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The Rutland Herald.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER ...

THE EMANCIPATION POLICY.

In our article of yesterday, we maintained that the Republican Party has never assumed a position of antagonism to what are sometimes called the *compromises* of the Constitution in respect to slavery. We insisted that it holds, and has always held, that Congress has no Constitutional power to interfere with or control the local institutions of the respective States, and that the charges made by their mendacious opponents that they are "Abolitionists," in the offensive sense of the term, are malignantly false; false, as shown by the Chicago Platform, and by the uniform action of the Republican Party in Congress.

But our article was merely introductory to another phase of the general subject of slavery. We mean the relations to the institution imposed upon the government and people, and particularly upon the Army, by the rebellion. Had the Southern States remained loyal there was no danger to their institution to be apprehended from Republican interference. But having thrown off their allegiance to the Constitution, and precipitated the country into a fearful war, which menaces its very existence, it it shall become necessary in the progress of that war, to crush the institution between the upper and nether mill-stones of our power, in order to preserve the Union, we are fully prepared to welcome and endorse such a policy. And in saying this, we are not chargable with inconsistency. For while we maintain in common with the great Republican Party, that under the Constitution, Congress has no power to interfere with, much less to abrogate, the relation of master and slave, in the slave States, it is a far different question as to how far the institution is put beyond the pale of protection by the rebellion of those States where property in slaves exists. There are but few who will deny, that by the usages of war, slave property may be confiscated like any other, and even military necessity may render it expedient to arm the slaves in the cause of the Union. This right is derived not expressly from the Constitution itself, but from the laws of war, which, without being inconsistent with the Constitution, nevertheless are above it for the time being, or in other words, hold it in abeyance.

The distinction we are endeavoring to explain is embodied and fully expressed in one of the Resolutions introduced into Congress on Monday last by Mr. Eliot, Republican, of Mass., as follows:

"Resolved, That while we disclaim ALL POWER UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO INTERFERE, BY ORDINARY LEGISLATION with the institutions of the several States, yet the war now existing must be conducted according to the USAGES AND RIGHTS OF MILITARY SERVICE, and during its continuance the recognized authority of the maxim that the safety of the State is the highest law and DOMINATES OVER RIGHTS OF PROPERTY AND CIVIL RELATIONS, must prevail."

Fully concuring in the doctrine embodied in the above resolution, we are prepared, to concede as declared in the resolution of Mr. Eliot next following the foregoing, that the President, as Commander-in-Chief, has the *right* to emancipate all slaves, at least of rebel masters, in any military district in a state of insurrection against the national government. But as to the propriety of Congress advising that a proclamation of emancipation be made by the President, we entertain, at present, some doubt, and we are glad to see that Congress are not disposed to act hastily in the premises.

DEDICATION.—The new house of worship erected by the Baptist church in Colchester, Vt., will be dedicated to the worship of God on Thursday, the fifth of December next. Rev. Dr. Foster of Burlington has been invited to preach the sermon. The services will commence at 11 o'clock in the morning. Rev. Mr. Dunn and Pres. Upham, of Fairfax, are also expected to preach in the evening of the 5th, and on the following day.

—On Friday last, Henry E. Luce, a son of E. S. Luce of Stowe, a lad aged about sixteen years, fell from a wagon load of timber and the wheel ran over his head, killing him.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In the midst of unprecedented political troubles we have cause for great gratitude to God for unusual

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

all good health and most abundant harvests. You will not be surprised to learn that in the peculiar exigences of the times our inter course with foreign nations has been attended with profound solicitude, chiefly turning upon our own domestic affairs. A disloyal portion of the American people have during the whole year been engaged in an attempt to divide and destroy the Union. A nation which endures factious domestic divisions is exposed to disrespect abroad, and one party, if not both, is sure sooner or later to invoke foreign intervention. Nations thus tempted to interfere are not always able to resist the counsels of seeming expediency and ungenerous ambition, although measures adopted under such influences seldom fail to be injurious to those adopting them. The disloyal citizens of the United States who have ordered the ruin of our country in return for aid and comfort which they have invoked abroad have received less, at once and encouragement than they probably expected. If it were just to suppose, as insurgents have seemed to assume, that foreign nations in this case, disclaiming all moral, social and treaty obligations, would act solely and selfishly for most speedy restoration of commerce, including especially acquisition of cotton, those nations appear as yet not to have seen their way to their object more directly or clearly through the destruction than through the preservation of the Union. If we could dare to believe that foreign nations are actuated by no higher principle than this, I am quite sure a second argument could be made to show them that they can reach their ends more readily and easily by aiding to crush this rebellion than by giving encouragement to it. The principal lever relied on by insurgents for exciting foreign nations to hostility against us, as already intimated, is the embarrassment of commerce. Those nations, however, not ingeniously, saw from the first that it was Union which made as well our foreign as our domestic commerce. They can scarcely have failed to perceive that effort for disunion, produces the existing difficult, and one strong nation promises more durable peace and a more extensive, valuable and reliable commerce than can the same nation broken into hostile fragments. It is not my purpose to review our discussions with foreign nations because, whatever might be their wishes or disposition, the integrity of our country, and the stability of our government mainly depends, not upon them, but upon the loyalty, virtue, patriotism and intelligence of the American people.

