciful Providence has abated the pestilence which visited our shores, leaving its calamitous traces upon some portions of our country. Peace, order, tranquility, and civil authority have been formally declared to exist throughout the whole of the United States. In all of the States civil authority has superseded the coercion of arms, and the people, by their voluntary action, are maintaining their governments in full activity and complete operation. The enforcement of the laws is no longer obstructed in any State by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings; and the animosities engendered by the war are rapidly yielding to the beneficent influences of our free institutions, and to the kindly effects of unrestricted social and commercial intercourse.

An entire restoration of fraternal feeling must be the earnest wish of every patriotic heart; and we will have accomplished our grandest national achievement when, forgetting the sad events of the past, and remembering only the lessons of the present, we resume our onward career as a free, prosperous and united people.

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thought to bear the burden of this war, and yet he denied the right of representation. It would have been in accordance with the express provisions of the Constitution, that each State shall have at least one Representative, and that no State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate. These provisions were introduced to secure to every State, and to the people of every State, the right of representation in each House of Congress, and so important was it deemed by the framers of the Constitution that the equality of the States in the Senate should be preserved, that not even by an amendment of the Constitution any State, without its consent, be deprived a voice in that branch of the National Legislature.

It is true, it has been assumed that the existence of the States was terminated by the rebellious acts of their inhabitants, and that the insurrection having been suppressed, they were thereupon to be considered merely as conquered territories. The Executive, Executive and Judicial Departments of the Government have, however, with great distinctness and uniform consistency, refused to sanction an assumption so incompatible with the nature of our republican system, and with the professed objects of the war. Through the recent legislation of Congress, the undeniable fact makes itself apparent, that these rebel political communities are not less the States of this Union, than the States which have remained loyal.

As the very commencement of the rebellion, each State declared with a unanimous voice, that it was not a party to the war, and was not to be considered as a conquered territory, nor as a territory to be subjected to the rule of military law, nor as a territory to be subjected to the rule of military law, nor as a territory to be subjected to the rule of military law.

The Executive Department, no other plan having been proposed by Congress, continued its efforts to perfect, as far as was practicable, the restoration of the proper relations between the citizens of the respective States, the States, and the Federal Government, extending from time to time, as the public interests seemed to require, the judicial, revenue, and postal systems of the country. With the advice and consent of the Senate, the necessary officers were appointed, and appropriations made by Congress, for the payment of their salaries. The proposition to amend the Federal Constitution, so as to prevent the existence of slavery within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction, was ratified by the requisite number of States, and on the 18th day of December, 1865, it was officially declared to have become valid as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

All of the States in which the insurrection had existed, promptly amended their constitutions, so as to make them conform to the great change thus effected in the organic law of the land; declared null and void all ordinances and laws of secession; repudiated all pretended debts and obligations created for the revolutionary purposes of the insurrection; and proceeded in good faith to the enactment of laws for the protection and advancement of the condition of the colored race. Congress never hesitated to admit any of these States to representation; and it was not until towards the close of the eighth month of the session that an exception was made in favor of Tennessee, by the admission of her Senators and Representatives.

It is a subject of profound regret that Congress has thus far failed to admit to seats loyal Senators and Representatives from the other States, whose inhabitants with those of Tennessee had engaged in the rebellion. Tennessee more than one-fourth of the whole number remain without representation; the seats of the members in the House of Representatives and of twenty members in the Senate, are yet vacant, not by their own consent, but by a failure of election, but by the refusal of Congress to accept their credentials. Their admission, as it is believed, would have established much toward the renewal and strengthening of our relations to one people, and have had serious consequences for the peace of the inhabitants of those States.

It is not less a subject of regret that the admission of loyal members to seats in the respective Houses of Congress, was not expedient a year ago. It is no less wise and expedient now. If this anomalous condition is right now, it is in the exact condition of these States at the present time, it is lawful to exclude them from representation, and not see that the question will be changed by the elapse of time. Ten years hence, if these States remain as they are, the right of representation will be no stronger—the right of exclusion will be no weaker.

The Constitution of the United States makes it the duty of the President to recommend to the consideration of Congress such measures as he shall judge necessary or expedient. I know of no measure more imperatively demanded by every consideration of national interest, sound policy, and equal justice, than the admission of loyal members from the now unrepresented States. This would consummate the work of restoration, and exert a most salutary influence in the re-establishment of peace, harmony and fraternal feeling. It would tend greatly to renew the confidence of the American people in the vigor and stability of their institutions. It would bind us more closely together as a nation, and enable us to show to the world the inherent and recuperative power of a Government founded upon the will of the people, and established upon the principle of liberty, justice, and intelligence.

