

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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**Emancipation Projects.**

One of the most singular facts to which the war has given birth is that the men most interested in maintaining slavery are those who have most effectually undermined the foundations of the institution. To benefit slavery the Democratic Convention at Charleston was rent in twain, and to extend it, Mr. William L. Yancey "fired the Southern heart." The Abolitionists, with all their wild ravings for a quarter of a century and more, have not done half as much towards emancipation as Davis, Toombs, and Stephens.

Years ago, the Southern people with one accord agreed that slavery was an evil, but iradicable in its nature. It has been said that, of late, that sentiment has been revolutionized, and that it is now regarded as one of Heaven's best gifts to man. So, at least, the politicians have told us, and so the newspapers assert; but we do not believe a word of it. It is impossible that so radical a change could have taken place in the minds of any people. The opinion that slavery was an evil was the result of the experience of a century or two, and the question, therefore, arises what could have transpired within the last twenty five years to upset all the conclusions of the past? The history of the United States will be searched in vain for the cause, for it never had an existence. It certainly will not be found in the astonishing progress made in the free States, when compared with their Southern sisters, in all things that go to make a great nation.

If anything has forced the Southern people to rally more determinedly around the institution, it was no higher feeling than that of obstinacy. For years and years they had been assailed by the abolition fanatics of the North, and so hot and furious grew the fight that all fellowship ceased, and even churches were rent in twain. The misfortune was that the Southern people attached too much importance altogether to the Garrisons, Burroughs, Smiths and the strong-minded women in pants.—They regarded them as the exponents of Northern sentiment; but the events of the war have demonstrated that they are only a small fraction of the people—powerless to control or shape the policy of the Government. In a word, then, to rid themselves of the assaults of the Abolitionists our Southern fellow-citizens have turned abolitionists themselves, if not purposely, at least in fact. In the prosecution of the war, slaves will run away and rebel masters may catch them if they can. More than this, the indications are, that before ten years have elapsed gradual emancipation will be inaugurated in the border slave States. Slavery is not a paying institution by any means, even in Virginia. We heard an instance a few days ago of a gentleman who, before the war broke out, had a farm in that State and a plantation in Mississippi, both worked by slaves, but it required the profits of the latter to make up all the losses of the former. In the end he was forced to move all his negroes down South and turn his Virginia property into a sheep ranch.

In this state of affairs the Government, as we learn from late dispatches from the East, propose to step in—that is to say the Federal Government will meet half way any slave State desiring to emancipate, and contribute an equal proportion toward the compensation of the owners. At least President Lincoln has made a suggestion of that kind to Congress, and Congress, we presume, will carry it out.

WHY THEY BURNED THE LIBRARY?—It is surmised that Gen. Pillow burned the State Library of Tennessee just before evacuating Nashville, in order to destroy certain treasonable papers and correspondence laid away within it, which, if taken by our troops would have seriously compromised distinguished men in both sections of the Union.

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**ARMY GUNNERS.**—Some of the newspapers advise the soldiers, especially artillerymen, to wear oiled wool in their ears to protect them from the concussion. A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* who professes to know, says: "No man's ears will be hurt by the report of artillery, if he will open his mouth." Just as we throw up a sash to prevent our glass being shattered by the discharge of cannon, so we should open our mouths to save our ears. The concussion comes then on both sides of the drum of the ear and has no ill effect."

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# The Oregon Argus.

A Weekly Newspaper, devoted to the Interests of the Laboring Classes, and advocating the side of Truth in every issue.

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**Details of Eastern News.**

**CARNO.** April 1st.—Col. Buford with the Twenty-seventh and Forty-second Illinois regiments and part of the Tenth Wisconsin, are now near Island No. 10. They had a detachment of heavy artillery from Hickman, Kentucky. After a forced march of thirty miles, Buford made a descent upon Union City, Tennessee, where a rebel force was stationed. The enemy fled, leaving everything. Twenty of them were killed and one hundred taken prisoners. A large amount of spoils was captured, consisting of one hundred and fifty horses, commissary and quartermaster's stores. The rebel force was estimated at seven hundred infantry and about the same number of cavalry, under command of the notorious Clay, of Tennessee.

**STRASBURG, (Va.)** March 31st.—About twenty thousand rebel soldiers made their appearance two miles beyond our pickets to day. Our nearest regiment drew up in line of battle, awaiting an attack, but declined to go beyond their lines. The rebels made no attack, but threw several shells into the camp of the Twenty-second Massachusetts. The rebels were subsequently driven away by the appearance of our advance.

