

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Returning to the House of Representatives a Bill Entitled "An Act to Provide for the More Efficient Government of the Rebel States."

To the House of Representatives: I have examined the bill to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States with the care and anxiety which its transcendent importance calculated to awaken.

The bill places all the people of the ten States therein named under the absolute domination of military rulers; and the preamble undertakes to give the reason upon which the measure is based, and declares that there exists in those States no legal governments, and no adequate protection for life or property, and asserts the necessity of enforcing peace and good order within their limits.

It is not denied that the States in question consist of them an actual government, with all the powers, executive, judicial, and legislative, which property belong to a free State. They are organized like the other States of the Union, and like them, they make, administer, and execute the laws which concern their domestic affairs.

The provisions which these Governments have made for the preservation of order, the suppression of crime, and the redress of private injuries, and in substance and principle the same as those which prevail in the Northern States and in other civilized countries. They certainly have not succeeded in preventing the commission of all crime, nor has this been accomplished anywhere in the world.

The bill, however, would seem to show upon its face that the establishment of peace and good order is not its real object. The fifth section declares that the preceding sections shall cease to operate in any State where certain events shall have happened. These events are: first, the selection of delegates to a State Convention by an election at which negroes shall be allowed to vote.

It may be answered to this that the object of the bill is to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States, and that the bill itself is not to be real. The military rule which it establishes is plainly to be used—not for any purpose of order or for the prevention of crime, but solely as a means of coercing the people into the adoption of principles and measures to which it is known that they are opposed, and upon which they have a undeniable right to exercise their own judgment.

I submit to Congress whether this measure is not, in its whole character, scope and object, without precedent and without authority, in palpable conflict with the plainest provisions of the constitution, and utterly destructive to those great principles of liberty and humanity for which our ancestors on both sides of the Atlantic have shed so much blood and expended so much treasure.

may seem proper. It places at his free disposal all the lands and goods in his district, and he may distribute them without let or hindrance to whom he pleases. Being bound by no State law, and there being no other law to regulate the subject, he may make a criminal code of his own; and he may make it as bloody as any recorded in history, or he may reserve the privilege of acting upon the impulse of his private passions in each case that arises.

To a casual reader of the bill, it might seem that some kind of trial was secured by it to persons accused of crime; but such is not the case. The officer "may allow local or civil tribunals to try offenders," but of course this does not require that he shall do so.

It is also provided that "he shall have power to organize military commissions to try offenders, and to punish them without trial, and if so pleased, prescribe its mode of proceeding, appoint its members from among his own subordinates and revise all its decisions. Instead of mitigating the harshness of his single rule, such a tribunal would be used much more probably to divide the responsibility of making it more cruel and unjust than the law itself.

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I come now to a question which is, if possible, still more important. Have we the power to establish and carry into execution a measure like this? I answer, certainly not, if we derive our authority from the Constitution, and if we are bound by the limitations which it imposes.

This proposition is perfectly clear—the non-franchise of the Federal Government, executive, legislative, or judicial, can have any just powers, except those which it derives through and exercises under the organic law of the Union. Outside of the Constitution, we have no legal authority more than private citizens, and within it we have only such as that instrument gives us.

Some persons assume that the success of our arms in crushing the opposition which was made in some of the States to the execution of the Federal laws, reduced those States and all their people—the innocent as well as the guilty—to the condition of vassalage, and gave us power over them which the Constitution does not bestow, or define or limit.

This is a bill passed by Congress in time of peace. There is not in any one of the States brought under its operation either war or insurrection. The laws of the States and of the Federal Government are all in and undisturbed and harmoniously operating. The courts of the States are open, and in the full exercise of their proper authority. Over every State committed in these five military districts, liberty and property are secured by State laws and Federal laws, and the national constitution is everywhere in force and everywhere obeyed.

I need not say to the Representatives of the American people that their Constitution forbids the exercise of judicial power in any way but one—that is by the ordained and established courts. It is equally well known that in all criminal cases a trial by jury is made indispensable by the expressed words of the Federal law. I will not enlarge on the insupportable value of the right thus secured by every freeman, or speak of the danger to public liberty in all parts of the country which must ensue from a denial of it anywhere or upon any pretense.

It is the first place, it is the only system of free government which we can hope to have as a nation. When it ceases to be the rule of our conduct, we may perhaps take our choice between complete anarchy, a consolidated despotism, and a total dissolution of the Union; but national liberty, regulated by law, will have passed beyond our reach.

It was to punish the gross crime of defying the constitution, and to vindicate its supreme authority, that we carried on a bloody war of four years duration. Shall we now acknowledge that we sacrificed a million of lives, and that we sacrificed ourselves and our posterity? These great ends have been attained here, and will be again, by faithful obedience to it, but they are certain to be lost if we treat with disregard its sacred obligation.