The correspondence itself, with usual reservations, is herewith submitted. I venture to hope it will appear that we have practiced prudence and moderation towards foreign powers, averting causes of irritation, and with firmness maintaining our own rights and honor.

COAST DEFENSES.

Since, however, it is apparent that here, as in every other State, foreign dangers necessarily attend domestic difficulties, I recommend that adequate and ample measures be adopted for maintaining the public defences on every side. While under this general recommendation the provision for retaining our coast line readily occurs, I deem it my duty, in connection, to ask attention to that portion of our country bordering on the Lakes and rivers. It is believed that our experience in the present difficulties will render the changed relative situation of the parties more apparent, and that proper provision for those exposed localities will be found to be easy and inexpensive.

CLAIMS AGAINST CHINA.

Despite the feeling excited by the passage of the act of Congress for the collection of claims against China, by reason of imposing the costs of suit upon the claimants, I am happy to inform you that the Chinese Government, in the case of the Lorcha Arrow, has promptly responded to the demand made upon it, and that the money awarded by the commissioners appointed under the act has been paid into the Treasury of the United States. The copies of the correspondence on this subject, which will be communicated to you, disclose the fact that the Chinese Government, in the case of the Arrow, has not only done us prompt justice, but has also given evidence of its friendship for the United States, which, I trust, may be found to be lasting and valuable. Our Minister and Consul at Shanghai, Mr. Seward, has rendered important services to the Government and people of China, in the organization of a force to defend the city of Shanghai against the rebels who have recently threatened it with capture. The judicious interposition of Mr. Seward, and the forces under the command of Major Gordon, of the British army, have, for the present, relieved the city from danger. Our relations with China are entirely friendly.

PIRACY.

By act of 5th of August last, Congress authorized the President to instruct the commanders of suitable vessels to defend themselves against, and to capture pirates. This authority has been exercised in a single instance only. For the more effectual protection of our extensive and valuable commerce, in eastern seas especially, it seems to me that it would also be advisable to authorize the commanders of sailing vessels to recapture any prizes which the pirates may make of United States vessels and cargo, and consular courts, established by law, in eastern countries, to adjudicate the cases, in the event that this should not be objected to by local authorities.

HAYTI AND LIBERIA.

If any good reason exists why we should preserve longer the policy of withholding our recognition of the independence and sovereignty of Hayti and Liberia, I am unable to discern it. Unwilling, however, to inaugurate a novel policy in regard to them without the approbation of Congress, I submit for your consideration the expediency of an appropriation for maintaining a charge d'affaires near each of these new states. It does not admit of doubt, that important commercial advantages might be secured by favorable treaties with them.

TREASURY.

The operations of the Treasury during the period which has elapsed since your adjournment, have been conducted with signal success. The patriotism of the people has placed at the disposal of the Government the large means demanded by the public exigencies. Much of the national loan has been taken by citizens of the industrial classes, whose confidence in their country's faith, and zeal for their country's deliverance from its present peril, have induced them to contribute to the support of the Government the whole of their limited acquisitions. This fact imposes peculiar obligations to economy in disbursement and energy in action.

REVENUE.

