

AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"Let us have Faith that Right makes Might; and in that Faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it"—A. LINCOLN.

VOLUME 4.

BUTLER, BUTLER COUNTY, PA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1867.

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AMERICAN CITIZEN Job Printing Office!

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AND

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Would respectfully inform the citizens of this place
that she is prepared to do all kinds of sewing, such
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clothing, &c. Also, Agent for Wheeler & Wilson's
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representatives. No charge will be made for prosecuting
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AMRITYPES, DAGUERREOTYPES
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SAMUEL SYKES, JR.,
RESPECTFULLY informs his friends, and the public
in general, that he is prepared to take PHOTOGRAPHS,
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of weather. An assortment of Frames, Cases, &c., con-
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call and examine our fashions and specimens of men's
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All prepared to receive
Artificial dentures
of the latest improve-
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platinum. Those desiring to
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Dec. 9, 1865-67.

USURPATION.

There are many persons who have a very confused notion of the "usurpation" which is charged upon the President, but a little reflection will enlighten them.—The President, by the Constitution, is made a co-ordinate but not a co-equal branch of the Government. So, also, is the Supreme Court. But Congress, or the Legislative branch, is wisely made the chief and superior branch. The executive and the Judiciary are "checks and balances" only. The Constitution, in giving Congress power to remove the President by impeachment, and to reorganize the Supreme Court by increasing the number of Judges, establishes the necessary final supremacy of the Legislature. To suppose three absolutely co-equal branches is to suppose three supreme departments of the Government, which is absurd. Under certain careful reservations, therefore, the Legislature is, as in the nature of a popular system it should be, constitutionally supreme.

The President is the Executive. He is the hand of the Government. His function is to execute the laws which are enacted by Congress. He is therefore made Commander of the army and navy because the execution of the laws may sometimes require force. But he can lawfully use the army and navy only in the enforcement of the laws, and there are no laws until Congress makes them. The Executive has no legislative power whatever. But the check upon the Legislature by the Executive which the Constitution provides is the Veto. Yet that is not a final obstruction. If a law be vetoed by the President it is invalid, unless it be passed over the veto by a vote of two-thirds of Congress. It then becomes as imperative a law as if the President had approved it; and his oath binds him to its faithful execution. That is one of the ways in which the supremacy of the Legislature over the Executive is constitutionally asserted.

When the rebellion was suppressed by the arms of the United States it left every rebel State without any lawful civil authority, as President Johnson truly declared at the time. Every such State was held by the national military authority, and as Commander-in-Chief upon the field the President was authorized to establish military governments to keep the peace. But there could be no political movement, no initiation of a civil government without a law of the United States, and the Legislature or Congress alone was constitutionally competent to pass such a law. By disregarding this fact, by imitating civil governments upon his own responsibility and without the least reference to Congress, and then insisting that such governments were as valid as those of Ohio or New York, the President indisputably usurped the function of Congress, and neither he nor any of his adherents have ever been able to show the slightest constitutional authority for his action. This is the plain usurpation of the President. He had no more authority to reorganize the rebel States of his own motion than he would have for issuing an edict from the White House, removing the Governor of New Jersey, and claiming for it the force and sanctity of law.

But he did this twenty months ago, we are told, and why do we now first hear of usurpation? We do not now hear of it for the first time. It was as clear then as it is now. But the express terms of the President's proclamations and the words of the first Message in December, 1865, by which he referred the whole subject to Congress, and his declarations that he regarded his action as experimental, persuaded the country that his proceedings were merely provisional, and were taken from the necessity of immediate action and from consideration of public safety. If the President had said in his proclamations that when any State had conformed to the terms he imposed it should be at once by that fact restored to all its functions in the Union, the very first act of the present Congress would doubtless have been his impeachment.

Moreover, when his usurpation began it was regarded not only in the light of his own declaration that it was a provisional, experimental movement, arising from the public situation, like a sudden suspension of the *habeas corpus*, and like that which wholly referable to the ratification of Congress, but it was viewed also from the point of his conduct through the war and his speeches upon his accession to the Presidency. In a word, the same confidence which the country had reposed in the occasional arbitrary acts of Mr. Lincoln in his patriotic loyalty—was entirely transferred to his successor, elected with him, and called suddenly to deal with an utterly unprecedented emergency. And

the usurpation would have been as heartily condoned by the country, as Mr. Lincoln's acts always were, had the President himself morally justified his course by showing Mr. Lincoln's simple fidelity.

