THE SOUTHERN ÆGIS,

AND

HARFORD COUNTY INTELLIGENCER.

Devoted to the News of the Day, Agriculture, Literature, Politics and General Information.

"LET US CLING TO THE CONSTITUTION AS THE MARINER CLINGS TO THE LAST PLANK WHEN THE NIGHT AND TEMPEST CLOSE AROUND HIM."

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Poetical.

For the Southern Ægis.

TO ROBERT J. H * * * *

BY REULLURA.

It is my fate, why should I plead or pray,
That I may be so blest to stay near thee?
No, sad I go, my soul's friend, far away,
Upon the drifting tide of destiny.
I may not linger where thy smile's light, dear,
Would fall a sun beam on my saddened heart,
Nor where thy love would dry the falling tear—
No, for thy path and mine are far apart.

Could I but stay near thee, the arching skies
Would seem to smile, and light my destiny,
The sorrow shades would brighten, if thine eyes
In their dark beauty might speak to me.
But that thy spirit is attuned to mine,
And that thy friendship bless'd my saddened heart,
Is cause enough to turn my path from thine,
And break the interlacing links apart.

Some whom I love, in the sweet Sunny Land,
Abide in homes, far, far enough from me,
And others dwell where never clasping hand
Shall close o'er mine this side eternity;
Others are wanderers o'er the restless sea,
Mountains have sever'd, and the prairie wide,
Few are the faithful left, dear friend, like thee,
To linger some times by my lonely side.

But time nor absense can undo the chain
Cast round our spirits by the heart's decree,
And thus believing, half the bitter pain
Is lost in hope. Tho' I must part with thee,
I will walk on, and my heart's strength shall be
Derived from faith in God's love, and in thine.
Thy *pictured brow*, written with faith to me,
Shall speak thy spirit's friendship unto mine.

BALTIMORE, March 10th, 1862.

Miscellaneous.

For the Southern Ægis.

President Lincoln on Emancipation.

President Lincoln laid a Message before the two houses of Congress last week, in which he recommended their "honorable bodies" to adopt a joint resolution for the abolishment of "slavery" in the States, "giving each State pecuniary aid" to "compensate for inconveniences, public and private, produced by such a change."

In other words, he proposes that Congress shall *purchase* the negroes in the Slave States with the funds of the general Government.

This extraordinary recommendation is announced, he asserts, as being one of the most efficient means of preserving the "Union!" He explains:—"The leaders of the existing insurrection entertain the hope that this Government will ultimately be forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the disaffected region; and that all the Slave States north of such part will then say—the Union, for which we have struggled, being already gone, we now choose to go with the Southern section. To deprive them of this hope substantially ends the rebellion, and the initiation of emancipation completely deprives them of it, as to all the States initiating it."

It will be seen by the foregoing quotation, that the President makes three remarkable admissions, viz: 1. That the ultimate recognition of the independence of the Southern Confederacy on the part of the Federal Government, is within the range of *possibility*. 2. That in case the Confederate Government succeeds in sustaining itself against all efforts towards its submission, the Northern Slave States will say, (*and he thus recognizes their right to elect*): "We now choose to go with the Southern section." 3. That the purchase of the negroes in the States of Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, and in such others as may be willing to come into the Federal market, is "one of the most efficient means"—not to say the only means—of preserving, not the entire "Union," but the Union with the Border Slave States. Of course he intimates, in mysterious circumlocution, that the holding of the Northern Slave States by the Federal Government, will insure the return of the Confederate States to their "allegiance."

It appears to us a settled matter, that the Confederate States can expect no assistance from, at least, Maryland or Delaware, during the war, and but little aid from Kentucky; and if they succeed in maintaining their independence, without the help of these States, it will be a matter of indifference to the South afterwards, whether they join the Confederacy or not.

The President takes this occasion to remind Congress of an astute remark which his Excellency "thought fit" to make in his annual message in December last, viz: "The Union must be preserved, and *hence* all indispensable means must be employed." He now adds, for the information of the honorable recipients of his philosophical favors: "I said this, not hastily, but deliberately." And for the further enlightenment of our benighted representatives in Congress, he gravely adds: "A practical acknowledgment of the national authority would render the war unnecessary, and it would at once cease." Or, in fewer and in plainer words, if all parties would agree to quit fighting, "the war would at once cease!"

