

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vetoing the Bill entitled "An Act to Provide for the More Efficient Government of the Rebel States."

To the House of Representatives: I have examined the bill "to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States" with the care and anxiety which its transcendent importance is calculated to awaken.

The bill places all the people of the ten States therein named under the absolute domination of military rulers; and the preamble undertakes to give the reasons upon which the measure is based, and the ground upon which it is justified.

It is not denied that the States in question have each of them an actual government, with all the powers, executive, judicial and legislative, which properly belong to a free State.

The provisions which these Governments have made for the preservation of order, the suppression of crime, and the redress of private injuries, are in substance and principle the same as those that prevail in the Northern States and in other civilized countries.

Several provisions, dictated by the humanity of Congress, have been inserted in the bill, apparently to restrain the power of the commanding officer; but it seems to me that they are of no avail for that purpose.

It is plain that the authority here given to the military officer amounts to absolute despotism. But to make it still more unendurable, the bill provides that it may be delegated to as many subordinates as he chooses to appoint.

It may be answered to this that the officers of the army are two magnanimous, just, and humane to oppress and trample upon a subjected people. I do not doubt that many officers are as well entitled to this kind of confidence as any other class of men.

The men of our race in every age have struggled to tie up the hands of their Governments and keep them within the law; because their own experience of all mankind taught them that rulers could not be relied on to concede those rights which they were not legally bound to respect.

The ten States named in the bill are divided into five districts. For each district an officer of the army, not below the rank of Brigadier General, is to be appointed to rule over the people; and he is to be supported with an efficient military force to enable him to perform his duties and enforce his authority.

The bill, however, would seem to show upon its face that the establishment of peace in a good order is not its real object. The fifth section declares that the preceding sections shall cease to operate in any State when certain events shall have happened.

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indeed no provision by which he is authorized or required to take any evidence at all. Everything is a crime which he chooses to call so, and all persons are condemned whom he pronounces to be guilty.

To a casual reader of the bill, it might seem that some kind of trial was secured by it to persons accused of crime; but such is not the case. The officer "may allow local civil tribunals to try offenders," but of course this does not require that he shall do so.

It is also provided that "he shall have power to organize military commissions or tribunals;" but this power he is not commanded to exercise. It is merely permissive and is to be used only "when in his judgment it may be necessary for the trial of offenders."

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that which the Constitution says we shall not do at all. If therefore, the Southern States were in truth out of the Union, we could not treat their people in a way which the fundamental law forbids.

Some persons assume that the success of our arms in crushing the opposition which was made in some of the States to the execution of the Federal laws, reduced those States and all their people—the innocent as well as the guilty—to the condition of vassalage, and gave us a power over them which the Constitution does not bestow, or define, or limit.

It is equally well known that in all criminal cases a trial by jury is made indispensable by the expressed words of that instrument. I will not enlarge on the inestimable value of the right thus secured to every freeman, or speak of the danger to public liberty in all parts of the country which must ensue from a denial of it anywhere or upon any pretense.

It is a part of our public history which can never be forgotten that both Houses of Congress, in July 1861, declared in the form of a solemn resolution that the war was and should be carried on for no purpose of subjugation, but solely to enforce the constitution and laws; and that when this was yielded by the parties in rebellion, the contest should cease, with the constitutional rights of the States, and of individuals unimpaired.

The evils which spring from the unsettled state of our Government will be acknowledged by all. Commercial intercourse is impeded, capital is in constant peril, public securities fluctuate and valueless, and the peace of mind and tranquillity of the people is impaired.

The United States are bound to guarantee to each State a republican form of government.—Can it be pretended that this obligation is not palpably broken if we carry out a measure like this, which would strip every vestige of a republican government in the States and put its life, property, liberty and honor of all the people in each of them under the domination of a single person clothed with unlimited authority?

The purpose and object of the bill—the general intent which pervades it from beginning to end—is to change the entire structure and character of the State Governments, and to compel every citizen to the adoption of organic laws and regulations which they are unwilling to accept if left to themselves.

