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Editor and Proprietor.

Semi-Weekly News.

Volume 1. SHREVEPORT, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1865. Number 5.

Monroe doctrine, it did not become them to take from the administration the sinews of war. The Monroe doctrine was to be the principle of our enlightened people. He expressed the hope that the Southern and Northern armies might settle their difficulties, and then unite in putting down European encroachments on the American continent.

Blair's Mission a Trick.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Feb. 7.] When the first mission of Mr. Blair to this city was announced, and his certain arrival known, we could not understand its meaning nor explain its significance.

To suppose that the enemy was about to lower his demands, appeared preposterous, having refused to negotiate in 1862, when disastrous defeat had driven him from before Richmond, we could not suppose that Mr. Lincoln would treat for peace when his armies were victorious, at least in his opinion.

Mr. Blair came and returned, and the third time sent a written communication soliciting an interview and begging President Davis to appoint commissioners. It seemed impossible that an old man in the grand climacteric of life, was deliberately engaged in a work of deception, and practicing upon so grave and important a subject the low arts and contemptible tricks of a political partizan.

The war, which for four years has ravaged the country, had driven from the minds of a people the subtleties and deceptions of politicians, and filled them with more serious and honorable motives. Anxious desirous of peace, Mr. Blair was accepted as an honorable agent, seeking truthfully to bring about a lasting peace.

Deceived by his appearance, his pledges and his professions, the officers he made for Mr. Lincoln were responded to, and the three commissioners departed on what was believed by these people to be the most blessed mission upon which man ever started—the mission of peace, prosperity and happiness.

Mr. Blair was either the knave or the dupe of Mr. Seward, and played the shameful part either in ignorance of the designs of Seward, or he is a participator in the crime of having deceived his own Congress.

Everything may be fair in war, but there are some things that overreach the designs and purposes of their authors. Mr. Seward might have secured this amendment without deception, and fraud, for no matter how obtained, its adoption was honorable and important to the people of these States. But Mr. Seward has done a service.

Before he undertook to use the high and holy purpose of peace-making for the low and mean ends of party, the people of these States were somewhat divided. A portion of them believed that the enemy would yet give them honorable terms of peace, provided they agreed to reconstruct the Union, and under this belief there was a growing party, which insisted on negotiation.

An honorable and manly course on the part of Seward might have made that party dominant in these States, and ended the war with reconstruction. But his tricks and deception, his trifling with the sacred cause of peace, has undid the reconstructionists and taught them to believe with the rest of their fellow-citizens that faith and truth and honor are unknown to the authorities of the enemy.

—the want of concert and harmony is a disgrace alike to both. This is the honest opinion of the people.

They believe that Gen. Johnston should be restored, and they approve of what the Congress had done in this matter; they desire new men in the Cabinet, and to this extent have witnessed the President's reluctance to gratify their wishes, with sorrow and despondency. On the other hand, this Congress has seemed more intent in forcing the President to comply with its wishes, than on strengthening the army and supporting the cause.

We hope the President will seize upon the present time to gratify the wish of the army and people, with the restoration of Gen. Johnston. Whether right or wrong, wise or unwise, the wish and will of the people and army ought to be complied with, and, unless gratified, the cause must languish.

Fighting is now the sole business of this people—to it every thought should be turned, every energy directed. The solemn declaration of every kind of property in the State to the cause, is the first duty of the Legislature of Virginia. To call upon the people to give their gold and silver, their jewelry and plate, and the solemn dedication of all to the good of the cause and the carrying on of the war, followed by the pledge of the abolition of slavery and the conscription of negroes into the army, to work and to fight, is now the duty of the Legislature, and will be, we sincerely believe, the pleasure of the people.

Mr. Lincoln promises to be reasonably merciful; he will not shed unnecessary blood—not more than to make us—some in every ten for the gallows; so much he can promise. But as to reconstruction, that is the law of the land, and until repealed must be executed. That his people have a great debt, his soldiers deserve much at his hands, and while he would like to be merciful in the matter of property, justice to his soldiers will not permit him to hold out any great hope that much property can be spared to the people of these States.

