

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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National Debt. The people of these States need stand in no terror of a national debt. This is not necessarily a step towards national bankruptcy. A country of such vast resources as our own cannot easily be plunged into indebtedness, upon which its vital and boisterous prosperity will not float like a cork.

When we talk of a public debt of hundreds of millions, the very words have an appalling sound. When the civil and foreign wars of Great Britain had swollen the public debt of that country to fifty millions of pounds or two hundred millions of dollars, good Englishmen thought their country was done for. It could never recover from such enormous expenditures. Even the interest of the debt, not to speak of the debt itself, could never be paid. Yet the interest was somehow paid as the years came round. And in the country, instead of being ruined, appeared more prosperous than ever. Still the debt went on increasing, from forty millions to a hundred millions; from a hundred millions, to two hundred; and England kept growing richer and richer all the while; and the larger the debt, the more easily the annual interest on it was paid. Until now it reaches the inconceivable amount of upwards of eight hundred millions of pounds, or forty hundred millions of dollars—\$400,000,000!

The result is, that the United Kingdom is really wealthier to-day than ever before. The feudal debt has come to be considered as an indispensable national institution. It is a permanent accommodation to citizens who would not know what else to do with their money. It offers a safe and perpetual avenue for investments. And thus, by holding almost the entire before-hand population interested in it personally and pecuniarily, it furnishes the strongest security for the permanence of the government, for, as long as that lasts, the annual interest on the debt will be paid.

With this illustrious example before us we need have no fear of a debt which instead of ruining the United States will in all probability act as a golden band to bind them more closely together.

A body who recently reached Baltimore from Richmond, relate the following incident: Col. Payne, U. S. A., and for many years a friend of Gen. Scott, had evinced a reluctant admiration there on account of his preserving an immovable determination not to desert the Stars and Stripes. No insinuation, or threats, or flatteries could shake him; he had the Napoleonic temperament, "like a block of marble, over which the thunder shaft glided along leaving no impression." Jefferson Davis and all the distinguished men of his kingdom visited the old man and sought to reason him out of his fealty, but in vain, and even a lady to whom he was once engaged was commissioned to weep over him, but the old man's heart replied, if his lips did not.

Finally, the dog showed his teeth; property belonging to him to the amount of \$50,000 or so, was threatened. "Let it go," said the aged soldier. At latest observations, this planet, overruling the night of ascension, was not in obscuration.

Boys out at Night.—The practice of allowing boys to spend their evenings in the streets is one of the most ruinous, dangerous, and mischievous things possible. Nothing so speedily and surely marks their course downward. They acquire, under the cover of the night, an unhealthy state of mind, vulgar and profane language, obscene practices, criminal sentiments, and a lawless and riotous bearing. Indeed, it is in the streets, after night fall, that the boys generally acquire the education of the bad and the capacity for becoming rowdy, dissolute, criminal men. Parents, do you believe? Will you keep your children at home nights, and see that their home is made pleasant and profitable to them? Boys belonging to worthy, respectable families, who are permitted, night after night, to select their own company and places of resort are on a certain road to ruin. Confiding parents who believe that their sons are safe—that they will not associate with the vicious—will one of these days have their hearts crushed, as thousands have before, by learning that sons whom they regarded as proof against any evil, have, from very early years, been on the road to ruin.

A Desirable Invention.—The inventive talent of the country is now devoted to the production of improved arms and more destructive weapons of warfare. An inventor in Marblehead, Mass., exhibits to the Government a small shell, the explosion of which, he says, "would kill the devil."

The hottest place known in the United States is Fort Yuma, at the Junction of the Gila and Colorado, where the thermometer frequently ranges at 117 deg. in the shade.

The National Taxes.

The direct tax assessed upon the value of all the real estate in the United States, to raise the annual sum of twenty millions of dollars, has been overlooked by many persons who seem to be under the impression that there is but one National Tax (the Income Tax) to be paid. By a law of Congress, adopted Aug. 31st, it was provided, in order to raise the above mentioned annual sum, that each State shall be compelled to furnish a certain proportion of that amount, which is to be collected in the following manner: Assessors, appointed by the President, and approved by the Senate, will, about the 1st of March next, ascertain the value of each piece of real estate the valuation being based upon the supposed money value of such property on the first of April. Property exempt from taxation is that belonging to the United States, or any State, or that which is permanently or specially exempted from taxation by the laws of the State in which it is situated.

A valuation of five hundred dollars will be made from this valuation. All persons possessing taxable property, are required to furnish written lists of it to the assessors. A false or fraudulent list will subject the offender to a fine of five hundred dollars. After the estimates are completed, public notice will be given by the assessors where their books may be seen, and corrections may be made.

The places at which the payment of taxes will be made, will be published in a new paper in each district twenty days before the tax is assessed; and if persons neglect to attend according to notification, the collector will make personal application to them within sixty days after the receipt of the collection lists. If then the taxes are not paid within another twenty days, he has power to collect by distraint.

The income tax, which will be levied on and after the first of January next, will be 1 per cent on income above eight hundred dollars, except that portion of such income which is derived from Treasury notes and other United States securities, on which the tax will be one and a half per cent.—The tax is to be assessed on incomes dating from January, 1861. In assessing the income, all national, State and local taxes assessed upon property whence the income is derived, will be first deducted.

The payment of the tax will be due on or before the 31st of June next, and all sums unpaid on that day will be subjected to an interest at the rate of six per cent, and in default of payment being made within thirty days thereafter, the collector is authorized to levy the sum on the visible property of the defaulter, and sell it after due notice has been given. If no visible property is found, the person assessed may be examined on oath, and any stock or bonds he may have be sold at public auction. A refusal to testify is punishable by imprisonment until the tax is paid.

Col. E. D. BAKER.—George Wilkes writes to the Sacramento Union as follows: Upon me Col. Baker's death produced a startling effect. I had the honor of entertaining him, as my guest at dinner, on an afternoon in last July, and on that occasion, when I expressed a natural concern as to the probable department of his troops in battle, he said: "Wilkes, I have some queer notions about the part I am to play in this war, and I want you to bear in mind that what I now say to you is not the result of any idle fancy or frivolous impression. It is doubtful if I shall ever take any seat again in the Senate." To the look of surprise which I turned upon him at this remark, he replied: "I am sure I shall not live to see another year, and if my troops show any want of resolution, I shall fall in the first battle! I cannot afford, after my career in Mexico, and as a Senator of the United States, to turn my face from the enemy!" There was no gloom or despondency in his manner, but it was characterized by a temperate earnestness, which made a profound impression on my mind. So, before October sheds its leaves, his sword lies upon his pulchre breast, and his toga in the crements of the grave.

John Ross, the Chief of the Cherokees, has declared for the Union, and calling his people around him, has met the secessionists of his nation and routed them. Such is the report by telegraph. Some weeks ago when the pressure was too strong for him to resist, and he declared for the Confederacy, a secession flag was prepared, but his wife, a devoted Union woman, declared if it was hoisted she would herself tear it down. It is to be constantly, probably, that Ross's subsequent declaration for the Union may be attributed.

Quick Work.—The Sixth Regiment of Vermont Volunteers, about to go into camp at Montpelier, was recruited and equipped in fifteen days!

He who knows the world will never be too bashful, and he who knows himself will never be impudent.

Learn the Lesson of Patience.

A venerable Judge residing in Massachusetts, writes to a friend saying he has been taking a lesson from the history of our latest war with England—that of 1812-1815. Our first object was the conquest of Canada, which we anticipated would be easy. Gen. Hull was appointed to the command of our invading army. He issued a glowing proclamation, and Headley says, "sent out two detachments, mounted two heavy empon and three howitzers, and then marched back again." Such were the astonishing results accomplished by the first army of invasion!

He recrossed the line, was followed by a British force, at whose approach Hull raised the white flag, and surrendered without firing a gun. He was condemned for cowardice by a court-martial, and ordered to be shot, but was permitted to live and die in disgrace.

Then Gen. Dearborn took command and kept it through two campaigns; but he did nothing, and a deputation waited on the President and demanded his removal, and July, 1813, he resigned.

Then Gen. Smyth came; but he flinched and fled. At Buffalo he issued a proclamation, saying: "In a few days the troops under my command will plant the American standard in Canada to conquer or die!" He conducted himself in such a manner afterwards that "a host of wrath burst from the whole army." "He was branded as a coward, that in the streets, "driven in scorn and rage from the army, and chased and mobbed by an individual people from the State he had endeavored to conquer."

Then Gen. Winler and Chandler invaded Canada, and with their commands were taken prisoners; a large part of Maine was for a long time in possession of the enemy, and our capital was sacked, and our whole coast blockaded by a hostile fleet. Under these discouragements and disasters, the people did not despond.—Their spirits and courage rose as their Generals one after another fell. Arries were captured, but the spirit of the nation was not, and success and victories finally crowned our efforts. Such will be the case now. One or two "Big Bethel" publications, or one or two "Buff Run" publications, need not discourage us. They retard, but they never will prevent our final success. If we can learn to "possess ourselves in patience," by attending to the teachings of historical remembrance, it is well to give heed to the lesson.

Crimes.—The perpetration of crimes in England is horrible to contemplate. Within a few weeks the papers have recounted the details of a father inflicting murderous blows on his only son; two gentlemen shooting, hacking and smashing one another to death in a back drawing room in a by-street in the Strand; a surgeon charged with a professional murder upon an unhappy patient; several husbands murdering their wives; a lady attacking her aged mother with a bludgeon; a boy stabbing his schoolfellow; a poor girl impaled by a runaway horse on the railings of Eaton Square; a miller murdering his wife because of a wrangle about a trifle of money as they drove home from market; one man killing another with a pitcher because he aroused him from bed to ask a business question, and various minor crimes.

Importation of Grain to England.—The San Francisco Mirror gives the condensed result of the importations of grain into England, during the first half of the present year as compared with the first half of the preceding year, from different foreign countries. The aggregate value of the grain importations of the first half of the present year is estimated at one hundred and five million dollars, against forty-seven million in 1860. Of this total about seventy-two millions represent Wheat and Flour, importations of which in the same period of 1860 were below fifteen millions. In 1859 France sent the chief supplies, and contributed about as much as Russia, Prussia, and the United States combined, while from America the amount was merely nominal. In 1860 Prussia took the lead, Russia was second, and the quantity from France was insignificant. This year America has distanced all other countries, and has sent nearly as much as Prussia, Russia and France combined, the quantity from the latter being less even than in 1860.

There is too much truth in the following little extract: "How often does it happen that elevation to political position spoils a man! Pat him in Jonah, he comes out Judah. He enters as a respectable merchant, or lawyer, or farmer, and comes out a politician by profession, and a thimble-rigger by practice."

Your manners are always under examination, and by committees little suspected—a police in citizens' clothes—who are awarding or denying you very high prizes when you least think of it.

Little drops of rain brighten the meadows, and little acts of kindness brighten the world.

Progress of the War.

The war is assuming an auspicious shape. It was not to have been reasonably expected that the people of the loyal States, most of whom were unaccustomed to the use of arms, and who were taken by surprise, could on the instant rise and crush out a rebellion which had long been premeditated and carefully prepared by men who, however criminal, had, it must be confessed, experience and ability. Jeff Davis and his associates in treason had, through a series of years, occupied high positions under the Government and held actual control of public affairs. During all that time their power and influence were wielded to prepare the Southern States for the rebellion. The people of the South were encouraged to exercise themselves in military discipline, and arms and munitions of war were furnished them in abundance from the national arsenals. Thus when the time came for the hoisting of the standard of revolution, Davis, Beauregard, and the other leaders of the revolt found themselves at the head of armies already disciplined and furnished with every necessary of war. We say the loyal States were taken by surprise; they had so long listened to the gossamer of politicians that they regarded the threats of the secessionists with incredulous ease; and it was only when they heard the thunder of the guns at Ft. Sumter they realized the actual situation of the country. The spectacle which followed was grand to an extreme, and every way worthy a great and free people. The merchant left his ledger, the farmer his plow, the mechanic his tools, the lawyer his briefs, and even the minister his pulpit, to commence an education in a new profession—to learn the art of war. It is no exaggeration to say that five-sixths of the volunteers scarcely knew the difference between a rifle and a flat-iron, and so far as such knowledge might be useful on the field.—But, brought up in habits of industry, trained to adapt themselves to contingent circumstances, and gifted with quick intellectual powers of discernment which men accustomed to business pursuits only can acquire, the people of the great North, East, and West proved themselves equal to the emergency. They were as rapid to learn the duties of a soldier, as they had been slow to believe in the existence of a rebellion. Still, after they had acquired the theory, they had still to confront the enemy and acquire the practice of their new profession. It was natural, under the circumstances, that a few blunders should occur, and we had the Bull Run, Springfield, Lexington, and other disasters to lament. But again the people of the loyal States triumphed, and there is now at the disposition of the Government as rigorously disciplined and well appointed an army as has been assembled any time within the century. Every day its strength and efficiency are being increased. Unworthy and incompetent officers are driven from command, and soldiers of experience commissioned in their stead.

Three months ago it was the boast of the rebels that their forces had been trained from boyhood up to the use of arms, and that it was folly to suppose that tradesmen and "greasy mechanics" could successfully meet them in battle; but we imagine they at length are beginning to discover the great truth that labor elevates and strengthens manhood.

As we before said, the war is assuming an auspicious shape. The rebels have exhausted their resources; they can bring no more soldiers into the field. On the other hand, the U. S. Government has not developed a tithe of its strength, and yet our armies largely outnumber those of the enemy. And while we hear of dissensions among the leaders at the South, the feeling of cordiality between President Lincoln and our Generals grows stronger every day. In short, the loyal States have risen superior to all adverse circumstances, and are gaining strength every day, while the rebel government is in the last extremity for men and means to save it from perdition.—S. F. Herald.

A CHAMBER OF TACTICS.—Daniel Boone, the Kentucky hunter, used to relate that the hardest fight he ever had, was with a single active Indian youth. The Indian surprised the old hunter asleep in the forest. Boone only woke in time to save his life by dodging behind a tree. His gun was unloaded, and the Indian was upon him immediately. "I dodged, and ran as well as I could," Boone used to say. "The Indian so close on my heels that I could not get time to load my gun. My knife had fallen to the ground. The Indian was fully armed, and knew I had nothing. He kept me moving, and I had to load my gun. That was the longest loading I ever did. It took me half an hour at least.—At last I got the bullet down, and then changed my tactics, and made short work of the cussed Indian."

The rebel leaders caught the nation napping, while they were fully armed and prepared, and they have since kept it on the defensive, warding off blows rather than giving them. But the Government has been loading for some time. It will soon have its charge sent home. And when it does assume the aggressive, it will make short work of the "cussed" rebellion.

New Mines.—The editor of the Colonist has seen a letter confirming the report that mines surpassing Cariboo in richness have been discovered near the head waters of Thompson River. Fabulous amounts, it is said, have been taken out within a very short space of time.

It would be well if we had less medicine and more nurses; less cant and more piety; less law and more justice.

Details of Eastern News.

THE CAPTURE OF MASON AND SLIDELL.

FOUNTAIN MONROE, Nov. 15.—The steamer Frigate San Jacinto has just arrived from the coast of Africa, by way of the West Indies. The port was identified by the billings that the San Jacinto had on board Mason and Slidell, who were going to Europe as ministers of the rebel confederacy. They were taken from an English mail steamer, Nov. 8th, off Bermuda. Lieut. Fairfax and thirty-five armed men went on board, with five officers, and picked out the commissioners. They made a feeble resistance, but were induced to leave. The captain of the English steamer swore, calling the United States officers piratical Yankees. Kautz, one of the rebel party, also resisted, but himself and colleague accompanied their employers into confinement.—Slidell had his wife and four children on board, who were allowed to proceed to Europe. Commander Wilkes, of the San Jacinto, had an interview with Gen. Wool, who expressed the opinion that he did right, and said, right or wrong, these men had to be secured, and if he had done wrong, he could do no better than he had.

A special dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune dated Ft. Monroe, Nov. 16, says Mason and Slidell were aboard the British mail vessel. Wilkes sent aboard and demanded their surrender. The reply was there was not force enough to take them. Wilkes sent an additional force and put the San Jacinto into a convenient position. Slidell and Mason were then given up. The English steamer took them on board not knowing who they were. Their friends were allowed to proceed to their destination.—Com. Wilkes, it is understood, acted on his own responsibility. Gen. Wool granted Slidell and Mason permission to send open letters to their friends this evening.

ROSTON, Nov. 16.—The captain of the "Delta," now at Halifax, says that when he left Bermuda, a British steam vessel and the rebel "Nashville" were in port, and the British vessel had transferred her cargo of arms to the rebel vessel, and the latter had put Mason and Slidell on the British steamer, which would take them to England, while the "Nashville" would run the blockade with the arms. The name of the British vessel has not yet been made known.

All the documents and papers of Mason and Slidell were seized.

The captain of the British vessel delivered up Mason and Slidell under protest.

N. Y., Nov. 20.—Immediately after the receipt of news about the capture of Mason and Slidell, it was deemed important by the Government to have the persons taken by Gen. Sumner more secure than parole would make. According to orders from the Secy of State, Sup't Kennedy had Gwin, Benham, and Brent re-arrested and their baggage overhauled. They were taken to Ft. Lafayette.

The capture of Mason and Slidell created great joy at Washington, as did also the brilliant exploit at Port Royal. Sec'y Welles has issued a letter of congratulation to Commodore Dupont.

It is thought some difficulty with England will grow out of the capture of Mason and Slidell. The Toronto (Canada) Globe and Leader have severe articles on the seizure of these traitors. The Globe says it will add to the dignity of the American Government if the captives are liberated. The Leader says it is an insult which the best government on earth would not submit to.

N. Y., Nov. 21.—A letter from Hatteras Inlet, dated Nov. 18, says North Carolina, by a convention of delegates representing 15 counties, has declared a Provisional Government, and has entirely repudiated the secession act of the State, reaffirming her loyalty and devotion to the Constitution of the United States. The Convention met at Hatteras on Monday last. The Act passed contained several sections, the substance of which is—1st. Declares vacant all the offices of the State.

2d. Names Marble Nash Taylor, Provisional Governor.

3d. Adopts the Constitution of the State, with the statutes and laws contained in the Revised Code of 1856.

4th. Repudiates the Ordinance of Secession passed at Raleigh on the 20th of May, together with all other acts then adopted.

5th. Directs the Provisional Governor to direct a special election for members of Congress.

6th. Gives the Governor authority to make temporary appointments to official vacancies.

The Convention then adjourned, subject to the call of the President.

Gov. Taylor issued his proclamation for an election in the Second Congressional District on Nov. 27th.

A special dispatch states that the Government has advised that the Federal troops occupy Beaufort, and are engaged in fortifying it.

Gen. Sherman is said to have seized Pinekey Island and all the able-bodied negroes. No attempt has been made to land on the main land.

The fleet is said to have gone to Pensacola. The news of another exploit may be expected soon.

In consequence of the Federal victory at Port Royal, everybody at Savannah was much alarmed. Parties who were packing up their goods to leave, had been notified that they would not be permitted to carry off their goods. The 'Republican' is indignant at the cowardly desertion in time of danger, and urges Gen. Lawton to issue an order preventing any able-bodied man under sixty years of age from leaving.

Gov. Hicks has issued a proclamation calling a special session of the Maryland Legislature, at Annapolis, on the 24th of Nov., to establish Maryland in her old position as the heart of the Union, and ren-

der null the act of the traitorous Ft. Warren Legislature.

LATER.

St. Louis, Nov. 23.—The other day the Federal forces in Ft. Pickens opened their batteries on the rebels in Pensacola. After a bombardment of about twenty hours, the rebels showed signs of weakening, so that troops from the Federal side were sent to make a lodgement on the main land. This they did successfully, and Pensacola, together with all connected territories, was captured by the Federal troops.

Ben McCulloch is now marching north from Arkansas, with a very large force.—The object is evidently to create a diversion of Federal troops from Kentucky.

The great flotilla, built for operations against the rebels along the Mississippi river, is now about ready for operations.

On Thursday last the town of Warsaw, Mo., was burned by rebel marauders to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Federal forces.

A large number of the Richmond (Va.) Daily has been received here. It is woefully desponding in regard to the future prospects of the Confederates. It sees nothing ahead but defeat, disaster and ruin.

St. Louis, Nov. 25.—The Richmond Enquirer says the Confederate Congress has passed a bill for the removal of the Confederate Capital to Nashville. It further says that the Congress which lately met at Richmond will soon assemble at Nashville.

Everything is quiet on the Potomac to-day.

The Confederate forces in front of Fairfax are falling back, and the Federal troops are extending their line.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25th.—The Richmond Enquirer of the 22d announces the removal of five thousand [?] Yankee prisoners to Tuscaloosa and Salisbury. [This must be regarded as another change in the programme of the rebel Southern movement. The Capital has already been removed to Nashville. The question arises, Do the rebels find Virginia no longer tenable?]

The Charleston Mercury, of the 21st, states that intense excitement prevailed there in relation to the threatened attack of the Federal Government.

There was a large number of troops and seventy cannon at Columbia.

The Government had advised that Richmond, Savannah, Charleston, Memphis and New Orleans were in a panic. Families were packing up to be in readiness to leave when the Yankees approached.

A deserter from the rebel camp at Centerville reports that there were 50,000 troops there, which is supposed to be about half the rebel troops on the Potomac.—Johnston was in command; provisions were plenty. The troops were tolerably well armed and clothed.

Count De Villeneuve has been assigned to a position on Gen. McClellan's Staff with the rank of Colonel.

Thomas Bragg, of North Carolina, has been appointed rebel Attorney-General, in place of Benjamin, made Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—The Norfolk Day Book publishes advices from Richmond that in an engagement at Pensacola, the frigates Niagara and Colorado engaged Ft. McRae. The vessels received damages and were compelled to haul off.

Ft. Pickens was firing hot shot, and had set the Pensacola Navy Yard three times on fire and entirely destroyed the town of Warrington.

New York, Nov. 26.—A letter from Key West states that the privateer Benagrey had been captured near Abaco.—Capt. Gilbert says the commander threw overboard his ammunition.

New York, Nov. 27.—The steamer Fulton has arrived from England with 30,000 stand of arms for Government.

A Richmond dispatch reports that there are 3,000 Unionists in the mountains of East Tennessee under the command of "Parson" Brownlow and Maj. Gilman, where they are doing more mischief than the Yankees in Kentucky.

St. Louis, Nov. 26.—The Rebels in Columbus, Kentucky, are making great preparations for defence. The Confederate forces at that place are hourly expecting an attack from the Federal troops, which are marching thither in strong force.

The bombardment and capture of Pensacola and surrounding points, resulted in the burning of the village of Warrington. (Note.—Warrington is the name of the village or hamlet outside the Navy Yard at Pensacola. The town of Pensacola proper is some five miles from the Navy Yard, but the capture of all the rebel batteries which defended the town of Pensacola.)

Immense excitement has been caused by the action of the Federal troops throughout the Southern cities, and the citizens of the most prominent towns are preparing to leave in large numbers.

Gen. Price, of the rebel forces in Arkansas and Missouri, crossed the Osage River on the 23d inst., on his march to the North. The Federal troops under the immediate command of Gen. Hunter, in large force, were prepared to meet him a short distance from Sedalia.

The Government has given a permit for the re-opening of the trade between Port Tobacco and Baltimore. [This is the second permit of the kind that has been granted. We received news, a few days ago, that parties in Rhode Island had been allowed to supply the Union men of North