

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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Gen. McNeil and the Guerrillas.

Editor of the N. E. Tribune.
Sir: Having noticed a couple of articles in the Tribune and Times of Nov. 27 and 28 concerning the case of Gen. McNeil, under whom I served in the beginning of the war, and whose cause in Missouri I have followed since, I desire you to publish the following:

Gen. McNeil was assigned to duty early last summer in North Missouri. He found the country alive with guerrillas. Union men were abducted and shot, murdered in their own houses also, not in solitary instances, but cases can be proved up by the dozen. Their farms are plundered, their cattle driven off. No Union citizen or soldier could travel five miles in North Missouri with any degree of safety. Off from the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad he could travel only with the absolute certainty of being shot from the brush. These matters stood in North Missouri then. All these things are changed now. At present, North-East Missouri is the most quiet portion of this State, and Union men, whether citizens or soldiers, can travel with perfect safety wherever their business happens to call them. They can attend to their business, and their property is secure. No abductions have been heard of since that of Allman's. All this is due to Gen. McNeil and Merrill, whom sad experience has taught the folly, indecision, and weakness of leniency toward Missouri rebels. The fact is clear that McNeil has restored quiet to North-East Missouri—the loss alone is by striking terror into the hearts of the rebels, and in this he has rendered valuable service to the Government, for whom he is justly praised by all Unionists in Missouri, and for whom he ought to be praised, and not censured. To show the good effect of McNeil's general policy, and his clemency towards the ten bushwhackers at Palmyra.

Gen. Sedgwick's General Orders, No. 18, Current Series, Headquarters, Department of Missouri, directs that all men captured in arms against the United States, within our lines in Missouri, are to be shot on the spot. All the men—and by God, McNeil had been enough with some in their bands against the Government—all but Willis Baker had been paroled, and all had violated that parole; and though they had been paroled twice, and Willis Baker was the only individual member of his loyal neighbors, Prof. A. Newell, a lawyer by birth, and a Union man of course—when he surrendered, for no earthly reason that he was a Union man and a Yankee. According to the law of war, and the general orders then in force, "All deserters cannot be tried and dealt with than man deserves death."

Gen. McNeil's orders to Porter that Allman was not produced within 10 days, the ten bushwhackers would be shot. The notice was published in the Polymer Courier, a paper of general circulation. Everybody knew it. That notice was sent by Gen. McNeil to Mrs. Porter, with the request that she would forward it to her husband, with whom she was in constant communication, and this she promised to do. But there was no need of her Forwarding it, for the prompt of stay-at-home rebels were in daily communication with Porter, and there is hardly a possibility that Porter should not have known all about Gen. McNeil's notice the very day he published it. Everybody that knows anything about Missouri rebels, and the willingness with which their news travels, knows this.

In July and August hundreds of Union men left the back country, and moved down to the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, in order to avoid being numbered by their own neighbors or roving bands of guerrillas. Such murder was a common thing, and hence the fear of it was common. Allman's case was a representative one—only one out of hundreds, McNeil knew very well that neither Porter nor any one on earth could return Allman "alive and unharmed." Allman had met the fate of Benjamin Sharp, Anthony Teague, and hundreds of others in Missouri, whose only faults were devotion to the cause of the Union.

Union men in Missouri commanded McNeil's course, only secessionists condemn him. The stories about in secession newspapers of Union gentlemen refusing to shake hands with him, refusing to drink with him, and calling him a murderer, are all secession inventions. At first they had a story out, that Allman had turned up in Illinois, and that therefore, the shooting of the ten men was downward murmur. As Allman's family live at Palmyra, this story wouldn't do but a short time, so now it has been changed, and according to secessionists, Allman is now a prisoner South. Is it not possible that Ben Sharp is also a prisoner South? Quite possible, of course, but very unlikely. Not only these inventions about Allman, but a very romantic story, full of thrilling interest, is told of a youth who stepped up to McNeil the morning of the execution, and offered to die for one of the ten men, who had a wife and four small children. The story is that McNeil accepted the offer of the noble youth and shot him in place of the other man. All this is also without the least foundation, of course. After soldiering nearly eighteen months, I have failed to meet any heroism of that sort, but among bushwhackers.

