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 Winchester, Dec. 4, 1863. 22

NEW-YEAR'S CHIMES.

TENNYSON.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
 The flying cloud, the frosty light;
 The year is dying in the night;
 Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
 Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
 The year is going, let him go;
 Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
 For those that here we see no more;
 Ring out the feud of rich and poor;
 Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
 And ancient forms of party strife;
 Ring in the nobler mores of life,
 With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
 The faithless coldness of the times;
 Ring out, ring out our mournful rhymes,
 And ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
 The civic slander and the spite;
 Ring in the love of truth and right;
 Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
 Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
 Ring out the thousand wars of old,
 Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
 The larger heart the kinder hand;
 Ring out the darkness of the land;
 Ring in the Christ that is to be.

THE CONFISCATION OF REBEL PROPERTY.

The fear of confiscation of property is now most relied upon by the rebel leaders to nerve the southern people to action under their present discouragements. They tell them that not only will the negroes all be freed, but the entire property of the South will pass into Yankee hands, if the government succeeds. This idea of course has great effect. The chivalry dread the loss of property quite as much as the loss of power and social position. We should be glad to believe that these fears are to be realized. If Judge Underwood's interpretation of the confiscation law and its constitutional limitations can be maintained, the rebel leaders may be pretty generally punished by the loss of their property in lands as well as in slaves. The real estate of the South is in few hands, and the large majority of the property holders have been actively and earnestly engaged in the rebellion. Confiscation of their property during the remaining portion of their lives will be but a small punishment, and the government will realize little or nothing from the sale of the incomes of the forfeited estates. Indeed confiscation to the extent which the constitution has been supposed to allow does not pay costs. It will inflict temporary inconvenience upon the rebels and their families, wherever it can be enforced, but the government will realize no considerable amount of revenue from it.

The loyal people of the country feel that those who have made war upon the nation ought to be forced to pay the expense of their own subjugation. If there is no real and radical confiscation of the property of rebels, the loyal people of the country will have to pay the cost of the war, for the South will be impoverished and have no means of paying much for some years to come. The war will leave upon the country the burden of a debt of two thousand millions of dollars, more or less. Must the loyal states pay this debt, or the larger part of it? Most certainly if any means can be devised by which those who have brought this calamity upon us can be compelled to pay the cost, it will satisfy the popular sense of justice, and it will be wholly and absolutely right in itself. The value of the cultivated lands in the now insurgent states was estimated in the census of 1850 at something over eight hundred millions. It is now considerably larger. Nearly all this land is owned by men who can be convicted of treason. But suppose only half these lands are thus forfeited; at least five hundred millions of dollars might be realized by their sale, and the other property of rebels confiscated should yield an equal amount. Thus one-half the war debt might be extinguished at once, or very nearly that amount.

Another advantage of this radical confiscation will be the more rapid social regeneration of the South. This is certain to come in time; the causes are already at work, and the arrogant planters are to give way to industrious farmers; the great plantations are to be cut up into farms, and an intelligent laboring population to supersede the degraded and servile working

class of the South. This may be by the education of the freed negroes; by their emigration, white cultivators succeeding them; but probably by both together, as the South will support a much larger free than slave population. Such an infusion of Yankee industry and energy as the South is sure to experience after the war—as is indeed already felt in the subjugated districts—will soon make that section much more productive, and consequently richer, than it ever could have been under the lazy and thriftless system of slave labor. And here is another economical reason for desiring the general confiscation of rebel property; it will not only lift a large portion of the national debt at once, but will put the South in a condition to pay in future a more liberal share of the taxes by which the whole debt is to be ultimately liquidated.

Congress has little to do at the present session. Legislation for the war has been pretty nearly finished up. It had better make this matter of confiscation a chief study. If it can discover means to establish a sweeping confiscation of the property of rebels, without stretching too tautly its constitutional powers, it will accomplish more for the social regeneration of the South, and assure more certainly the loyalty of its future population, than it can by promulgating any theories of reconstruction. Crush out the rebellion, punish the rebels and take their property, and reconstruction will take care of itself.—*Springfield (Mass.) Republican.*

PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS.