Such are the prospects of peace. Think God that the prospects of war are much brighter—cannot be darker than those of peace. At most, we can only be killed in the fight, and that is not worse than Mr. Lincoln promises. Then war and light is to be our future work, and let us bravely in the hands of God until His wise Providence shall see good to bless us with its honorable attainment.

The Confederate Soldiers on the War.

From the Metropolitan Record of Feb. 11.

It is very evident that whatever peace sentiments there may be among a certain portion of the people of the Confederacy, the soldiers are determined to fight it out in the cause of independence and self-government. The Richmond papers devote a great portion of their space to the publication of resolutions adopted by a large number of regiments in the Confederate army, all of which are opposed to the efforts and policy of the so-called reconstructionists, and insist upon a separate nationality, based upon the will of the Southern people, and based upon that plane. As the settlement of the controversy is to a very great extent in their hands, it would be folly to ignore their action in the matter, or to imagine that as long as the Confederate armies remain intact they can be such a prey as subjugation successfully carried out.

The great fault of the North all along has been in not fully realizing the fact that it was fighting Americans—men who were born to freedom and who would shed "a nation's blood" before subjugation or submission. They are the true-born descendants of the men who wrested their independence from one of the greatest powers in the world, and we trust that the day will never come when they will be compelled to submit to the will of the conqueror. Let it be understood once for all that Americans cannot conquer Americans, and that, were it possible, it would not be de-

stricable. Had the South shown less manhood, less tenacity, less endurance, it would have become the prey of a party, that, despite its philanthropic professions, would have ruled it with a rod of iron; would, in a word have re-enacted here, on this continent the rule of Russia in Poland.

There never were braver men than the soldiers in the Confederate army, and as Americans we should feel proud of them—proud of their indomitable bravery, their unflinching resolution, and their heroic heroism. When this war is over, the Northern press, however it may have slighted them at times, will, we believe be ready and willing to testify to the high soldierly qualities to which we have referred.

The following resolutions, which were adopted by the Louisiana Brigade attached to the army of Northern Virginia, gives a pretty fair idea of the spirit that actuates the Confederate soldiers:

"That whatever has been our toils and sacrifices in the past, we count them as nothing in comparison with the objects for which we have labored and fought; and we are prepared to encounter yet greater, with cheerful hearts, rather than abandon the cause of liberty and our country.

Their in our opinion the greatest danger to our cause is to be found in the absence from the field of thousands of a belated young men, who, under the pretext of details, have been permitted to slack their first and largest duty of bearing arms, and who, seeking a shameful security from danger, are playing the craven part of enjoying freedom when it shall be won by those now in the field.

That while we condemn and despise the conduct of all such, we invite them to go with us into the coming campaign, and assist us by teaching our boastful enemy the oft-repeated lesson of history, that a nation fighting for its liberty, and loyal to itself, is unconquerable.

That those who desire peace on any terms, short of national independence, are slaves in spirit, and need only the chains which the oppressor is forging to be so in fact."

A Severe Savannah—Gen. Grant, commanding in Savannah, decided recently to erect a battery in the cemetery grounds, near the city. A correspondent says:

The feeling on the part of the Irish Catholics of this city, in regard to the desecration of their cemetery, is very great; and had not the order for the erection of the battery upon the cemetery grounds been rescinded, serious results would have ensued. As soon as they heard that work for the battery had been commenced, they rushed by hundreds to the cemetery, tore open graves with any implements they could procure, looked upon coffins, some of which had been deposited in the ground a few weeks or months only, and others as many years, and removed the remains to the conveyances they had brought with them. One woman, more excited than all, kept a dagger in her hand, and the coffin of her deceased husband, broke open the box, and one by one removed the parts of the skeleton, removing the hair from the skull, and the mould from the bones with her garments. Some of the bodies were fearfully decayed and emitted a dreadful stench, but still the work of desecration progressed until it was ascertained that the order for the erection of the battery had been countermanded.

The Houston News of the 17th inst. says:

A friend just from Matamoros, in whom we have great confidence, as he is not in the habit of circulating unfounded reports, gives us the following facts of a recognition report that had reached Matamoros just before he left. The chief of Gen. M. J. M. J. staff with whom our friend is well acquainted, and who is the commanding officer of Gen. M. J. staff, received by Gen. M. J. from the Emperor Maximilian, the effect that he (Maximilian) and the Government of Austria had determined definitely to recognize the Confederate States, and that England, France and Spain would in a short time join in the same measure.

The Chief of Staff was asked if he would not be willing to make a public statement of this to Gen. Slaughter. He replied that he could not do so officially, but that he would write a letter to Gen. Slaughter, stating the same semi-officially, and our informant says such a letter was written before he left. We have thus given the statement as we have received it, and our readers must judge for themselves whether it is worth anything. It is certainly the straightest recognition rumor we have heard.

Italy.

The text of the Franco-Italian Convention has been published. We give it here in full, seeing its importance not only in European politics, but in the history of the Papal system throughout the world:

ART. 1. Italy undertakes not to attack the present territory of the Pope, and even to prevent by force any attack proceeding from the exterior.

ART. 2. France will withdraw her troops gradually, as the army of the Pope becomes organized. The evacuation will, nevertheless, be accomplished within two years.

ART. 3. The Italian Government will make no protest against the organization of a Papal army, such composed of foreign Catholic volunteers, sufficient to maintain the authority of the Pope, and tranquility both at home and on the frontier of the Papal States; provided, however, that this force does not degenerate into a means of attack against the Italian Government.

ART. 4. Italy declares herself ready to enter into an arrangement for assuming a proportional part of the debt of the former State of the Church.

ART. 5. The present Convention will be ratified, and the ratification exchanged within a fortnight, or earlier if possible.

(Signed) DROUYN DE L'HUYS, PAPEA, PELLI.

A protocol following the Convention says:

The Convention will only become executive when the King of Italy shall have decreed the transfer of the capital of the Kingdom to a place to be subsequently determined upon by His Majesty. The transfer to be effected within a term of six months from the date of the Convention.

The present protocol will have the same force and value as the Convention, and the ratifications will be exchanged at the same time as those of the Convention.

The Pope is not by any means pleased with the treatment he receives from the new Convention. In the first place, he objects to the way in which he is disposed of, without a word of warning or consolation; in the next place, he does not believe that he is sufficiently protected, either from the Italians or from his own subjects; thirdly, he does not care to raise a large army for his own defence, when he can get it done cheaper and better by French or Austrians; and lastly, he does not like to be told even by M. Drouyn de L'Huys, that the principles of his government are absolute and inequitable.

Men watch the movements of the Papal Cabinet just now with increased curiosity. If should they refuse to take any notice of the Convention, and neglect to provide themselves with an army such as is suggested for them, it is hard to see what means the Emperor will have of coercing them, short of giving them up irrevocably to the tender mercies of the people which is the very end he most wishes.

Massini has published a letter on the subject of the Convention. The tone of it is such as we might naturally expect from him. He asserts that the key-stone of Italian independence is Rome for the metropolis, and that, therefore, the present Convention amounts to treason against Italy.

He puts the Ministry on the dilemma that either the terms of the Convention will be kept, in which case Italy is enslaved to the will of France or the terms will be broken, war will ensue, and the credit of Italy will be dealing destroyed. He exhorts the Italian Parliament to tear up the treaty and trust to the strength of twenty-two million of Italians. Finally, he says: "To-day, whilst yet we are free, we swear to make Italy with, without, or against the present government. If the Convention becomes a fact, accomplish the two first consequences are disposed of. Then we will try the third, happen what may."

It is gratifying to know that the great crop of Alabama, and that part of Mississippi not occupied by the enemy, is very large this season. We think from inquiry, that the yield is double this year what it was the last year in some counties of this State, and that the surplus of green pork at a dollar a pound. But for the failure of the crop, the price of the gold market, there was every promise of a decrease in the price of pork for both meat and bread. Rest, and a new commander, enjoying the confidence of the troops, and the country, will soon restore the morale of the Western army, and enable it to wipe out the misfortunes of the past, and bring fruitful victory once more to its standards.—Mobile Register.

Late from Richmond.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 23d, says the N. O. Delta, March 7, has an article urging the arming of negroes. It declares that the war was begun by the Gulf States in opposition to the wishes of the border States; that the Gulf States rejected their advice, and hurried Virginia and the other border States to bear the weight of a war they never desired.

After mentioning the ruin and devastation of the border States, it says that the tide is now rolling toward those States who made the fight, who affirm success or universal destruction, and who swore an oath. This oath has been broken, and they, by whom the first blow was struck, are the first to desert those whose breasts have thus far received the fury of the storm raised by others. On Monday the compact of mutual support was broken.

The bill to appropriate slaves so as to secure an honorable existence, was defeated in the Senate by the vote of the Gulf States, who had previously contributed their share to the common defense. The slaves must be given or we perish. They who watch the destinies of the State declare its wants and demand relief; the army demands that its depleted ranks shall be strengthened by more men of whatever color, and it seems impolitic to refuse an army like that which Lee commands.

The border States insist that such laws are necessary to save the State shall be passed, even though these laws affect the slaves in the South as the war has effected them on the border. Perhaps it would be well for the Gulf States to reconsider their vote. Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland and Kentucky will yet see that the people be not slaves, in order that the consequences of the war may not be felt on the Congaree and Pamlico.

The Senator urges the Senate to reconsider its action and pass the bill for arming negroes as the means of saving the country.

A letter published in Richmond from Gen. Lee, says the arming of negroes is not only efficient, but necessary as he does not think the white population can supply the necessities of a long war.

A letter to the Herald from the sixth army corps, the 22d, says that desertions state that several brigades of Hill's corps have gone south to reinforce Beauregard, and the whole of Lee's army is under marching orders.

Another letter dated the 24th, says that it is known that a considerable portion of Lee's army yesterday was ordered to take four days' cooked rations and prepare to carry a considerable quantity of ammunition on the person. More will probably be ascertained on Friday.

Additional precautions are being taken at City Point and other places for the proper reception of the rebel rans which are expected soon to make another attempt or a raid down the James river.

The 50,000 men now assembled under the Confederate flag west of the Mississippi, could if their force were properly directed, turn the scale of military success on this side of the river, entirely in our favor. Even 30,000 of them, allied to the veteran armies now confronting the Yankees, would make the issues of the war, we verily believe, absolutely certain.—We showed a few days ago, that the Confederacy possess still a physical resource to carry war on a scale of even greater magnitude than during the last three years. But these resources include the material of the Trans-Mississippi department; and the Trans-Mississippi department constitutes an integral part of the Confederacy. We might, to be sure, defend ourselves, and ultimately establish the independence of the country without calling for the assistance of our friends on that side of the river, but the effort would be tremendous and exhausting. Nor is there any need to subject ourselves to the calamitous possibilities attendant on such a system of defense, when we know we have at hand a force sufficient to relieve us of any such necessity. It is simply absurd in us to meet the enemy with only a part of our forces, when they have adopted the plan of concentration.

Important to Parents.

By a recent order from Gen. Smith, boys from 17 to 18 years of age are permitted to organize, and remain at school. A company is now forming at Vicksburg, Miss., under Captain Jas. T. Daniel, late of U. S. A.

Boys wishing to avail themselves of a year's instruction by an experienced faculty, will report at once.

Geo. R. C. Burdison, President. Rev. R. B. Burdison, Professor Natural Science.

J. T. Smith, Professor Mathematics. William H. Long, Professor Ancient Languages.

Geo. J. T. Daniel, Assistant and Instructor in Tactics. Address R. O. V. R. C. Burdison, President. Vicksburg, Miss., March 21, 1865.

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