The United States are bound to guarantee to each State a republican form of government. Can it be pretended that this obligation is not fully broken if we carry out a measure like this, which wipe away every vestige of republican government in ten States and puts the life, property, liberty and honor of all the people in each of them under the domination of a single person clothed with unlimited authority?

The Parliament of England, exercising the omnipotent power which it claimed, was accustomed to pass bills of attainder; that is to say, it would convict men of treason and other crimes by legislative enactment. The person accused had a hearing, sometimes a patient and fair one; but generally a party prejudice prevailed instead of justice.

This bill imposes martial law at once, and its operations will begin so soon as the General and his troops can be put in place. The dread alternative between its harsh rule and compliance in a proscribed way, neither lacks nor whines can be removed from the citizenry which the bill imposes upon them. Without pausing here to consider the policy or impolicy of Africanizing the Southern part of our territory, I would simply ask the attention of Congress to that manifest, well known and universally acknowledged principle of constitutional law, which declares that the Federal Government has no jurisdiction, authority or power to regulate such subjects of any State.

The bill also denies the legality of the government of ten of the States which participated in the ratification of the amendment to the Federal Constitution abolishing slavery forever within the jurisdiction of the United States, and practically excludes them from the Union. If this assumption of the bill be correct, their concurrence can not be considered as having been legally given, and the important fact is made to appear that the consent of three-fourths of the States—the requisite number—has not been constitutionally obtained to the ratification of that amendment, thus leaving the question of slavery where it is by the original instrument was officially declared to have become a part of the Constitution.

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WASHINGTON, March 2d, 1867.

Local and Miscellaneous.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH! ICE BLOCKADE RAISED!!

Communication opened between TARBORO' and the outside WORLD. JUST ARRIVED AND CONSTANTLY RECEIVING CHOICE SELECTIONS OF DRY Groods, White Goods, HOSIERY, Ready Made Clothing, GROCERIES, HARDWARE, CROCKERY.

BOOTS AND SHOES of all descriptions. Hats, Caps, &c., AT THE NEW STORE, OPPOSITE THE COURT HOUSE.

COME AND SEE. DON'T FORGET THE PLACE. NEW STORE, Opposite the Court House. OUR TERMS ARE STRICTLY Cash in Hand. SMITH & WILLIAMS. Tarboro', N. C., Feb. 7. 10-11

A SPENDID HOME! WORTH \$5,000 FOR FIVE DOLLARS!

One Thousand Chances, \$5 Each. GRAND DRAWING! On Wednesday Evening, 20th March, 1867.

Court House in Wilson, N. C. Some Person must Draw the House!

THE SPLENDID RESIDENCE ON Nash Street, in Wilson, N. C., belonging to Mr. H. Blount, valued at \$5,000 and well worth this amount, being finely located and all necessary conveniences pertaining to a dwelling house, will be drawn for on Wednesday, 20th March, 1867.

The drawing will be conducted in the following manner, viz: One thousand tickets, numbered from 1 to 1000 and registered, will be deposited in a close box and the tickets well shaken together by a disinterested boy; another boy blindfolded and selected by those interested, will place his hand into a small opening in the box and draw therefrom only one ticket, the holder and owner of the corresponding number on the ticket drawn will be the lucky winner of a Five Thousand Dollar House.

Tickets for sale by L. J. LABARBE, Exclusive Agent. Persons can select any number they choose from one to one thousand. On receipt of Five Dollars I will send a ticket by mail to any person, at my risk. L. J. LABARBE. Good legal title given to the successful person. Feb. 14, 11-12

TARBORO' & WILSON. SPECIAL NOTICE, February, 1867.

NEW BOOTS & SHOES, HATS, CALICOES, DOMESTICS, WHITE GOODS, FANCY GOODS, &c., &c.

I AM RECEIVING NEW AND SEASONABLE GOODS EVERY MONDAY AND FRIDAY, by Express, and am selling them at VERY LITTLE OVER EXPENSES. E. ROSENTHAL. Feb. 14, 1867. 11-12m

To the Citizens of Edgecombe and Surrounding Counties. WE THE UNDERSIGNED, WHO have this 1st day of January, 1867, entered into a co-partnership for the purpose of carrying on the Printing Business, most respectfully ask your attention to the following:

Fire Works of Every Description. In fact every Article usually kept in a First Class Confectionary. He is also prepared to furnish at the shortest notice any article in any quantity, for Balls, Parties, Pic Nics, &c. CALL AT THE POST OFFICE. dec 13, 3-4

LET CHARITY BEGIN AT HOME. A S COMPETITION IS AGAINST ME, and critics threaten me on every side, I must thank my customers and the citizens of Edgecombe and adjoining counties for the liberal patronage which has heretofore been extended to me, and hope I may (by strict attention to business) still continue to merit their favors. I am still carrying on my BARBERING at the old Stand under the Edgecombe House, and am prepared to do all work entrusted to me with neatness and the very best style. I will not promise to do work better and cheaper than any other barber, but all I ask is to give me a trial, and I feel confident that I can please all. JAMES E. SIMONSON, Barber, Shop under the Edgecombe House, Feb. 20th 1867. 12-14

FERTILIZERS. PRO BONO PUBLICO!