After having so far committed himself in the announcement last December, that "The Union must be preserved, and hence all *indispensable* means must be employed," the President finds it necessary to clear his skirts of the responsibility of a failure to make good the first part of his oracular announcement, by proposing the *dernier resort*, as regards the latter part, namely, by asking Congress, as an indispensable measure, to appropriate money from the Federal treasury to the purchase of the negroes. And in commendation of this expenditure, he very justly says that the current expenses of this war ($2,000,000 per diem) would soon purchase, at a fair valuation, all the slaves in any named State.

We were not prepared to receive the confessions contained in this message, from such a high source, at the present time; coming, as they do, upon the heels of the reputed great Federal victories of Roanoke Island and Fort Donelson; neither were we prepared to receive from that quarter such an unjustifiable and unexampled interference with State institutions. Even while making this extraordinary proposition, the President disclaims interference, and candidly acknowledges that he "sets up no claim of a *right*, by Federal authority, to interfere with slavery in State limits." This proposal to buy the slaves is undoubtedly an "interference;" and as the President assures us that the Federal Government has no "right" to interfere in this matter, we, as citizens of Maryland, very respectfully but firmly protest against any such action; and also suggest that the President and Congress confine themselves strictly to their legitimate duties, and leave to the States the conduct of their own internal affairs.

But even granting the premises assumed by the President, viz: that it is justifiable for the General Government to tempt the States with bribes to alter their constitutional institutions, we hold that the execution of the scheme, with any shadow of justice, is entirely impracticable. The President asks Congress to offer the States a sum of money (or, rather, Government *notes*,) to be named, in consideration that they (the States) will abolish slavery, (the normal condition of the negro,) by allowing the masters a certain pecuniary remuneration, the amount to be named by the purchaser. We make bold to say, that neither the Federal Government nor the State have any authority to legislate any kind of property out of the hands of its owners, without a full and *satisfactory* remuneration for the same. If this was not true, there would be but little need for government. Governments are instituted, primarily, for the protection of life and property; and the moment they are wielded for the destruction of either, that moment they become a curse instead of a blessing. Look at the difficulties that would be presented to an attempt to execute this proposition. The President recommends the payment of a certain sum to the *State*. How will the State determine whether the parties interested (the slave-holders) wish to take advantage of the offer made, or not? We suppose, by adopting the plan of taking the sense of *all* the voters in the State. The injustice of this proceeding is manifest. There are thousands of voters in this State who do not own any negroes at all, and some who own a few, of only nominal value, to say nothing of the hordes of abolition paupers, who might, in the course of a year or two, be introduced into the State, to vote on this question. These parties, who might be in the majority when the vote came to be taken, would thus have it in their power to defraud those who owned the valuable slaves, of millions of dollars. The vote of a man who was not worth one dollar, would go as far in deciding the one-sided bargain and sale, as that of the owner of fifty negroes. And it is not to be doubted that the new test of "*loyalty*" would also be applied; and, of course, all those who were too conscientious to forswear all the principles of truth and justice which have governed their course of life, would be deprived of their property, without compensation or redress.

Further argument on this point is unnecessary. The injustice and absurdity of the proposition must be apparent to every one.

How would they estimate the value of the negroes under such circumstances? It could not be done by the ordinary laws of supply and demand; because in this case the seller would be prohibited from replacing the property sold; and this consideration would of course greatly enhance its actual value. Who would sell a horse, for which he had use, for five times his value, as rated by the laws of trade, if, as a condition, he was obliged to bind himself never to own another horse? This view of the subject is undoubtedly to be considered.

If the Federal Government *must* step out of its well defined bounds to interfere with our negroes, the only way it can effect its object, with any show of justice or propriety, is to come fairly into market, like other dealers, and advertise for negroes as it does for its other wants, and state the conditions. We are very certain that if the Government will offer the owners what they believe to be the full value of their negroes, it will soon get them all; and it is equally certain that if it does not offer their value, it will not get them without a gross outrage on the rights of property.