Gen. McNeil was among the first to enter the United States service in Missouri, as Colonel of a three months regiment in April, 1861. Afterwards he was made Provost Marshal of St. Louis. In whatever capacity employed in the service he distinguished himself by accomplishing whatever he undertook. His North Missouri campaign is a case in point; and it is a good answer in Missouri to all objections to McNeil, that there is no more rebellion in North Missouri.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 5, 1862.

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NeSmith on Arrests.

The following speech, made by Senator NeSmith, Dec. 9th, on Saulsbury's resolution enquiring into the cause of certain arrests in Delaware, in strong contrast with the swelling of the hand-organ at Salem over the "Austrian despotism" of the American Government:

We all know, in relation to this matter of taking oaths, that they do not amount to much. We recall reading the story of the rattlesnake, captured in Western Virginia, which the soldier proposed to swear and turn loose. [Laughter.]

A great many of these gentlemen have been sworn and turned loose. In my opinion, those of them ought to have been shot—Sir, when a man makes up his mind to become a traitor to such a Government as this, and cause its overthrow, and takes arms in his hands for the purpose of committing that act, his oath is not worth a straw; and if the evidence is conclusive that he harbors and entertains those designs with the intention of putting them into effect, I think he ought to be restrained of his liberty, and prevented from committing such a wrong. I do not pretend to justify anybody in restraining anybody else of his liberty, and I do not justify it. As I stated before, I am not ignorant of the sacredness of personal liberty, but I think this Government, this Constitution, are paramount to all other considerations, and I think their preservation is far above the personal liberty of any single individual, of any fifty individuals, or any five hundred individuals.

With these views, Mr. President, I propose to vote for the resolution of the gentleman from Delaware.

RELEASE OF MILITARY PRISONERS.—Commenting upon the late order of the Secretary of War releasing all persons now in military custody, the New York Post remarks:

The country will rejoice at this. In time of war, doubtless, it is sometimes necessary, for the safety of the government or for the security of its operations, to arrest summarily and without the usual processes, persons who, the authorities have reason to believe, are contemplating disloyal acts, or who have been guilty of such. At the same time, nothing so quickly injures the popularity of an administration or injures the confidence of the people in its ability, its strength, or its honesty, as the use of this power. Friends rightly look with strong dislike and suspicion upon such arbitrary acts; and it is a sign of wisdom in the government, that it uses this power at the earliest moment the release of the persons it has found necessary to arrest. The administration, by this act, says to the people, that it dislikes as much as they the system which the peril of public interests has forced it to use; and it gives a pledge for the future to make no more such arrests, except under pressure of the clearest and most absolute necessity.

In time of war the government has a perfect right to arrest suspected persons, and not only to intercept but prosecute known traitors. This right, we suppose, the authorities at Washington do not mean to surrender, and the rebels among us need not presume upon this clemency to make themselves conspicuous in any way.

ARE COLORED MEN CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES?—The opinion of the Attorney General on this important question it is said is now completed, and in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury, at whose request it was prepared. The facts on which it is based are stated by the Secretary as follows:

"The schmoo Elizabeth and Margaret, of New Brunswick, is detained by the revenue cutter Tiger at Perth Amboy, N. J., because commanded by a colored man, and so by a person not a citizen of the United States. As colored masters are numerous in our coastings trade, I submit to you the question suggested by Capt. Martin of the Tiger. 'Are colored men citizens of the United States, and therefore competent to command American vessels?'

The chief points of Mr. Bates' opinion are stated by a correspondent of the New York Times to be as follows:

His conclusion is that all free persons, without distinction of race or color, if law-abiding, are citizens. A distinction is made between inherent rights of citizens and the political privilege of certain classes. All citizens have a right to protection, but only certain classes enjoy the privilege of voting and holding office. Hence not only the public but jurists have often confounded the two. A child or a woman is a citizen, though not always privileged to vote or hold office. The Prof. Scott opinions are pronounced void and of no authority, since the practice of the Supreme Court was only to settle the question of the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court. They are simply entitled to the respect due to the views of eminent gentlemen, and no more. The papers conclude as follows:

"And now, upon the whole matter, I give it as my opinion that the free man of color mentioned in your letter, if he is a citizen of the United States, and if otherwise qualified, is competent according to the acts of Congress, to be master of a vessel engaged in the coasting trade."