But when the deplorable consequences of the President's course were gradually revealed—when the country saw that the President actually denied to Congress a legislative function which he had not hesitated himself to assume, that, not content with so startling a position, he fiercely denounced Congress as an unlawful and impertinent body; that his action had placed the government of the lately rebel States wholly in the hands of enemies of the Government; leaving Union men of every color to their mercies; that he opposed every measure of Congress intended to secure the just and necessary results of the war; and that the whole mass of those who had been in open or covert hostility to the Union and the principles of equal liberty were suddenly changed from his foulest detractors into his most unwavering and menacing supporters—then those who would willingly have forgiven the assumption of power, had it been directed, as they supposed it would be, to the pacification of our troubles, saw the Presidential conduct in its true light as nothing less than usurpation.

That it was begun with the deliberate intention of overthrowing the Government is not clear, but that its chief danger, the sudden restoration of the late rebel States without the least security to the Union, has been averted, is very evident. Yet the question still remains, and it is the question which the country is now pondering, whether impeachment is a wise policy until the President is shown to be wilfully persisting in the attempt to establish his usurpation by actually refusing to execute the laws; or whether on the other hand, it is a wise policy to trust the Executive power in hands which have shown such facility and tenacity in usurpation, and which are evidently to be strengthened by the judicial branch of the Government.—*Harper's Weekly.*

A Paper in a Family.

We never saw a newspaper that was not worth greatly more than its cost in a family. It is, to a great extent true, of every collection of written matter, book or newspaper; but more especially of the latter, for it covers a much greater variety of subjects, and is necessarily more condensed. It is a well-known fact that there is no royal road to learning. The brain, full of knowledge, whose activity sends light over our daily pathway, has been acquired by hard and constant study. Every book and newspaper which the careful or careless reader picks up is filled with the results of laborious investigation. Take the single issue of a daily or weekly paper, and see in its editorials, its financial articles, its mere drudgery of daily facts, its guide and quiddities, its philosophy and fun, how much care and labor must have been bestowed to furnish it all with the regularity of one's meal. It makes no pretensions. It is furnished to every man for a fraction of what his ice or any one of the simple luxuries of his household costs him, and yet it is teeming with thoughts which are constantly influencing his actions, and forming the opinions of his children to govern their after lives. Into the columns of the newspaper come the matured opinions of the greatest thinkers and statesmen of the old world and the new, and at a cost, compared with the value of the information acquired, utterly insignificant in amount. No man, no head of a family especially, who would properly qualify his children to pass respectably, profitably and with satisfaction to themselves through the world, should ever deny to them the advantages of a good weekly newspaper.

—A dealer in horse-flesh, of Jewish persuasion, sold to a gentleman of little experience in such matters a steed as perfectly "without faults." Next day the buyer came back in great fury, because his groom found out that the alleged "faultless" horse was blind in the right eye. "Why," replied the sly jobber, "this is not the horse's fault, it is only his misfortune!"

NO TIME TO BE LOST.—"Where are you going so fast, Mr. Smith?" "Home, sir, home; don't detain me; I have just bought my wife a new bonnet, and I must deliver it before the fashion changes."

—To drain lands—drink whiskey and spend all your time at the village tavern. This will drain you of all your lands in a short time.

—It is not just for two friends, more than for man and wife, to be out of patience at the same time.

THE IMPEACHMENT.

The criminal folly of the friends of the President who at the Democratic Conventions and in such papers as the Washington *Constitutional Union* openly threaten armed resistance if Congress should exercise its express Constitutional right of impeachment, has done more to make an impeachment probable than all other causes together. If Congress can not take an undeniably Constitutional step but a faction in opposition must invoke civil war, we ought all to know it. And if it be necessary to impeach the President in order to prove that fact, by all means let him be impeached. From 1860 to the present time the Democratic party has tried to carry every election and to secure all its measures by a threat of civil war. John Van Buren at the Cooper Institute, in 1852, and James Brooks at New Haven, and Edmund Burke (Phoebus Apollo) at Concord, in 1867, resorted to the same means. It should not be disregarded. Such men should be taught, whenever they invite the issue, that the people of the United States are not yet Mexicanized, and that they intend to settle all questions by peaceful methods until they are openly opposed, and will then forcibly overcome the opposition that peaceful methods may be resumed.