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causing peril by the President, in times of insurrection, or invasion, or of civil or foreign war within the limits of the United States, or in any territory or in any place where the ordinary law no longer adequately secures public safety and private rights.

It will be observed that of the three kinds of military jurisdiction which can be exercised or created under our Constitution, there is but one that can prevail in time of peace, and that is the code of laws enacted by Congress for the government of the national forces.

I need not say to the Representatives of the American people that their Constitution forbids the exercise of judicial power in any way but one—that is by the ordained and established courts. It is equally well known that in all criminal cases a trial by jury is made indispensable by the expressed words of that instrument.

It is a part of our public history which can never be forgotten that both Houses of Congress, in July 1861, declared in the form of a solemn resolution that the war was and should be carried on for no purpose of subjugation, but solely to enforce the constitution and laws; and that when this was yielded by the parties in rebellion, the contest should cease, with the constitutional rights of the States, and of individuals unimpaired.

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In the first place, it is the only system of free government which we can hope to have as a nation. When it ceases to be the rule of our conduct, we may perhaps take our choice between complete anarchy, a consolidated despotism, and a total dissolution of the Union; but nations of liberty, regulated by law, will have no other choice.

It was ordained "to form a more perfect union, to establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, promote the general welfare, provide for the common defense, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity." These great ends have been attained heretofore, and will be again, by faithful obedience to it, but they are certain to be lost if we treat with disregard its several obligations.

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IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.

A Liberal Offer. We keep on hand a large supply of Fertilizers, such as Peruvian and Pacific Guano, Raw Bone Phosphate and Super Phosphate of Lime, and Gypsum—which we offer to Farmers on reasonable terms.

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 25, 1867. J. Y. BRYCE & CO. If

CITY TAXES. All persons residing in the City of Charlotte, or owning taxable property, or doing business therein on the first day of February, 1867, are hereby notified to make return of their taxable property, polls, merchandise or other subjects taxable by the city, on or before the last day of March, 1867.

THOS. W. DEWEY, City Clerk.

Bacon and Corn. 10,000 LBS. BACON (Middle) and a large quantity of Corn and Flour, for sale by HAMMOND & McLAUGHLIN.

SPRING IMPORTATION, 1867. Ribbons, Millinery and Straw Goods. ARMSTRONG, CATOR & CO.

ARMSTRONG, CATOR & CO. Importers and Jobbers of RIBBONS, BONNET SILKS and SATINS, BLONDS, Netts, Crapes, Velvets, Buches, Flowers, Feathers, STRAW BONNETS and LADIES' HATS, Trimmed and Untrimmed.

SHAKER HOODS, &c. 237 and 239 Baltimore Street, BALTIMORE, MD.

Offer the largest Stock to be found in this Country, and unequalled in choice variety and cheapness. Orders solicited and prompt attention given. March 4, 1867.

1000 BUSHELS of CORN FOR SALE. Apply to R. L. PATTERSON & CO., Patterson P. O., Caldwell county, N. C. March 4th, 1867. Impd

30 Sacks of Family Flour, 400 Bushels of Spring OATS, 100 " CORN, For sale by HUTCHISON, BURROUGHS & CO. Feb. 25, 1867.

Lime, Corn, &c. Thomastown Lime, Corn and Flour, for sale at the lowest price at the Charlotte & S. C. Railroad Depot. Feb. 25, 1867. W. W. PEGRAM.

20,000 Pounds Iron. Iron of the best quality, from the King's Mountain Iron Works. I keep all kinds of Iron for farming purposes and for Gold Mining. S. B. MEACHAM, Agent. Feb. 25, 1867.

Just Received, 5000 Bacon Sides, 200 Bbls. Superior Irish Potatoes, 2 Tierces New Rice, S. C., 50 Bags No. 1 Family Flour, 100 Bushels of Bolted Meal, 200 Bags Seed Oats, for Spring, 500 Choice Hams, New, 100 Sacks Liverpool Salt, 500 Superior Sole Leather, 20 Boxes Cheese. Feb. 25, 1867. S. B. MEACHAM.