The Philadelphia North American gives some excellent advice to those who wish invest in money. It is well for all who are in funds to heed the counsel.

"Though money has been temporarily scarce, capital continues abundant; and the recent tumble in the stock market has brought capitalists to a realizing sense of the unreliable character of many of the securities dealt in. It is greatly to the credit of the Government that its loans, of all the securities daily dealt in on the market, have maintained their integrity of price better than almost anything else. Its Five Twenty year six per cent. note, the interest on which is promptly paid in gold, has been subscribed to, all through the pressure in the money market, at an average of more than two millions per day. And what is not the least gratifying fact in connection with the daily large subscriptions to this popular loan, scarcely any of it is returned to the market for sale. It is taken for investment, and is held with unflinching confidence in its reliability. And why should it not be? It is seen that the Government now, after two years of the most gigantic war that the world has ever known, experiences no difficulty in commanding the necessary means to prosecute it, or in paying regularly the interest in gold as it falls due. If this can be done while the war is being waged, who can anticipate any difficulty in readily accomplishing it when the war shall be ended? What better investment then, for capital, than the 'Five Twenty' Government loan? But if any doubt, let him refer to the statistics furnished by the census tables of the various nations of the world. The facts which they present will prove the most satisfactory mode of dispelling the numberless gloomy apprehensions which are being continually conjured up by those who are disposed to exaggerate the extent of the calamity occasioned by our rebellion. A reference to the state of most of the prosperous nations of the old world clearly disproves such a position, and shows that the highest conditions of national advancement have not been materially affected by the extended wars in which these nations have been immemorably engaged, and in a heavy national indebtedness has not proved an unmitigated evil.

For instance, Great Britain, France and the Netherlands will undoubtedly be conceded to represent the highest prosperity that has been attained by any of the European nations. And yet no nations have been called upon to endure fiercer or more prolonged wars, domestic and foreign, than they. The effect has been, unquestionably, to incur an enormous national indebtedness; but neither their wars nor their indebtedness has had the effect to destroy their elasticity, nor to check the progress of their general prosperity. The result would have been different, probably, if those nations had been falling into decay, instead of being, as they

really were, in a state of development; and in this respect their case resembles our own, with enormous advantages in our favor. These nations, while undergoing the trials of war, were oppressed by the evils of an immense exodus of their population, caused by the density of their population, the impossibility to provide occupation for them, the low price of labor, and the scarcity of territory. Compared with our own country, they possessed slight room for future development; they were settled in every part, and no vast territory lay invitingly open to encourage enterprise and settlement. Their great problem has ever been what to do with their surplus population, which, in its turn, has sought new fields for adventures and self-support in countries like our own, where an illimitable territory waits to be developed, and where incalculable resources invite industry and energy. The encouragement to be derived from these facts and comparisons of circumstances is very great, and to the mind of any dispassionate reasoner is conclusive that the course of this great country is onward and upward, and that its credit will live unimpaired to the end."

RUSSIA AND THE RUSSIANS.

Bayard Taylor, Esq., late U. S. Charge des Affaires at St. Petersburg, is lecturing with applause on the subject of "Russia and the Russian People." His repeated visits and extensive travels in Russia, followed by two years of official residence at the Court, have given him extraordinary knowledge as to the true condition of that great empire; and he has looked at every thing with American eyes, and describes what he has seen in his usual graphic and straightforward style. It is not surprising that his representations differ very essentially from those we are accustomed to receive through French and English channels; the one always remembering the Napoleon campaign, and the other always foreboding the approach of the Russian frontier toward India. Mr. Taylor sees clearly the identity of the principles of reform adopted by the Emperor Alexander II. with those which underlie our own civilization, and which no other European nation has taken—viz: personal freedom, the ownership of land by the laborer, general education, and the protection of public justice. And these are to be carried out as fast as the people can bear them. In regard to Poland, Mr. Taylor states the facts in a clear manner; that the trouble was begun by the priests and petty nobles, who conspired to avail themselves of the embarrassments connected with the abolition of serfdom to create a reactionary revolution in the interest of France and the Pope; that the bulk of the people have never participated in the plot; that the so-called conscription at Warsaw was the consequence and not the cause of the conspiracy; that the alleged unanimity of the people is produced by a system of espionage and violence more atrocious, if possible, than that practiced by our slaveholders in Texas; and that the reconstruction of ancient Poland, after a century of foreign rule, is neither desirable nor possible.—*Independent.*