If the evidence laid before the Judiciary Committee shall show that the President has unquestionably attempted to subvert the Government, directly or indirectly, by usurpation or by corruption, or by inaction, he will be impeached and tried, and if convicted he will be removed from office. And whoever undertakes to resist by arms the process or the decision will fare as other rebels have lately fared. It is one of those great and grave measures which only an extraordinary public emergency can justify. It is indeed strictly Constitutional, as the war-powers is Constitutional. If the Constitutional authority be offensively denied, the country may demand that the issue be raised. But no sensible man can be indifferent to the importance of such action, and will therefore neither passionately nor flippantly invoke it.

This is undoubtedly the attitude of the country at this moment. Nothing will change it but the continuous folly of the President's party. If they and he are wise, they will patiently await the action of the Committee. If the Committee report that ample grounds for impeachment exist, and state their nature so that the country can clearly comprehend them, the President, if wisely advised, will abide by the Constitution and the methods it prescribes. That, and that only, will be proof to the country that he sincerely believes in the justice of his position. That, and that only, will incline the country to judge dispassionately the evidence and the defense. Mad and reckless as his words and measures have been, fatally encouraging to the rebellious spirit, and destructive of the hopes of loyal and humane citizens, his acts are not of necessity to be interpreted as conceived with an intent of overthrowing the Government. An obstacle to the loyal and generous purpose of the country to plainly is; but not an obstacle, obviously, to be removed by impeachment. But the moment he resists a simple Constitutional process, that moment he judges himself.

If the Judiciary Committee shall be satisfied that the laws of Congress passed over the president's veto are made inoperative by his inaction, and that in consequence of that inaction the condition of loyal men in the late rebel States is intolerable, upon what ground can any body ask the country to wait two years before such wrongs are remedied? If that shall be made plain the impeachment will be carried and unanimously supported by the country. But if, as the President and the Secretary of State declare, the laws passed over the veto are faithfully executed, although, of course, not with the hearty co-operation of approval, then the impeachment will not hold. This seems to us to be the substantial point; and we can know the truth not by the rhetoric of partisans, but by actual evidence. For that, as we have already said, we must wait. Nor can any of us tell whether the President ought to be impeached until the grounds of the charges are revealed in detail.—*Harper's Weekly.*

—What is the difference between a summer dress in winter and an abstracted tooth? One is too thin, and the other tooth-out.

—A married mouster says he once had a most delightful dream, in which he imagined he had an angel by his side, and on waking up found it was only his wife.

The Press vs. Public Sentiment.

Some writer has truly remarked that the press is the helm by which the ship of public opinion is guided, and he might have said with equal truth that without the press that ship would be carried hither and thither until finally wrecked upon the rocky reefs of ignorance and superstition. Indeed, we have sometimes thought that the very existence of our government depends upon the free and universal discussion of the questions and principles upon which our republican institutions are based, and every one must admit that through no other means could this discussion be made so general and so thorough as through the agency of our daily and weekly journals. But however potent this power may have become, we must not lose sight of the lamentable fact that it is not what it should be, in many respects, or what may reasonably be expected of it by the American people. The press needs purifying. Many of our journals are too much trammelled by party, which restricts them to certain limits, virtually saying, "thus far and no farther," and forcing the journalist to advocate and defend principles and actions which his better judgment would lead him to condemn. In journalism, as in other professions, a man must have something wherewith to meet little bills for coal and groceries, and dry goods, and knowing that his support from the public depends upon his agreeing with the public, he is apt rather to hush his conscience than to sacrifice the patronage which supplies the wants of the little ones at home. And who can blame him? Does not the blame rather rest with the community or the party which demands to be agreed with, and which will not allow itself to be argued with or contradicted? In how many instances have editors been read out of parties because they dared to expose corruption, and because they felt greater regard for the "still small voice" within than for the clamor of popular opinion? And how many professedly independent journals have been literally starved out of existence or into the whirlpool of party corruption and misrepresentation? Is this not reversing the order of things? What part is the helm playing in this voyage? and who will bear the reproach if the ship is stranded, and the precious cargo goes to the bottom?