**ROLLA, (Mo.)** March 29th.—Reliable information from the army of the Southwest says that the rebels number 35,000, under Van Dorn. Price retreated entirely across the Boston Mountains, and is now at Van Buren and Ft. Smith, receiving supplies from Memphis and Little Rock, via the Arkansas river. The Texas troops were much disheartened by the death of McCulloch, and the Arkansas troops feel severely the loss of McIntosh. The rebels badly need clothing and shoes. Pike's Indians have mostly returned to the Indian territory. They were not formidable in battle, being panic-struck by the effect of our artillery. Price has received the commission of Major General. One regiment of Texas troops reached Van Buren on the 17th, to reinforce Van Dorn. More troops were expected from Louisiana. The whole rebel force, however, will not exceed 50,000 for the next six weeks. Lieut. Col. Herron, of the ninth Iowa, who was taken prisoner at Pea Ridge, reports that the rebels were badly frightened, retreating very rapidly after the last fight. They had nothing to eat. Their cannon and baggage might have been easily captured, if our success had been followed up. Our forces are now encamped at the head of Cross Timber Hollow, where water and forage are plenty. Our pickets extend into Arkansas. The rebel pickets come north to the top of Boston mountain. Fayetteville is unoccupied. There is very little Union sentiment being developed in Arkansas.

**NEW YORK, March 30th.**—Steamer Empire City, from Port Royal, has arrived.—The sentiment of Eastern Florida is declared to be loyal. Rebel deserters are numerous. Many of them are willing to take up arms against their former associates. Our troops are treated cordially.—The gunboat Ottawa has been twenty miles up the St. John's river, beyond Jacksonville, meeting no opposition.

At a meeting of the citizens of Jacksonville, held on the 20th, it was declared that no State has a constitutional right to separate from the Union, and that the act of secession by Florida was void and unconstitutional, never having been submitted to the people for ratification or rejection.—They also protest against all acts of the Convention depriving them of their rights as citizens. They recommended that a Convention be called forthwith to organize a loyal State government.

**FORTRESS MONROE, March 29th.**—The steamer Suwanee, from Newbern, North Carolina, has arrived. Burnside had taken possession of Beaufort without any show of resistance by the rebels. No property was burned. Ft. Macon was still occupied by five hundred rebels. They were entirely cut off from communication with the main body, and must soon surrender.

**CAIRO, April 3d.**—A tremendous gale from the southwest passed over Cairo at three o'clock this morning, and for the time destroying everything movable. Barracks and houses were leveled to the ground.

**CHICAGO, April 4th.**—Mention has been made of late that various portions of McClellan's force, numbering from 50,000 to 60,000, embarked on transports on the Potomac some days since, to rendezvous at Fortress Monroe. They are said to be under command of Gens. McDowell and Heintzelman.

**WHEELING, (Va.) April 3d.**—The vote in this city to-day was 640 majority for the new Constitution. The majority was 588 in favor of gradual emancipation. The interior counties, as far as heard from, give the same ratio.

**WOOSTER, (Va.) April 3d.**—Gen. Banks is here, and Shields at Strasburg. Ashby's artillery was reinforced to-day by more guns, with which he practised at a long range during the day, and frequently interfered with our bridge builders, by throwing shells. Privates of Ashby's force were captured yesterday while carrying dispatches. They refused to divulge the contents.

**WOOSTER, (Va.) April 3d.**—Rebels when retreating yesterday attempted to burn the bridge over the creek, near a narrow passage, but it was extinguished. The magnificent railroad bridge, two hundred feet long, over the same stream, was burned by Jackson in his retreat from Winchester. Some of Ashby's scouts made their appearance this morning on the bridge over Stony creek, beyond Edinburg. They were fired on by some of the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania (Col. Geary's) troops, when Ashby's unmasked four guns and threw several shells into camp. The rebels subsequently retreated under fire of our guns.

**CAIRO, April 3d.**—The storm Wednesday

A SENATOR.—The Washington correspondence of the St. Louis Republican says:

"The Governor of Oregon, taking an infamous advantage of the decree of God, which left the seat of Baker vacant, has dared to pollute it by forcing into its occupancy a semi-secessionists named Stark. This would have seemed impossible out of Oregon. When every heart from the populous to the gold sandied Fraser's river was bowed in sorrow, ennobled by pride, for the death and the glory of Baker, did it not seem impossible that any man could be found to gratify a cherished malice by the awful opportunity of the hour, and to take a hideous vengeance on the hated name of the glorious dead by disowning the place his genius had illumined, by the presence of his and the country's detractor? It is too bad for ridicule."

If the new Senator from Oregon is a true man, he should sue his face for libel. He has a long, evasive countenance; shaly, sandy hair; narrow forehead; white eyebrows; colorless, pale eyes, nearly closed, which watch furtively, feinely; a mouth whose expression is hidden by mahogany whiskers and moustaches. I should think he would feel ill at ease in Baker's place. I should think the ghost of the dead patriot, murdered by the treason that Stark has smiled upon, would rise before him and discomfort him. He is not to be envied in his honors. The tool of a disaffected Governor, the misrepresentative of the honest sentiment of his State—the successor of a man who dwelt here, is to be congratulated only by his pay, and his ample mileage. Perhaps he is satisfied with that.

WAY THE REBELS DID NOT ADVANCE.—*Brooks Washington*.—Gen. Joseph E. Johnston says, in concluding his report of the battle at Manassas:

"The apparent firmness of the United States troops at Centreville who had not been engaged, which checked our pursuit, the strong force occupying the works near Georgetown, Arlington, and Alexandria, the certainty, too, that Gen. Patterson, if seduced, would reach Washington, with his army of thirty thousand men, sooner than we could, and the condition and inadequate means of the army in ammunition, provisions, and transportation, prevented any serious thoughts of advancing against the Capital. It is certain that the fresh troops within the works were, in number, quite sufficient for their defence; if not, Gen. Patterson's army would certainly reinforce them soon enough."

Gen. Johnston, it will be remembered, was the senior officer in command of the rebel army in front of Washington.

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**SECRETARY SEWARD, AND THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.**—The following letter from Secretary Seward to a Philadelphia club organized for the special purpose of laboring to secure Seward's elevation to the dignity of the Presidential Chair, shows his character in a most favorable light, doing equal honor to the head which dictated, no less than to the heart which inspired the sentiment.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1861.

DEAR SIR.—I have received the letter which was addressed to me on the 8th instant, by you, an officer of a political association recently organized in Philadelphia. You will excuse me my dear sir, for what may seem unkind or ungrateful in this reply to that communication, which has given me some uneasiness, and which only fails to inflict severe pain upon me because I do not regard the movement which it describes as one of very considerable magnitude.

The club as you inform me, have adopted a resolution to exert themselves to secure my advancement to the Presidency of the United States, and this resolution is generally based upon a high appreciation of such public services as I have hitherto attempted to perform. I avail myself of the good will of the club, thus flatteringly manifested, to say that I consider the proceeding as one altogether unwise, and tending to produce only public evil in a crisis when every possible path of danger ought to be carefully avoided. It is a partisan movement, and worst of all, a partisan movement of a personal character.

If when the present civil war was looking up before us, I had devised an ambition to attain the high position you have indicated, I should have adopted one of two courses which lay open to me—namely, either to withdraw from the public service at home to a position of honor without great responsibility abroad, or to retire to private life, and avoiding the caprices of fortune, await the chances of public favor. But I deliberately took another course. I renounced all ambition, and came into the executive government to aid in saving the Constitution, and the integrity of my country, or to perish with them. It seemed to me, then, that I must necessarily renounce all expectation of future personal advantage, in order that the counsels that I might give to the President in such a crisis should not only be, but be recognized as being, disinterested, loyal and patriotic. Acting on this principle, I shun no danger and shrink from no responsibility. So I neither look for, nor, if it should be offered to me, would I ever hereafter accept any reward.

The country is to be saved or lost by the highest efforts of public and private virtue before another Presidential election will occur. If it shall be saved, as I believe it will, I do not fear that my zeal in that great achievement will be overlooked by the grateful generations to come after us.

If on the other hand it shall be lost, he who shall study the causes of the great ruin shall not find among them any want of sacrifice on my part. I could never consent, if unanimously called upon, to be President of a division of the Republic. I am fully aware of my aspirations for rule in the whole Republic, as a contribution to the efforts to maintain it in its integrity. I hardly need add that it results from these circumstances, that I not only ask, but importunately require my friends, in whose behalf you have written to me, to drop my name henceforth and forever from among those to whom they look as possible candidates for national distinctions and preferments.

Very truly yours, W. H. SEWARD.

HOW ARRANGED.—Rebels can be divided into three great primary classes, viz.: 1. Surrenders. 2. Evacuates. 3. Resolvers. The surrenders are known by having two flags, one white, and one black. They run up the black flag when the Federal troops get in sight, and after a volley or two, the white one is elevated. The Evacuates are only noted for the celebrity of their movements; Price is an example of this class. The Resolvers are a harmless set of jokers who while away the listless hours at Richmond, in passing resolutions to the effect that the ports shall be thrown open, and that they "never, never, NEVER will submit!" We expect soon to read accounts of "Sanguinary Surrenders," and the most Evanscent Evacuates, and the most Rampant, Ramaging, Renovating Resolvers.

AMONG THE BARKS AND BRIGS THERE ARE CERTAINLY 400 TO 500 CAPABLE OF RECEIVING AN ARMAMENT OF FROM 8 TO 20 GUNS, AND MORE THAN A THOUSAND OF OUR LARGE COASTING SCHOONERS THAT HAVE A BREADTH OF 28 TO 30 FEET AND OVER, AND A FORM NEVER SURPASSED FOR SPEED, WHICH CAN IN A FEW DAYS BE TRANSFORMED INTO SO MANY EFICIENT SAILING SLOOPS AND FRIGATES. THEIR LENGTH VARIES FROM 120 TO 200 FEET; THEIR BREADTH FROM 30 TO 52 FEET, AND WHENEVER THEY ARE CUT DOWN ONE DECK, OR THEIR DECKS ARE LOWERED, WILL BE FOUND CAPABLE OF CARRYING AN ARMAMENT VARYING FROM 20 TO 50 GUNS, ACCORDING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPACITIES.

Twenty or thirty of our best and largest clipper ships might very well be transformed into powerful screw-frigates, as, for instance, the Great Republic, which exceeds in her dimensions the largest English 50-gun frigates, while her shape is incomparably superior.

THE SCANTLING OF ALL THESE SHIPS IS WELL KNOWN TO BE LARGER THAN THAT OF THE BEST AND STRONG