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SECRET REBEL HISTORY!

Interesting Statement of the Position of Davis and the Confederate Government.

UNPOPULARITY OF JEFF. DAVIS.

The following letter was written by a gentleman who occupied the position of Private Secretary to one of the most influential members of Jeff. Davis' Cabinet throughout the rebellion.

Richmond, Monday, May 15, 1865.

Owing to the mystery of secret sessions and the reticence observed by the journals, much of the real history of this great struggle remains to be written. It is known to the world that Mr. Davis wielded to the last the full powers of the South, and that the Southern Congress granted nearly all his requests for power, insatiable as he seemed to be in this respect.

No person, perhaps, ever occupied a prominent position who availed himself so little of the wisdom or experience of others as Mr. Davis. He was rudely intolerant of any difference of opinion, and seemed to rejoice in isolation from those who were likely to express an independent judgment.

When the Southern Congress met in November last, Mr. Davis sent a message, which was, upon the whole, of a confident tone. He seemed to take account of the waning resources and spirit of the South, or the diminished numbers of her armies, and still less of the constancy, determination and power of the North.

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in the end by ruin and subjugation. It was believed that while the Southerners had two large armies in the field, possessed of their capital and an organized government, they could, with this show of strength, secure liberal terms upon the basis of a restoration of the Union.

Views of this sort were pressed by Mr. Hunter and others upon Mr. Davis, and a long while it seemed with some prospect of success. But the Richmond Enquirer, Sentinel, and Whig were furious in their denunciations of any reconstruction.

One of the men whose counsel to Davis was most intense and bitter was Wigfall, of Texas. He declared that success with Jefferson Davis at the helm was impossible—his incapacity and obstinacy would ruin any cause in the world, and he favored a counter-revolution to depose him.

If Mr. Davis were to succeed in making his way to Europe he would be passing into history as an incompetent man who had brought ruin on the cause he aspired to lead. Hardly any of the public men of the South have any liking for him, and every one would then have his story to tell of blunders and mismanagement.

Again, while all Southerners look with horror and detestation upon the crime by which Mr. Lincoln lost his life, they all repudiate the idea that their government had ought to do with it. Even those among them most bitter upon Mr. Davis affirm that he would never for one moment have countenanced so infamous a resort as assassination.

At one time throughout the South there was a clamor for retaliation for alleged outrages by the Union armies. Mr. Davis, Gen. Lee, Mr. Hunter and others steadily resisted this demand, and no right share of blame fell in consequence upon the Confederate Government.

It is well known in Richmond that Dahlgren's command would have been expected a year ago but for the interposition of Mr. Davis and Gen. Lee.

The amount of specie taken hence by the Confederate Government has been greatly overrated. It did not much exceed half a million of dollars; but a large proportion—say half—was in silver, and hence the bulk would give the idea of a greater value.

At the beginning of the war, the seven Colon States thought that by their staple they could coerce Great Britain, the North included; and of this folly of standing alone their leaders had a fair opportunity cured. Mr. Davis halted at Danville, with the intention of leaving his government there.

Greensboro, he left for Charlotte, where he proceeded to locate his capital, open up government offices, confer promotions, appoint Generals, &c. Nothing could exceed his intonation. He wasted time which, for his escape, was invaluable, in keeping up the forms of a government which had no existence.

In the midst of all the delusion came the intelligence that the negotiations were at end; and then Mr. Davis and his Cabinet set out for Georgia. Their subsequent movements and rate of progress are probably not known in Richmond.

How Mr. Davis could shut his eyes to all this, is perfectly marvelous; but he did, and when people spoke to him of negotiation, he doubted and evaded their patriotism. Gen. Lee had, beyond all the most gloomy forebodings, as early as the 26th of March, he wrote a letter to Mr. Davis, stating that he could neither hold his lines nor withdraw his army with the small number of troops at his command.

VIRGINIA.

Reorganization of the State Government.

STATE ELECTIONS.

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR PIERPONT.

The People Moving—Public Meeting in Loudon.

BY THE GOVERNOR.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, ALEXANDRIA, May 9th, 1865.

To the Voters of the First, Second and Seventh Congressional Districts of Virginia.

The House of Representatives of the last Congress of the United States decided not to admit to a seat in Congress a member from any State declared to be in insurrection, unless a majority of the District he proposed to represent had an opportunity to vote at his election.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, ALEXANDRIA, VA., May 1st, 1865.

To His Excellency F. H. Pierpont, Governor of Virginia.

SIR—Your note of the 28th inst., asking for my opinion in relation to elections for members of Congress, State Senators and members of the General Assembly in counties unorganized in the State, under the Restored Government of Virginia, has been received.

I am of opinion that no election can be held for the officers named in your note except in counties organized under the Restored Government, for want of proper officers to hold them.