Then, again, too many of our papers are conducted by unprincipled men,—men who seek for nothing but to please the public, and who would public sentiment just as it happens to ask to be moulded, never asking themselves whether they are right or wrong, and never waiting to consider whether the production will be hideous or beautiful. These are the men who succeed best, as success is generally estimated, but we fear they will be found wanting when weighed in the balance with the few honest men of the profession who have really felt the responsibility they were under to their God and their fellow men, but who have been martyrs to public sentiment.

We argue, then, that the press needs purifying, and that this work is for the people. Whenever a conscientious, honest man can wield the pen according to his convictions of right, with the assurance of a patient hearing, and without fear of losing the patronage which keeps grim starvation from his hearth-stone, whenever the smooth-tongued knave, who is on every side of every question, and who never comes out in favor of a measure or expresses an opinion till his patrons ask him to, is treated with the contempt due him, then, and not till then, will the press of the world assume the place that Providence designed it to occupy, and then will the pen be indeed "mightier than the sword."—*Sharon Herald.*

—"What do you know of the defendant, Mr. Thompson? Do you consider him a good musician?"

"On that point I wish to swear with great care. I do not wish to insinuate that Mr. Vonsope is not a good musician. Not at all. But I could not help observing (persons will observe queer things at times) that after he commenced playing on the clarinet, a saw-filer, who lived next door, left home and has never since been heard of."

—A minister met a parishioner who had come into possession of a handsome property by the death of his brother, and inquired how he was getting along.—"Oh!" said he, "I am having a dreadful time; what with getting out letters of administration, and attending probate court, and settling claims, I sometimes almost wish he hadn't died."

—Surrat arrived in Washington last week.

KINDNESS REWARDED.

It is a dreadful thing to be old and poor, and have no home; but there is a deeper depth of human calamity than this—it is to have in addition, an old age of wasting, wearing sickness, which is often superinduced by that constant depression of mind which attends the consciousness of being alone and friendless and in want. One of the best means of avoiding an old age of destitution and bodily suffering is to cultivate while young all the benevolent and generous feelings of our nature, never by any possibility allowing any opportunity pass of befriending a fellow-traveler, as we are passing on life's journey, for sooner or later the reward will come of a happy heart and oftentimes a comfortable provision for declining years.

In 1812, a wounded soldier was lying helpless on the plains of Chalmetta, a few miles below New Orleans. A youth passed that way, knelt at his side, inquired as to his wants, conveyed him to a shelter, and remained with him until he was able to leave for his home in the city. Nearly half a century later, the wounded soldier died, but old Judah Touro never forgot the youth who helped him on the battle-field, and left him fifty thousand dollars in money, besides some duties to perform which eventually yielded Mr. Shepherd \$100,000 more.

While living in New Orleans, about the year 1850, a poor young doctor, with a large family and a small practice, often came into my office. He was always courteous, always kind, and always sad; and who could be otherwise when anxiety for to-morrow's bread for wife and children is always pressing on the heart? But there came a letter one day, with the English post-mark, making inquiries for a certain young American doctor who had greatly befriended an English gentleman during a long and dangerous attack of sickness in New Orleans a number of years before. The grateful gentleman had died, and left our poor young doctor a large estate.

Ten years ago, and less, there lived in the city of New York a clergyman whose name and memory are sacred to thousands of grateful, loving, revering hearts. He has not been dead long; he will never die out of the holy affections of the people before whom he came in and went out so many years. Among his people there was one man, and he was of large wealth, who seemed to make it his special business, as it was his highest happiness, to see that his revered pastor wanted nothing. It was not a fitful care. It did not spring up in May, and die long before December came, but through weeks and months and long years it was always the same; incessant, perennial, gushing up always like a never-failing spring. The pastor died; his loving watcher, by no fault of his own, failed for almost millions, any recovery was absolutely hopeless. The grief that pressed him most was the loss of ability to help the helpless. Men looked on and wondered, and began to question if Providence would let such a man come to want in his gray hairs. But there was an eye upon him. A man of very great wealth said: "He must not suffer who cared so well and so faithfully and long for my old minister. He is just the man I want to attend to my estates, and he shall have all he asks for as a compensation for his services."—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

CONVERSION OF SEVEN THIRTIES.
To facilitate the conversion of Seven-Thirty Bonds due in August, 1867, the Secretary of the Treasury has decided to pay express charges until March 31st on Seven-Thirty Bonds transmitted to Washington for conversion and also the express charges on bonds sent in return.—Holders of Seven-Thirty Bonds falling due in August, forwarding the same before March 31st, can feel certain of getting a prompt return of the bonds, while, if conversion is delayed until nearer August, the pressure for conversion will be so great as to prevent a prompt return of the bonds.