WHITTIER ON THE FREEDMEN.

John G. Whittier, the poet, sent a letter to William Lloyd Garrison, in answer to an invitation to attend the anti-slavery convention at Philadelphia, in which he said: "While we may well thank God and congratulate one another on the prospect of the speedy emancipation of the slaves of the United States, we must not for a moment forget that from this hour new and mighty responsibilities devolve upon us, to aid, direct and educate these millions, left free, indeed, but bewildered, ignorant, naked and foodless in the wild chaos of civil war. We have to undo the accumulated wrongs of two centuries; to remake the manhood that slavery has well nigh unmade; to see to it that the long oppressed colored race has a fair field for development and improvement, and to tread under our feet the last vestige of that hateful prejudice which has been the strongest external support of southern slavery. We must lift ourselves at once to the true Christian attitude, where all distinctions of black and white are overlooked in the heartfelt recognition of the brotherhood of man."

I must not close this letter without confessing that I cannot be sufficiently thankful to the Divine Providence, which, in a great measure, through thy instrumentality, turned me so early from what Roger Williams calls 'the world's great trinity, pleasure, profit and honor,' to take sides with the poor and oppressed. I am not insensible to literary reputation; I love, perhaps, too well, the praise and good will of my fellow-men; but I set a higher value on my name as appended to the Anti-Slavery Declaration of 1833 than on the title page of any book. Looking over a life marked by many errors and short comings, I rejoice that I have been able to maintain the pledge of that signature; and that, in the long intervening years,

"My voice, though not the loudest, has been heard.
 Where Freedom raised her cry of pain."

ALL VIRTUES IN LOVE OF GOD.

In the early ages of Christianity, there was little care taken to analyze character. One momentous question was heard over the whole world. Dost thou believe in the Lord with all thine heart? There was but one division among men,—the great untaught division between the disciple and the adversary. The love of Christ was all in all; and in proportion to the nearness of their memory of his person and teaching, men understood the infinity of the requirements of the moral law, and the manner in which alone it could be fulfilled. In their pure, early, and practical piety, the early Christians saw that there was no need of codes of morality or systems of metaphysics. Their virtue comprehended everything, entered into everything; it was too vast and too spiritual to be defined; but there was no need of its definition. And, therefore, when any of the apostles have occasion to describe or enumerate any form of vice or virtue by name, there is no attempt at system in their works. So, also, speaking of virtue, St. Paul gives up all attempt at definition; he leaves the definition to every man's heart, though he writes so as to mark the overflowing fullness of his own vision of virtue.—*Ruskin.*

THE NORTH AMERICAN.

The great literary event of the new year will be the appearance of the North American Review, under the editorial care of Mr. Lowell and Mr. Norton. Mr. Lowell is purely a literary man, of high tastes and aims. It is pleasant to find two men, like Mr. Lowell and Mr. Emerson, who do not rush into print on the slightest provocation, or without any provocation. When Lowell prints a poem, it is sure to be a good one, and his book of Fireside Travels has been promised two or three years and is not here yet. When it comes it will be fresh and new,—that is to those who have forgotten Putnam's Magazine, as almost everybody has. Mr. Norton is a gentleman of much ability and excellent taste and culture, who takes great interest in public affairs, and is more likely than Mr. Lowell to be on the right side. The North American cannot help being greatly improved under the new editors. Ticknor and Fields must look out, or the people will be more anxious to see the Quarterly and the Christian Examiner than the Atlantic.—*Springfield (Mass.) Republican.*

A CHICAGO MAN THUS RELATES HIS POLICE COURT EXPERIENCE:

"The next morning the judge of the police court sent for me. I went down, and he received me cordially. Said he had heard of the wonderful things I had accomplished and he was proud of me. I was a promising young man and all that. Then he offered a toast—'guilty or not guilty?' I responded in a brief and eloquent speech, setting forth the importance of the occasion that had brought us together. After the usual ceremonies I loaned the city ten dollars."

Four black regiments have been got of the abandoned slaves in our part of South Carolina. One volunteered, the rest were made up by conscription.

FROM ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORS.

In the field, near Evans'ford Clinch River, Clayburn County, East Tennessee.

Head Quarters of Division commanded by Col. Curtin of Pennsylvania, Dec., 14th, 1863.

Mr. Emerton—I have thought for some time that through the columns of your excellent paper I ought to give some account of my whereabouts and what we are doing; and were I not associated with entire strangers to our part of the State I doubtless should have felt that obligation stronger.

The Brigade consisting of four Indiana Regiments, to wit: the 115th, 116th, 117th and 118th, left Camp Nelson, Ky., about the 20th of September under command of Col. Mahan; we made a march through Crab Orchard, and Cumberland Gap, and struck the Richmond and Knoxville Rail Road at Morristown; we then proceeded up the Rail Road to Greenville, the village home of Gov. Johnson. This march of about two hundred and fifty miles was made with one slight interruption from the enemy; they made a stand near Bull's Gap, but were repulsed with very slight loss on our part. I never knew the loss of the enemy; it was much greater than ours however. The enemy retreating in great haste we were permitted to go on our way rejoicing.

We remained in camp at Greenville about a month, when we were ordered back to Cumberland Gap. I tell you, Mr. Editor, we have had the rebels on the go almost ever since we came into Tennessee; sometimes we were in the rear and sometimes they.

Longstreet after making nineteen unsuccessful attempts to gain admittance into Knoxville, has retired from that place, and no doubt has taken his position further up the Rail Road, changing his base from Bragg's army to Lee's. He seems determined if possible to baffle our efforts to rid East Tennessee of armed rebels. What success he may have remains to be determined. Our pickets are every day or two coming in contact with his advance guard. He made several attempts to cross Clinch River, but was repulsed by our forces and driven back across Clinch Mountain; and while I write, the heavy cannonading between Bean Station and Rogersville would indicate an attack in considerable force. We await at these Head-Quarters farther intelligence from the scene of action; (distant about ten miles.)

Gen. Burnside has just turned over the command of the department of Ohio to Gen. Foster. I do not know that this change will make any important difference in the general state of things here. We are confident that East Tennessee will soon be redeemed from the despotism which has ruled this people for more than two years.

The part of this State through which I have passed is exceedingly mountainous and rocky, and has been subjected to the destroying influence of contending and marching armies until it looks to me as though one hundred years could not repair the damage done to the country.

We have not done much fighting, but I think we served an important end in the great work in releasing this part of the State from rebel control.

I find warm friends and bitter enemies to the Federal Government here, but a large proportion of the citizens of this part of the State are like a blanket, warm on both sides alike.

Our supplies have a great part of the time been very short, less than one fourth rations; sometimes our men have gone for days without bread, and had it not been that we could forage corn to parch, boil and grind, we would have been forced to abandon our enterprise long ago it seems to me.

One said on a certain occasion "It is sweet to die for one's country," and I suppose it is in the same ratio sweet to suffer for one's country, but it would be difficult to make our boys realize the sentiment now. Perhaps they will when it is their privilege to rehearse their toils and their sufferings to their children and grand