By act of the General Assembly, passed January 31st, 1862, it is enacted, That in all cases of election for election districts, or Senatorial or Congressional Districts, the Commissioners superintending the election at the Court House of the several counties or corporations forming such districts shall, within three days after such election is concluded, deliver a certified statement of the result of the election in said county (to be ascertained in a manner now prescribed by law) to the Clerk of the County Court of such county, who so duty it shall be as soon as he may be able to record such result in a book for that purpose to be kept in his office, and transmit a certified copy of such result, (which shall be written in words and not in figures) to the Clerk of the County Court of the county first named in the law describing such district.

These and other requirements, for want of proper officers, cannot be complied with in counties unorganized. In the Constitution, page 26, section 1, passed by the Convention which assembled at Alexandria on the 18th day of February, 1864, in an ordinance for

the establishment of the restored government, it is provided that "for the reorganization of every county in this Commonwealth not now organized, it shall be the duty of the Governor, to issue his proclamation declaring all the offices therein vacant, civil and military, accompanied by a writ of election directed to one or more commissioners, not exceeding three, All or any of said commissioners may act, and they shall have power to do all and everything that the sheriff and county court have now to do, in holding a election for county officers, according to law now in force, or that may hereafter be enacted."

It is here distinctly stated that said commissioners have all the power that the sheriff and county court now have in holding an election for county officers, leaving the unavoidable inference that they shall have no powers beyond those expressly named, according to a well known maxim, that "the expression of the one proposition is the exclusion of the other."

Very respectfully, THOS. R. ROWDEN, Attorney General of Virginia.

The fourth Thursday in May, next, to-wit, May 11th, by law for holding the election for members of Congress and of the General Assembly of Virginia. The unorganized counties in the three Congressional Districts above named cannot be organized by the election of officers under the Restored Government of Virginia who can hold and certify elections for the above named places according to law, before the fourth Thursday in May. If no election should be held at the time fixed by law, they will be vacant, it is then competent, by the laws of Virginia, for the Executive to order special elections to fill the vacancies.

E. H. PIERPONT, Governor of Virginia.

A meeting of the loyal citizens of Loudon county, Virginia, was held on the 5th inst. at Waterford, for the purpose of organizing the county. Mr. S. B. Caldwell presided. Resolutions were adopted expressive of the Union sentiment of the people of the county, favoring the extinction of slavery by State action, declaring the ordinance of secession null and void, favoring the restoration of civil authority in the State, and that in selecting candidates for offices the preference should be given to those who have always been loyal to the Government of the United States.

Resolved, That with no desire to avenge the injuries we may have suffered; and with an earnest wish to heal the wounds inflicted on our beloved State by the late unparalleled war, we desire that such a course may be pursued by our State and national authorities as shall insure peace and tranquility to all, with as little suffering to any as is consistent with a due regard to the principles of justice, and the future peace and welfare of our common country.

The meeting adjourned, after announcing the call of a convention to meet at Hamilton on the 14th inst., to nominate candidates for county officers.

The Alexandria Journal gives the following account of another meeting in the same county.

The loyal people of Loudon county had a reunion after months and years of separation, at Lawsville, on Thursday last. Thousands of those who had been driven from the county met at that point on that day, many others who had remained at their homes during all the trying hours of the past four years, and enjoyed a reunion such as is seldom witnessed in this world.

After the enthusiasm had somewhat subsided, Dr. J. J. Henshaw, the recent Treasurer of State, addressed the platform, and announced the programme for the occasion. He also made a few remarks pertinent to the occasion, and was followed by Samuel M. Janney, Charles F. Janney, and W. F. Mery, Senator from Loudon.

After partaking of this sumptuous repast, there was again conducted to the stand, where stirring addresses were delivered by Sergeant Hooy, of MA., Lieut. Cox, James M. Downey, recent Speaker of the House, and Thomas Brown, Esq., of Loudon county. The crowd then dispersed, each delegation wending its way homeward with banners waving in the breeze and with shouts for the Union which made the welkin ring.

A brass band from Harper's Ferry was in attendance which favored those present with some old-fashioned music—principally patriotic. Altogether the occasion was one which will long be remembered among the loyal and long oppressed people of Loudon county.

There are six hundred miles of streets in the City of Brooklyn, as ascertained by actual surveys by direction of the Common Council Committee on re-naming and renumbering the streets.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN THE SOUTH.

The people here seem to believe that the year will close with the election would have been the designated time for the election, as an element of political discussion. But no sooner is the first element of peace discerned, than the political class begin to dig up this apparently irrelevant question, with a hope of making it once more a subject of contention in the realm of politics.

On the other hand the "conservatives" contend that unrestricted negro franchise would be productive of great social evils and that it would be highly pernicious to the interests of the South. Now the truth is, that neither party takes the right view of the question. We hold to the old Democratic doctrine that the States have the right to regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States.

The constitution of the several Southern States are valid at the present time, just as they were before the war. They have not been abrogated by the act of secession, nor have they been repealed or changed in a legal way. According to these instruments, negroes have not the right to vote, but the people of each State have the power to amend the Constitution thereof, and if they desire to grant the elective franchise to negroes, no power can lawfully prevent them.

The North Carolina Times.

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