—Witness, you said that while walking with an open umbrella, you fell into this reservoir and were badly injured.—Did you break any bones, sir, at the time?"

"I did, sir."

"What bones?"

"Whale-bones, sir."

"I say, milkman, you give your cows too much salt!"

"Why, how do you know how much salt I give them?"

"I judge from the appearance of the milk you bring us lately. Salt makes the cows dry, and then they drink too much water, and that makes their milk thin, you know."

—A kiss, says an ingenuous authority, is like the creation, because it is made of nothing, and is very good.

—Never retire at night without being wiser than when you arose in the morning.

A Republican Southern State.

If the present dominant party in Tennessee should continue to retain possession of the State, the prospect seems to be fair for making it a more prosperous and flourishing commonwealth than any in the south. Statistics show that while the negro population has decreased in most parts of the south during and since the war, it has increased in Tennessee, because there it is protected in all its rights. Negro emigration thither from Kentucky, North Carolina and the cotton States is providing an ample supply of cheap labor, whereby industrial enterprises thrive, and the agricultural interests are recuperating from the disastrous results of the civil war.

Tennessee has generally been found to be liberal in politics, and her public men have given many proofs of their regard for free principles. The loyal population has been strengthened by immigration from other States, and with the aid of the negro votes will be able to maintain possession of power. The example set by the Republicans of Missouri has been emulated by those of Tennessee, and both States are now fine fields for emigration and the investment of capital in business enterprises. The contrast presented by these two States with Kentucky is not much to the credit of the latter.

The Republicans of Tennessee have been bold, open and resolute from the time when the State government was reorganized. Those of Kentucky, on the other hand, suffered themselves to be misled and misrepresented by allying their forces with the thing misnamed a conservative Union party.

The efforts of the Johnsonites to overcome the Republicans in Tennessee, and give the State to the Democrats and rebels, have been constant, and, backed by the power of the national government, they would have succeeded had the Tennessee Republicans been less determined. It is of the utmost consequence, in relieving the south of the evils engendered by slavery, that we should strengthen the hold of the Republicans upon Tennessee, which, right in the heart of the south, must largely influence the surrounding country. It is not merely the political weight thus added to our cause that we set value upon. The Republican party carries with it tendencies that have made every State prosperous where it holds sway. In the short time that it has held possession of Missouri it has done a vast amount of good.

For these reasons we should be pleased to see a more general disposition to encourage emigration to Tennessee. The resources of the State are equal to those of any of the new States that are receiving such streams of emigration. The negroes will, of course, go there fast enough; but white emigrants from the north are needed to strengthen the noble Republicans who have thus far held the State.—*N. American.*

The Nile.

Mr. R. Egan, correspondent of the Morning Star, in a letter from Suez, thus speaks of the most wonderful river in the world—the Nile:

The great natural curiosity of Egypt, and that which not only distinguishes it from other countries, but is the cause of all its other peculiarities, is the wonderful Nile. The immense quantity of water necessary to cause the continued rise of a river with a good strong current, from June to October, until its channel ordinarily from half to one and a half miles wide, is widened to from five to fifty miles in width, is astonishing, and almost sufficient still to stir up the belief that some divine agency, rather than the rains of Abyssinia, must be the cause.—And this appears still more strange when it is remembered that not a single spring or branch of any kind opens its way within one thousand miles of its mouth. It is strange, indeed, that in so hot a climate and so vast an extent, the volume of water is not diminished by absorption and evaporation; and perhaps the facts that the waters seem to extend through the entire valley upon the same level with the Nile can alone explain this continued fullness. The sands from the deserts, which bound this valley upon either side seem to be constantly crowding upon the fertile soil, and the deposits of the river, which have raised its bed and banks about fifteen feet within three thousand six hundred years, are crowding in upon the deserts, and thus, as elsewhere in nature, antagonism maintains the equilibrium.

—A kiss, says an ingenuous authority, is like the creation, because it is made of nothing, and is very good.

—Never retire at night without being wiser than when you arose in the morning.