THE ATTENTION OF ALL SUFFERERS IS INVITED TO THE ANTI-MALARIAL BITTERS!

A SURE REMEDY IS HERE PRESENTED to the public for INTERMITTENT FEVER, (Chills and Fever,) and all diseases arising from malarial poisoning. It is now a well ascertained fact that nearly every derangement of the human system, common in Malarial Districts, is to a greater or less extent, dependent upon malarial poisoning; consequently, any medicinal agent that will serve as a specific against this poisoning, must strike at the root of the disease which is fostered and developed through its instrumentality.

THE ANTI-MALARIAL BITTERS is an entirely original compound, having superiority over other remedies from the mode of combining the medicinal agents.

THIS MEDICINE has been extensively used, and up to the present time, has in no instance failed to give the most unqualified satisfaction.

IF THE DIRECTIONS ARE STRICTLY FOLLOWED, no case of Intermittent Fever, (Chills and Fever,) of no matter of how long standing or no matter of degree of obstinacy, will fail to succumb to the use of these Bitters.

As a TONIC and PROPRIOLACTIC, the remedy is without equal. Severe cases of Indigestion, Derangements of Absorption and Assimilation, Biliousness, Uneasiness, Distension, Weight and Pain in the region of the Stomach, Loss of Appetite, Lassitude, Muscular and General Debility, Disturbed Circulation, Loss of Blood, Syncope, Nervous Irritability, Mental Depression, &c., occurring in a Malarial District, or in a patient who has spent some time where Chills and Fever prevail, will readily yield to the use of this unequalled medicine.

Our own confidence in the merits of these Bitters, added to a testimony universal in the case of sufferers who have used them, and accorded to the remedy their unqualified approval, has induced us, at very large expense, to secure the SOLE RIGHT to manufacture this article from the original recipe; which recipe has been experimented upon, and satisfactorily proven to be superior to any compound, in the treatment of the above mentioned diseases, by one of the most learned physicians in the United States. D. T. EVERTS & CO., Petersburg, Va.

READ THE FOLLOWING FROM AMONG THE MANY CERTIFICATES RECEIVED BY US: FORD'S DEPOT, Va., Nov. 29, 1866.

I hereby certify that I had been suffering for over two weeks, from severe attacks of Chills and Fever, for which I had taken medicine and gained but temporary relief—the Chills coming on again in a few days. The Anti-Malarial Bitters were recommended to me, and I commenced taking them at once, the use of which was marked by immediate and certain relief from Intermittent Fever, (Fever and Ague,) as a certain cure. A. S. VALDEN.

NEAR FLY CLIFFTON, Va., Nov. 29, 1866. Dear Sir—Having a severe attack of Chills, contracted on the lower Appomattox River, I tried your Anti-Malarial Bitters, and in a week was relieved entirely from them. I cheerfully recommend it to those who are bothered with this disease. Respectfully and truly yours, E. HUGEE.

D. T. EVERTS, Petersburg, Va. D. T. EVERTS, Petersburg, Va.—Having been induced to try your valuable medicine in a severe case of Ague and Fever, contracted on the Appomattox River, it gives me great pleasure to state that it gave me entire relief almost instantaneously, after suffering some months and trying various doctors and remedies. I will here recommend all who are suffering from the above, to give it a fair trial. Respectfully yours, JOHN WYTHE PARKS, Feb. 23, 1867. Norfolk, Va.

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!! A NEW AND SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF CONFECTIONARIES, JUST RECEIVED AT J. M. SPRAGGINS', AT THE POST OFFICE. Candies, Nuts, Fruits, Sauces, Pickles, Cake, Crackers, Cans, Fruits, Lobsters, Oysters, Lemons, Oranges, Cigars, Tobacco, &c., &c.

Fire Works of Every Description. In fact every Article usually kept in a First Class Confectionary. He is also prepared to furnish at the shortest notice any article in any quantity, for Balls, Parties, Pic Nics, &c. CALL AT THE POST OFFICE. dec 13, 3-4

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