The revenue from all sources, including loans for the financial year ending on the 30th June 1861, was eighty-six millions eight hundred and thirty-five thousand nine hundred dollars and twenty-seven cents, and the expenditures for the same period including payments on account of public debts were eighty-four millions, five hundred and seventy-eight thousand and thirty-four dollars and forty-seven cents, leaving a balance in the Treasury on the 1st July, of $2,257,065 80. For the first quarter of the financial year ending on the 30th of September 1861, the receipts from all sources including the balance of July 1st were one hundred and two million five hundred and thirty-two thousand five hundred and nine dollars and twenty-seven cents, and the expenses ninety-eight millions two hundred and thirty-nine thousand seven hundred and thirty-three dollars and nine cents, leaving a balance on the 1st of October 1861 of four millions two hundred and twenty thousand seven hundred and seventy-six dollars and [illegible] cents. Estimates for the remaining three quarters of the year and for the [illegible] together with all the views of the Secretary are [illegible] means for meeting demands contemplated by them will be submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury. It is gratifying to know that the expenditures made necessary by rebellion are not beyond the resources of the loyal people and to believe that the patriotism which has thus far sustained the government, will continue to sustain it till peace and Union shall again bless the land.

THE ARMY.

I respectfully refer to the report of the Secretary of War for information respecting numerical strength of the army and for recommendations having in view an increase of its efficiency and well being of the various branches of the service entrusted to his care. It is gratifying to know that the patriotism of the people has proved equal to the occasion, and that the number of troops tendered greatly exceeds the force which Congress authorized me to call into the field. I refer with pleasure to those portions of his report which make allusion to the creditable degree of discipline already attained by our troops, and to the excellent sanitary condition of the entire army. The recommendations of the Secretary for an organization of militia upon a uniform basis is a subject of vital importance to the future safety of the country and is commended to the serious attention of Congress. The large addition to the regular army in connection with the defection that has so considerably diminished the number of its officers, gives peculiar importance to his recommendation for increasing the corps of cadets to the greatest capacity of the military academy. By mere omission I presume Congress has failed to provide chaplains for hospitals occupied by volunteers. This subject was brought to my notice and I was induced to draw up a form of a letter, one copy of which properly addressed, has been delivered to each of the persons and at dates respectively named and stated in a schedule, containing also a form of a letter marked A. and herewith transmitted. These gentlemen I understand entered upon duties designated at times respectively stated in schedule and have labored faithfully therein ever since. I therefore recommend that they be compensated at some rate as chaplains in the army. I further suggest that general provision be made for chaplains to serve at hospitals as welfare with regiments.

THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents in detail he operations of that branch of the service, the activity and energy which have characterized its administration and to it I refer with confidence as the navy and power of which has been the additions by construction and purchase I say it may almost be said has been created during the present year. Besides maintaining our blockade unbroken along the coasts of the Atlantic and Gulf, and in the Gulf of Mexico, the navy has penetrated the Southern rivers with deadly effect, and demolished many batteries and other works erected for the defence of the insurgents. The flotilla of gunboats, especially adapted to the object in hand, has been found to be of great importance, and the events of the present month have increased our confidence in it. I would invite special attention to the recommendations of the Secretary for a more perfect organization of the Navy by introducing additional grades in the service. The present organization is defective, and inadequate for the service required of it in the present extraordinary situation of affairs. The Secretary's views in detail are recommended to your careful consideration. Since the commencement of the present difficulties, the Department has been called upon to provide for the construction of a number of vessels of peculiar models, and the judicious adaptation of the plans submitted to the necessities of the service, has been secured by the employment of competent persons to make the examination. The Secretary has also taken measures to procure the best models of foreign vessels of war, and has now in the Department the draughts of the most perfect vessels in the English navy. The information thus obtained will be found of great value in the present state of naval affairs throughout the world. I refer with pleasure to the creditable degree of discipline already attained by our officers and men, and to the excellent sanitary condition of the entire service. The recommendations of the Secretary for an organization of militia upon a uniform basis is a subject of vital importance to the future safety of the country and is commended to the serious attention of Congress. The large addition to the regular army in connection with the defection that has so considerably diminished the number of its officers, gives peculiar importance to his recommendation for increasing the corps of cadets to the greatest capacity of the military academy. By mere omission I presume Congress has failed to provide chaplains for hospitals occupied by volunteers. This subject was brought to my notice and I was induced to draw up a form of a letter, one copy of which properly addressed, has been delivered to each of the persons and at dates respectively named and stated in a schedule, containing also a form of a letter marked A. and herewith transmitted. These gentlemen I understand entered upon duties designated at times respectively stated in schedule and have labored faithfully therein ever since. I therefore recommend that they be compensated at some rate as chaplains in the army. I further suggest that general provision be made for chaplains to serve at hospitals as welfare with regiments.

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