When a man commences the publication of a newspaper, he can't give it up till he is ruined—and then, when he gets a score hundred, he starts another. We have our eyes on an "honoree" who has started more than a dozen papers within the last six years, but they all died out, although they possessed "undoubted talent." The same gen. is now pedling pamphlets, and saving the profits to start another in the spring.—*Louisville Journal*.

THE ELECTIONS EXPLAINED.

When the Democrats had succeeded in carrying some of the recent State elections, they felt at liberty to make their own statements of the grounds of their success. Hence, as many reasons have been given as there are cliques in the party. Some

have contended that the national administration was rebuked on account of its arbitrary arrests and its suspension of the habeas corpus; others, that its emancipation policy was condemned; others, that its expenditures were too enormous; others, that it did not exhibit sufficient clemency toward our "erring sisters;" and others still, that it failed to push on the war with sufficient vigor and success. But many partisans, determined to err, if at all, on what they deemed the safe side, declared that the administration was punished for each and all of these reasons, and several others besides, by a grand uprising of the people, which would be moderately sustained and strengthened in the future.

The same subject we see has been up in the United States Senate, and was being handled in the same grandiloquent style, when it was pretty effectually squelched by Senator Wilson, whose remarks are briefly sketched as follows:

"The only thing settled was that the Republican party could not raise men enough to send to the field to whip Southern traitors, and still have men enough at home to vote down Northern Democrats. That was all that was settled. In the Iowa regiments 14,000 men voted for the Administration and 4,000 against it; and there was about the same proportion in the W. Va. regiments. He thought that four-fifths of the men who were fighting the battles of the country would vote to support the President."

This is a simple solution, but is it not substantially correct? It will be seen by the following table that, at the times and for the service of the various regiments, the votes of soldiers rightly entitled to vote under the laws of their respective States have been taken and officially declared, with the following results:

	Rep.	Dem.
October, 1861, Pennsylvania	11,351	3,173
June, 1862, Illinois	19,369	2,503
October, 1862, Iowa	14,574	4,115
November, 1862, Wisconsin	6,219	2,000

Total, 42,241 14,782

We know no reason why these may not fairly be considered representative States, comprising, as they do, portions of the East and of the West, and late Democratic with early Republican States. The results in each are strikingly similar, showing that local interests have nothing to do with them. Yet they establish the fact that, in a given army vote, the Republican majority was more than five-ninths of the total vote, that is, in an aggregate of 34,752 the Republican majority was 31,150. If anything like this prevailed in the rest of the soldiers' vote of Pennsylvania and Illinois—and why should it not?—and it had been wholly cast at the late elections, the Republicans would have swept those States high and dry. The same process in New York would have elected Gen. Wadsworth by over 10,000 majority. In this State we should have realized the old Lincoln and Fremont majorities—but, happily, we did not need it. It is well, however, to bear these facts in mind, because the gallant survivors of our army will again be at the polls, to sustain there the same principles for which they have fought in the field. They will not all vote the same party ticket, but we are sure they will utterly disown some of the unpatriotic influences which have been sought to be derived from the late elections.—*Boston Journal*.

SHOULD IOWA BE DRAFTED?—It is a notorious fact that, including the 43 infantry regiments and six cavalry regiments which have been raised in this State, and the several thousand men who have enlisted in the regiments already in the field, Iowa has furnished nearly if not quite sixty thousand troops.

The vote in this State at the last Presidential election was about 120,000. Can any other State show the same proportion of volunteers to voters?

One of the waiters in the Phoenix Hotel at Lexington, Ky., describes his experiences with the rebel officers who tarried there during Bragg's invasion. He says:

"Every one of dem rebels made his own money, and dev' w'iserry free-wid it, cuz dey know it didn't cost nuffa. One gentlemens give me five dollars for brakin his hands, and tol' him he was berry kine; but if it was all de same to him I'd rather hab a dime. He told me den I was a dild Ya'acker nigger, and didn't gib me nuffa."

It is well to denounce the murders committed by Union men, no matter what the provocation, but the editors who denounce those murders without having a word to say about the utterly provoked and ten times as numerous murders committed by the rebels have no business to be publishing papers this side of the rebel lines.—*Louisville Journal*.

President Lincoln contributed \$650 to the sum collected by the efforts of Mrs. Smith, to provide a dinner to 30,000 sick and wounded soldiers in Washington.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.	
One square (twelve lines, or less, brever measure)	\$2.00
one insertion	\$2.00
Each subsequent insertion	20 cent
Business card one year	20 cent
A liberal deduction will be made to those who advertise by the year.	