HIDES FOR SALE. 5000 POUNDS of DRY HIDES now on hand and for sale by S. M. HOWELL. Feb. 25, 1867.

AUCTIONEER and AGENT. S. A. STUART respectfully informs the citizens of Charlotte and the public generally that he will give his personal attention to Auction Sales and the settlement of Accounts, or any business of that kind that may be referred to him. He will visit the country when desired and act as Auctioneer, or attend to any business in the city as an Agent. He can be found at the Corner Drug Store of Dr. McAden, or at the residence of Mr. Baber. Feb. 25, 1867.

COFFINS. At my Planing Mill in Charlotte, on the Salisbury road, Coffins of all kinds may be obtained at short notice. A good supply is always kept on hand ready-made. Feb. 25, 1867. S. A. STUART.

State of N. Carolina, Mecklenburg Co. Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions—July Term, 1867. Witkovsky & Rintells vs. Charles Beckham. Attachment Levied on 2 boxes Goods, 1 bale of Bagging, 1 Cheese, 5 barrels of Flour, 1 barrel of Crackers and 2 bales of Cotton.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant, Charles Beckham, resides beyond the limits of this State, it is ordered by the court that publication be made, for six weeks, in the Western Democrat, notifying the said defendant to be and appear at the next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the county of Mecklenburg, at the court house in Charlotte, on the 2d Monday in April next, then and there to answer, plead or reply, or judgment final will be taken against him, and the property levied upon condemned to plaintiff's use.

Witness, Wm. Maxwell, Clerk of our said Court at office, the 2d Monday in January, A. D. 1867. WM. MAXWELL, Clerk.

State of N. Carolina, Mecklenburg Co. Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions—July Term, 1867. Thomas M. Kerns and James Wallace Administrators vs. William Wallace, deceased, vs. James Wallace and others. Petition to Sell Real Estate.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant, B. A. Culp, resides beyond the limits of this State, it is ordered by the court that publication be made, for six weeks, in the Western Democrat, notifying the said defendant to be and appear at the next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the county of Mecklenburg, at the court house in Charlotte, on the 2d Monday in April next, then and there to answer, plead or reply, or judgment final will be taken against him, and the property levied upon condemned to plaintiff's use.

Witness, Wm. Maxwell, Clerk of our said Court at office, the 2d Monday in January, A. D. 1867. WM. MAXWELL, Clerk.

State of N. Carolina, Mecklenburg Co. Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions—July Term, 1867. James T. Kell vs. J. A. Culp. Two Attachments Levied on 1 Horse and 1 Mule. It appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant, B. A. Culp, resides beyond the limits of this State, it is ordered by the court that publication be made, for six weeks, in the Western Democrat, notifying the said defendant to be and appear at the next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the county of Mecklenburg, at the court house in Charlotte, on the 2d Monday in April next, then and there to answer, plead or reply, or judgment final will be taken against him, and the property levied upon condemned to plaintiff's use.

Witness, Wm. Maxwell, Clerk of our said Court at office, the 2d Monday in January, A. D. 1867. WM. MAXWELL, Clerk.

PICTURES! PICTURES!!

The undersigned, Photographic Artist of Baltimore, Md., begs leave to inform the public in general, that he has opened a No. 1 Ambrotype, Daguerrotype and Photograph Gallery, over Mr. J. Hart's Store, next door to the court house. Parties desiring neat, well executed and true Pictures will do well to give him a call. Copies taken from the smallest picture into large life-size Portraits. Prices reasonable. HENRY BAUMGARTEN. Feb. 18, 1867.

Just Received, 500 Bushels white bread Corn, 500 " prime Seed Oats, 500 Lbs Durham's Smoking Tobacco, 100 Bunches Cotton Yarn, 20 Boxes Adamantine Candles, 3 Barrels Molasses.

Bacon Sides, Hams and Lard; a new lot of that superior Coffee; superior gunpowder and Imperial Tea. Send for your supplies to W. BOYD'S. Feb. 25, 1867.