The *Union-by-force* men in this State, who have become so infatuated with the cry of "Union," "the Flag," &c., as to have lost all sight of law and justice, are no doubt prepared to advocate any measure that Mr. Lincoln and his coadjutors may dictate; but Mr. Lincoln is very much mistaken if he supposes that the abolishment of slavery in this State, by whatever means, will exercise any conciliatory influence over those who now oppose, politically, the dogmas and acts of the aggressive party which he represents. It is an insult to our people to be told, from such a source, that our opposition to the Black Republican party arises from entirely selfish motives. At the same time it is an acknowledgment that the execution of the designs of his party requires a sacrifice of important property interests on the part of his opponents.

The President should know that there are thousands of persons in this State who never owned a negro, and who never expect to own one, who are yet uncompromising opposers of the interfering policy of his party—men who are influenced solely by the purest motives; who venerate the Constitution of the United States, as it has always been interpreted by the Supreme Court, (our only authority,) and who revered the "Union" so long as the principles of justice and equality, which gave origin to it, were recognized and respected by the leading contracting parties. The integrity of neither the slave-holders nor the non-slave-holders can be shaken by the pittance which Mr. Lincoln is prepared to offer.

Again, the President and Congress have no right to expend the people's (including Maryland's) money for any such purposes. They would have precisely the the same right to buy up any other kind of property in the State—say horses, for instance—and then prohibit the introduction of any more into the State.

The President is not warranted in asserting that slavery is the cause of secession. Such is not the fact. Our troubles are all to be attributed to the shamefully illegal and unconstitutionol action on the part of the Abolition-Republican party. For years after the abolition mania arose in the North, its ravings were scarcely heeded at the South. But finally these visionary and baneful doctrines of negro equality began to assume proportions which seriously threatened the peace and security of the Southern people. They protested, in the name of the Constitution, against such a violation of their rights. Their remonstrances, however, were not regarded, and eventually the South was compelled, by the instinct of self-protection, to sever its connection with the North, that section having cancelled the compact through its violation. Secession, then, is not an origiual aggressive action, in itself, as Mr. Lincoln and his supporters proclaim; but it is the legitimate and natural sequent of the Abolition doctrines of the North. Therefore, the entire responsibility of the present unhappy state of the country rests with the Northern majority.

If we were permitted to express our humble opinion as to the success of the policy that President Lincoln recommends in this message, as a means of "preserving the 'Union,'" we would say that we believe that it, like all his other projects for the same purpose, will signally fail.

F.

THE BROWN SILK DRESS.

"Why, Eliza, what a strange choice for a wedding dress! your other dresses are in very good style, and you have plenty of them, considering the changes of fashion—but a brown silk to be married in! what a fancy for a girl of eighteen!"

"'Tis true, my aunt, that my choice seems somewhat sombre, but you know very well that I am about to become the wife of a poor mechanic, who depends upon his daily labor for support. As the wife of such a man I have thought it better to purchase something which would be useful for some time, than to consult my appearance as a splendid bride for one short evening, especially as I am to see no strangers."

"There *is* something in that. There is my Maria's wedding dress. She will never wear it again in the world. She had a white satin with a lace dress over it. Oh! she did look beautiful! I do admire a handsome bride."

"Yes, it is very well for those who can afford it. But it would be quite absurd for me to purchase an expensive dress for a few evenings, when by the expenditure of half the money, I can purchase that which will be more servicable for years.—But come, put on your bonnet and step over to our new house. It is all furnished, at least all that is finished. I value it more highly than I should if it was not so near to my mother's."

"There, William has left this small parlor, this sitting room, and three chambers to finish at his leisure, when he is out of employment. See how everything is arranged, so handy for my work."

"You don't say you are going to do your own work."

"Certainly I do. There is only one apprentice, and I should think it strange if I could not do it with ease."

"My heart! What strange fancies you have to be sure! It is well enough if you can bring your mind to it, but the folks do differently now-a-days. There is my Maria; she has moved into an elegant house, all furnished from top to bottom. She keeps a great girl to do the work, and a little one to wait and tend. Oh, things do go on beautifully, I promise you."

"Her husband is a young lawyer, is he not?—is he wealthy?"