The number of insertions should be noted on the margin of an advertisement, otherwise it will be charged half the above rates of advertising.

Job printing executed with neatness and dispatch.

Payment for Job Printing must be made on delivery of the work.

CORRIDOR FIND IN OTR.—Mr. Slocum was not educated in a university, and his life was spent in by-paths and out-of-the-way places. His mind is characterized by the littleness rather than by the comprehensive grasp of great subjects. Mr. Slocum, even, however, masterly printed paragraph by flat of spelling the hard words in a delicate manner, and manages to obtain a few glimpses of men and things, apart from his little rocky farm, through the medium of a newspaper. It is difficult to edify to hear Mr. Slocum read the village paper aloud to his wife after a hard day's work. A few evenings since farmer Slocum was reading an account of a dreadful accident which had happened at the factory of the next town, and which the village editor had described in a great many words.

"I declare, wife, that was an awful accident over to the mills!" said Mr. Slocum.

"What was it about, Mr. Slocum?"

"I'd read the 'count,' wife, and then you'll know all about it."

Mr. S. began to read:

"HORRIBLE AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—It becomes one melancholy and painful duty to record the particulars of an accident that occurred at the lower mill in this village, yesterday afternoon, by which a human being in the prime of life was hurried to that bourne from which, as the immortal Shakespeare says, "no traveler returns."

"Do tell!" exclaimed Mrs. S.

"Mr. David Jones, a workman who had few superiors on this side of the city, was superintending one of the large drums—"

"Wonder if it was a bass drum with Euphrosyne printed on it?" said Mrs. Slocum.

"It was all that was settled. In the lower mill was drawn round the drum, and finally his whole body was drawn around the shaft at a fearful rate. When his situation was discovered, he had revolved with immense velocity about fifteen minutes, head and limbs striking a large beam a distinct blow at each revolution. (Poor creature, how it must have hurt him!)—"

"When the machinery had been stopped, it was found that Mr. Jones' arms and legs were mangled to a jelly; (Well, didn't it kill him?) asked Mrs. S. with increased interest.) portions of the drumstick, cymbal and cello-bellum, in confused masses, were scattered about the floor—in short, the gates of eternity had opened upon him."

Here Mr. Slocum paused to wipe his spectacles, and his wife seized the opportunity to press the question—

"Was the man killed?"

"I don't know—heaven's come to that place yet—you'll know when I finish the piece," And Mr. Slocum continued reading—

"It was evident when the shapeless form was taken down that it was no longer tenanted by the immortal spirit—that the vital spark was extinct."

"Was the man killed?—that's what I want to come at," said Mrs. Slocum.

"Do have a little patience, old woman," said Mr. Slocum, eying his better half over his spectacles. "I suppose we shall come on it right away." And he went on reading—

"The fatal casualty has cast a gloom over our village, and we trust it will prove a warning to all persons who are called upon to regulate the powerful machinery of our mills."

"Now," said Mrs. Slocum, perceiving that the narration was ended, "now I should like to know whether the man was killed or not."

Mr. Slocum looked puzzled. He scratched his head, scrutinized the article he had been perusing, and took a graceful survey of the paper.

"I declare, wife," said he, "it's curious, but really the paper don't say."—*Waltham Sentinel*.

THE BLOCKADE OF CHARLESTON.—The screw steamer Stanley has just reached Liverpool from Nassau, having on board eight hundred bales of cotton, which had been brought from Charleston by the blockade breakers to Nassau. Letters from Charleston via Nassau, represent the people there as being very badly off for the want of the common necessities of life. Everything—food and clothing—is frightfully dear, and the purse must be long indeed which can hold out against the high prices asked and willingly paid for shoes and clothes. Men's boot were \$15.50 per pair; women's boots \$14 per pair; narrow prints \$1 per yard; wide do., damaged, 12c; plain English, breakfast tea \$12 per pound; young hyson \$10; coffee \$2.35 per pound; note paper \$8.70 and letter paper, ruled, \$18.50 to \$22 per ream; red flannel \$6.25 per yard. An idea can thus be had of the blockade. "How can we get anything in when there are fifteen Federal cruisers outside?" explains the cause of the high prices.—*Manchester Guardian* Nov. 8.

L'UNION, a paper in the French language, published in San Francisco, says of the proclamation: