

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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For the Argus.

LINES.

Oregon, what is that which bows o'er the land?

To the tempest of war, shakes our country's

Toss have risen in might, [foundation]

Declaring their right.

To be left alone while they ruin the nation.

Shall they humble our flag? a star from it drag?

Read number the Union! Oh, never, no never!

Ye cannot and will not,

On land or sea,

Ever bow to the yoke of such dread tyranny!

How weakly we dreamed, believing that war

Never would sweep o'er our land, in its fierce

Or that there could be, [desolation]

Among the brave and the free,

Any breathing such treason against their own

[nation]

But conquer we will—our country must still

Be the garden of freedom, where liberty's own

Let the column move on,

Support every weapon,

And Peace spread her wings above us long!

The old world looks on, expecting, no doubt,

Soon to see the end come of our national glory,

But there's loyal men still,

Let them say what they will,

And they'll hear in the old Columbia's old story;

Oh, on, then, brave men, till our former again

Protecting every town, city, and shore;

Every step in its place,

All the stars they radiate,

And graciously wave o'er our country once more!

In ages to come, when history will dwell

On this mournful war, so strange, sad, and gory,

Yet, in letters of gold,

That never grow old,

[glory]

Will recall those heroes, who fell in their

How they fought; how they bled, the brave, noble

[dead]

Giving fortune and life for their country's redemption.

Down to the last [time]

Generation of time

May the wreath of renown round their memory shine!

Nov. 23, 1861.

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For the Argus.

THE UNION.

The glorious old Union!

Who would not choose to stand

Beside the sturdy steeds,

Fight for the Landmark!

Who, who would be a traitor,

And drag that standard down,

The symbol of our Union,

With all its past grandeur!

Not earlier gather round it,

That standard of the States,

And 'neath its bright embazoned folds

March proudly to the wars!

The all-powerful nation.

Throughout its wide domain,

Hail the Flag, with admiration,

Redeemed from treason's snare!

That mighty western nation,

The greatest 'neath the sun,

May accomplish grand success,

Its due course of empire find!

OREGON CITY, Dec. 5, 1861.

x d. l.

FOREIGN.—We have London dates to Oct. 20th.

At the Lord Mayor's banquet the May proposed the toast of the American minister, who replied that he had come to perpetuate the friendly feeling between the two countries.

Palmerston said that the temporary want of cotton would result in permanent good.

We would get supplies from other quarters and be no longer dependent.

Intelligence from the West of Ireland justified the fear of an approaching famine; five-sixths of the potato crop had been destroyed by blight and recent floods.

A large number of the Creek Indians have arrayed themselves against the Southern Confederacy, refusing the overtures of Gen. Price, of Arkansas. They are in force with 6,000 men, and the Little Rock Democrat is awfully alarmed—The secesh had better have let the red man alone.

Aspetho-ho-ho, one of the chief leaders of the old Creek party, is at the head of 3,000 Indians, in arms against the South. He ordered Mcintosh to take down the Confederate flag, which was done, and the Stars and Stripes were run up in its place—About Van Buren and Fort Smith, Arkansas, there is the greatest alarm and excitement. The Creek Chief had ordered the women and children to leave North Fork, as he intended to sack and burn the village.

THE WAR TAX.—The S. F. Herald thinks Congress should authorize the assessment and collection of the national tax, due in April next, through the medium of the revenue laws of the different States. Congress did so authorize in the very act which levies the tax; and furthermore of for, as an inducement for the several States to assess and collect the tax, to make an abatement of 15% per cent on the amount of it. Gov. Nye has recommended to the Nevada Legislature that it take measures for the assumption of that Territory's share of the tax in the manner indicated by the act; and the Governors of Maryland and Delaware have made similar recommendations, calling special Legislative sessions with that object in view.

TREATIES AND COMMERCE.

Some treaties designed chiefly for the interests of commerce, and having no grave political importance, have been negotiated and will be submitted to the Senate for their consideration. Although we have failed to induce some of the commercial powers to adopt a desirable melioration of the rigors of maritime war, we have thus far removed all the obstacles from the way except such as are merely temporary and of accidental occurrence.

I invite your attention to the correspondence between Her Britannic Majesty's Ministers, accredited to this Government, and the Secretary of State, relative to the detention of the British ship *Perthshire*, in June last, by the United States Steamer *Massachusetts*, for a supposed breach of "A" and herewith transmitted. These gentlemen, I understand, entered upon the duties designated, at the time respectively stated in the schedule, and have labored faithfully therein, I therefore recommend that they be compensated at the same rate as chaplains in the army. I further suggest that general provision be made for chaplains to serve at hospitals as well as regiments.

THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents in detail the operations of that branch of the service, the activity and energy which have characterized its administration.

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VOL. VII.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, DECEMBER 21, 1861.

No. 36.

The President's Message.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

In the midst of unprecedented political troubles we have cause of great gratitude to God for unusual good health and most abundant harvests.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

You will not be surprised to learn that in the pending exigencies of the times, our intercourse with foreign nations has been attended with profound solicitude, chiefly turning upon our domestic affairs. A disloyal portion of the American people have been engaged in an attempt to divide and destroy the Union. A nation which endures factions and domestic divisions at home, is expected to create disquiet abroad, and one party or both, sooner or later, to invoke foreign intervention. Nations thus tempted to interfere are not always able to resist the counsels of seeming expediency and ingenuous ambition, although measures adopted under such influences seldom fail to be unfortunate or injurious to those adopting them. The disloyal citizens of the United States who have attempted the ruin of our country, in regard to aid and comfort which they have invoked from abroad, have received less patronage and encouragement than they probably expected. If it were just to suppose, as the insurgents have seemed to assume, that foreign nations in this case, disregard all moral, social and treaty obligations, would act solely and selfishly for the most speedy restoration of commerce, including especially the acquisition of cotton, those nations appear as yet not to have seen the 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 sound argument could be made to show them that they could reach their aim more readily and easily by failing to crush this rebellion, than by giving encouragement to it. The principal lever relied on for the exciting of foreign nations to hostility against us, as already intimated, is the embarrassment of commerce. Those nations however, not improbably say from the first, that it was the Union which made as well our foreign as our domestic commerce. They can now scarcely fail to perceive that the effort for disunion produces the existing difficulty, and that 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 or discuss these matters with foreign States, because, whatever might be their wishes or dispositions, the integrity of our Government depends, not upon them, but upon the loyalty, patriotism, virtue and intelligence of the American people.

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

Since, however, it is apparent that here, as in every other State, foreign danger necessarily attends domestic difficulties, I recommend that adequate and simple measures be adopted for maintaining the public defenses on every side. While, under this general recommendation, provision for defending our coast line readily occurs to the mind, I also, in the same connection, ask the attention of Congress to our great lakes and rivers.

It is believed that some fortifications and depots for arms and munitions, with harbor and navigation improvements at well selected points upon these, would be of importance to the national defense and preservation.

I ask attention to the views of the Secretary of War, as expressed in his report upon this same subject.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

I deem it of much importance, that the loyal residents of East Tennessee and Western Virginia, should be connected with Kentucky, and other faithful parts of the Union by railroad, and therefore recommend that as a military measure, that Congress provide for the construction of such a road as speedily as possible.

Kentucky will no doubt co-operate, and through her Legislature, make the most judicious selection of the line.

It is gratifying to know that the expenses made necessary by the rebellion are not beyond the resources of the loyal people, and to believe that the same patriotism which has thus far sustained the Government, will continue to sustain it until peace shall again be the law.

THE ARMY.

I respectfully refer you to the report of the Secretary of War, for information respecting the numerical strength of the army, and for recommendations having in view the increase of its efficiency and the well being of the various branches of the service intrusted to his care.

It is gratifying to know that the patriotism of the people is 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 recommendation by the Secretary,

for an organization of the military 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 additions to the regular army, in connection with the defection that has so considerably diminished the number of its officers, give peculiar importance to his recommendation for increasing

the corps of cadets to the greatest capacity of the Military Academy, by more admissions.

I presume you are aware that Congress

has failed to provide chaplains for the hospitals occupied by volunteers.

This subject was brought to my notice, and I was induced to draw up the form of a letter,

a copy of which was properly addressed to each of the persons, and at the dates re-

spectively named and stated in a schedule,

containing also the form the letter, marked

"A," and herewith transmitted. These

gentlemen, I understand, entered upon the

duties designated, at the time respectively

stated in the schedule, and have labored

faithfully therein, I therefore recommend

that they be compensated at the same rate

as chaplains in the army. I further sug-

gest that general provision be made for

chaplains to serve at hospitals as well as

regiments.

Modifications occur to me here, which I

think would be an improvement upon our

present system. Let the Supreme Court

be of convenient numbers in every event;

then let the whole country be divided into

Circuits of convenient size, Supreme Judges

to serve, in a number corresponding to

their own number, and let independent

Circuit Judges be provided for all the rest;

or secondly, let the Supreme Judges be re-

lieved from circuit duties, and Circuit

Judges be provided for all the circuits; or,

thirdly, dispense with Circuit Courts alto-

gether, leaving the judicial function wholly

to the District Courts and independent

Supreme Court.

One of the unfavorable consequences of

the present insurrection is the entire sup-

pression, in many places, of all ordinary

means of administering civil justice, by

the officers, and in the forms of existing

law. This is the case, in whole or in part,

in all the insurgent States, and as our ar-

mies advance upon and take possession of

parts of these States, the practical evil be-

comes more apparent, and there are no

courts or officers to whom the citizens of

other States may look for the enforce-

ment of their lawful claims against the citizens of the insurgent State. There is a vast amount of debt constituting such claims—some have estimated it as high as two hundred millions—due, in large part, to citizens who are now making great sacrifices in the discharge of their patriotic duty in supporting the government. Under these circumstances I have been urgently entreated to establish, by military power, Courts, and administer summary justice in such cases. I have thus far declined to do it, not because I had any doubt but the end proposed—the collection of debts—is just and right in itself, but because I have been unwilling to go beyond the present of necessity in the usual exercise of power.

I would invite special attention to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy for a more perfect organization than the present one, which is so defective and unsatisfactory. The suggestions submitted by the Department will, it is believed, if adopted, obviate any difficulties and tend to promote harmony, and increase the efficiency of the navy.

THE LAWS OF CONGRESS.

I respectfully recommend to the consideration of Congress the present condition of the statute laws, with the hope that Congress will be able to find an early remedy for many inconveniences and evils which constantly embarrass those engaged in their practical administration. Since the organization of the Government, Congress has enacted some five thousand Acts and joint resolutions, which fill more than two thousand closely printed pages, and are scattered through many volumes.

Many of these Acts have been drawn in haste and without sufficient caution, so that their provisions are often obscure in themselves or in conflict with each other; at least so doubtful as to render