"Oh, he is very well off. He does not get much practice as yet, but I dare say he will in time. He has a thousand dollars at interest—besides, Maria never would have married a mechanic—their hands get so hard and black, and their complexions get brown. I wouldn't wish to hurt your feelings, but I do think for pride's sake, for the sake of the family, you might have made a different choice."

"Oh, aunt—excuse my laughing, but I have yet to learn that a man's honest occupation, whether it produces hard hands or soft, white hands—whether it gives the cheek a brown or pale hue, is any disparagement to him. You must get acquainted with William and hear him converse. You will not think of his hard hands, and his animated, intelligent countenance will drive his bronzed skin out of your head. But come, you don't say anything about my furniture, and you must see my nice closets."

"Oh, your furniture is well enough—The less you have, the less you will have to take care of, you know."

"Yes, we could not get much furniture. I insisted upon William taking the money which my grandfather left me to pay off a few hundred dollars which he owed for the place, in order to make us begin even in the world. We have both such a horror of debt that we are determined never to incur any if we can help it. See what a nice press for bed clothes this is."

"Why, what a quantity of bed and table linen, it is really nice, too. You have more than Maria had, I declare!"

"Yes, I always want an abundance of such things. This drawer is filled with towels, this is for my ironing sheets and blankets, and this closet contains my tin and wooden ware."

"I declare, Eliza, you are a strange, thoughtful child. I must tell you one thing about Maria, that made us have a good hearty laugh. The Monday morning after she was married, the girl came to ask her where the tubs were, and don't you think the child had actually forgotten to buy a tub, clothes line or pins! She said it had never popped into her head.—But ah! it wasn't strange, she had never been used to anything of the kind."

"I believe, aunt, I have shown you all now. We will go if you please. I hope you will not let my brown dress or William's brown hands frighten you away, this evening."

"Oh, no! but as I must take the stage for Maria's early in the morning, you must allow me to retire early."

* * * * *

"What fellows these Yankees are for combining elegance and usefulness," said a Southern gentleman to himself, as he stood on the piazza of the hotel of the town of ——. "Sir," said he, addressing himself to a venerable looking man near him, "can you tell me who resides in that elegant cottage, where the grounds are laid out with so much taste?"

"Oh, that is 'Squire Bill Thorndike's. You must be a stranger in these parts, not to know *him*."

"I am, sir; since he seems such a prominent member of society, I should like to know something of his history."

"Oh, there is nothing remarkable in it, at all, sir. His father was a man of great learning, but he nearly ran through a fortune trying to live in style. He died, and left three boys. Their mother, who left this place, was a woman of strong sense. She sold the property, paid off all the old debts, and had enough left to buy that little house on the left. It has but two rooms, and there is a garden attached to it. Here she put her boys out to trades. One to a mason, one to a wheelwright, and Bill to a carpenter. Bill staid, however. He married the Widow Perry's daughter. She was a right good scholar, and she made an excellent wife. They have got along wonderfully. Everybody wondered how it was. He did not make better wages than other men, but somehow the money increased. It was no mystery to me, though, for I watched them pretty sharp.

"You never saw any display of finery, such as laces, flounces and furbelows; you never saw him, before he kept a horse, riding much for pleasure. No; they both pulled one way, and took their pleasure in being sober, industrious and useful, and now they reap their reward in being universally respected. Why, there ain't a man that has so much money to let as 'Squire Thorndike, and he is never hard and screwing about it, as some are. He has taken the two children of one lawyer Willis, to bring up, and he does by them as he does by his own. Lawyer Willis' wife was a kind of cousin to 'Squire Thorndike's wife. She was a dashy, showy gal. You'd have thought the richest folks upon earth were married, when they had the knot tied. Poor fellow, he had a hard time notwithstanding, to support his lady wife in style. He took to drink and died. I have heard say that she rather turned up her nose at her cousin's match, but she little thought her boys would be glad to go to that same cousin for a home, while she would be glad to take up with the little house that 'Squire Thorndike's mother lived in."

"Ah, sir," continued the old man, "this is a changing world; but to my mind, if people would be a little more prudent and industrious, and give up hankering after things beyond their means, there would be more real good done in the world, and few changes."

RIPE OLD WINE.—Wine, called Valerio, two thousand years old, has been dug out of the ruins of Pompeii.

☞ A change of fortune hurts a wise man no more than a change in the moon.