Our increased strength and enhanced prosperity would irrefragably demonstrate the fallacy of the arguments against free institutions drawn from our recent national disorders by the enemies of republican government. The admission of loyal members from the States now excluded from Congress, by allaying doubt and apprehension, would turn capital, now awaiting an opportunity for investment, into the channels of trade and industry. It would alleviate the present troubled condition of those States, and, by inducing emigration, aid in the settlement of fertile regions now uncultivated, and lead to an increased production of those staples which have added so greatly to the wealth of the nation and the commerce of the world. New fields of enterprise would be opened to our progressive people; and soon the devastations of war would be repaired, and all traces of our domestic differences effaced from the minds of our countrymen.

In our efforts to preserve the unity of Government which constitutes us one people, by restoring the States to the condition which they held prior to the rebellion, we should be cautious, lest having rescued our nation from perils of threatened disintegration, we resort to consolidation, and in the end absolute despotism, is a remedy for the recurrence of similar troubles. The war having terminated, and with it all occasion for the exercise of powers of doubtful constitutionality, we should hasten to bring legislation within the boundaries prescribed by the Constitution, and to return to the ancient landmarks established by our fathers for the guidance of succeeding generations.

The Constitution which at any time exists, until changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. If in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be, in any particular, wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way in which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for it is the customary weapon by which free Governments are destroyed. Washington spoke these words to his countrymen, when followed by their love and gratitude, he voluntarily retired from the cares of public life. To keep in all things within the pale of our constitutional powers, and cherish the Federal Union as the only rock of safety, were prescribed by Jefferson as rules of action to guide his countrymen the true principles of their Constitution, and promote a union of sentiment and affection equally auspicious to their happiness and safety.

Jackson held that the action of the General Government should always be strictly confined to the sphere of its appropriate duties, and justly and forcibly urged that our Government is not to be maintained nor our Union preserved by the exercise of the rights and powers of the several States. In this attempt to make our General Government stronger, we make it weaker. Its true strength consists in leaving individuals and States as much as possible to themselves, in making itself felt, not in its power, but in its beneficence; not in its control, but in its protection; not in binding the States ever closely to the center, but leaving each to move unobstructed in its proper constitutional orbit. These are the teachings of men whose deeds and services have made them illustrious, and who, long since withdrawn from the scene of life, have left to their country the rich legacy of their example, their wisdom and their patriotism. Drawing fresh inspiration from their lessons, let us emulate them in love of country, and respect for the Constitution and the laws.

The report presents a much more satisfactory condition of our finances than one year ago the most sanguine could have anticipated. During the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1865, the last year of the war, the public debt was increased \$941,902,537, and on the 31st of October, 1865, it amounted to \$2,740,854,750. On the 31st day of October, 1866, it had been reduced to \$2,551,310,006, the diminution, during a period of fourteen months, commencing September 1, 1865, and ending October 31, 1866, having been \$209,544,750. In the last annual report on the state of the finances, it was estimated that during the three quarters to the fiscal year ending the 30th of June last, the debt would be increased \$112,104,047.

During that period, however, it was reduced \$31,196,387, the receipts of the year having been \$89,905,905 more, and the expenditures \$209,544,750 less than the estimates. Nothing could more clearly indicate than these statements the extent and availability of the national resources, and the rapidity and safety with which, under our form of government, great military and naval establishments can be disbanded, and expenses reduced, from a war, to a peace footing.

During the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1866, the receipts were \$358,032,620, and the expenditures \$520,760,940, leaving an available surplus of \$37,281,680. It is estimated that the receipts for the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1867 will be \$485,061,386, and that the expenditures will reach the sum of \$316,428,078, leaving in the Treasury a surplus of \$168,633,308. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, it is estimated that the receipts will amount to \$430,000,000, and that the expenditures will be \$550,247,641—showing an excess of \$85,752,359 in favor of the government.

These estimated receipts may be diminished by a reduction of excise and import duties; but after all necessary reductions shall have been made, the revenue of the present and of following years will doubtless be sufficient to cover all legitimate charges upon the Treasury, and leave a large annual surplus to be applied to the payment of the principal of the debt. There seems now to be no good reason why taxes may not be reduced as the country advances in population and wealth, and yet the debt be extinguished within the next quarter of a century.

The report of the Secretary of War furnishes valuable and important information in reference to the operations of his Department during the past year. Few volunteers now remain in the service, and they are being discharged as rapidly as they can be replaced by regular troops. The army has been promptly paid, carefully provided with medical treatment, well sheltered and subsisted, and is to be furnished with breech-loading small arms. The military strength of the nation has been unimpaired by the discharge of volunteers, the disposition of unserviceable or perishable stores, and the retrenchment of expenditure.

Sufficient war material to meet any emergency has been retained, and from the disbanded volunteers standing ready to respond to the national call, large armies can be rapidly organized, equipped, and concentrated. Fortifications on the coast and frontier have received, or are being prepared for more powerful armaments; lake surveys and harbor and river improvements are in course of energetic prosecution. Preparations have been made for the payment of the additional bounties authorized during the recent session of Congress, under such regulations as will protect the Government from fraud, and secure to the honorably discharged soldier the well-earned reward of his faithful and gallant service. More than six thousand maimed soldiers have received artificial limbs or other surgical apparatus; and forty-one national cemeteries, containing the remains of 104,526 Union soldiers, have already been established. The total cost of military appropriations is \$25,295,669.

The District of Columbia, under existing laws, is not entitled to the representation in the National Councils which, from our earliest history, has been uniformly accorded to each Territory established from time to time within our limits. It maintains peculiar relations, Congress, to whom the Constitution has granted the power of exercising exclusive legislation over the District of Government. Our fellow-citizens residing in the District, whose interests are thus confined to the special guardianship of Congress, exceed in number the population of several of our Territories, and no just reason is perceived why a delegate of their choice should not be admitted to sit in the House of Representatives.

No mode seems so appropriate and effectual of enabling them to make known their position and wishes, and of securing the local legislation adapted to their needs, as to recommend the passage of a law authorizing the electors of the District of Columbia to choose a delegate, to be allowed the same rights and privileges as a delegate representing a Territory. The increasing enterprise and rapid progress of improvement in the District are highly gratifying, and it is to be hoped that the efforts of the municipal authorities to promote the prosperity of the national metropolis will receive the efficient and generous co-operation of Congress.

In the month of April last, as Congress is aware, a friendly arrangement was made between the Emperor of France and the President of the United States, for the withdrawal from Mexico of the French expeditionary military forces. This withdrawal was to be effected in three detachments, the first of which, it was understood, would leave Mexico in November, now past, the second in March next, and the third, and last in November, 1867. Immediately upon the completion of the evacuation, the French Government was to assume the same attitude of non-interference, in regard to Mexico, as is held by the Government of the United States. Repeated assurances have been given by the Emperor, since that agreement, that he would complete the promised evacuation within the period mentioned, or sooner, in conformity with the stipulations.

It was reasonably expected that the proceedings thus contemplated would produce a crisis of great political interest in the Republic of Mexico. The newly appointed Minister of the United States, Mr. Campbell, was therefore sent forward, on the 24th day of November last, to assume his proper functions as Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to that Republic.

It was also thought expedient that he should be attended in the vicinity of Mexico by the Lieutenant General of the Army of the United States, with the view of obtaining such information as might be important to determine the course to be pursued by the United States in re-establishing and maintaining necessary and proper intercourse with the Republic of Mexico. Deeply interested in the cause of liberty and humanity, it seemed an obvious duty on our part to exercise whatever influence we possessed for the restoration and permanent establishment in that country of a domestic and republican form of government.

Such was the condition of affairs in regard to Mexico, when on the 22d of November last, official information was received from Paris that the Emperor of France had somewhat before decided not to withdraw a detachment of his forces in the month of November past, according to engagement; but that this decision was made with the purpose of withdrawing the whole of these forces in the ensuing spring. Of this determination, however, the United States had not received any notice or intimation; and, as soon as the information was received by the Government, care was taken to make known its dissent to the Emperor of France, and to demand that he should not forego the hope that France will reconsider the subject, and adopt some other policy which will conform as nearly as practicable with the existing engagements, and thus meet the just expectations of the United States. The papers relating to the subject will be laid before you. It is believed that, with the withdrawal of Mexico by the expeditionary forces, no subject for serious differences between France and the United States would remain. The expressions of the Emperor and people of France warlike hope that the traditional friendship between the two countries might in that case be renewed and permanently restored.