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W. J. YATES, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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PUBLIC ACTS

Passed at the First Session of the Second Congress of the Confederate States—1864.

An Act to authorize the manufacture of Spirituous Liquors for the use of the Army and Hospitals.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That it shall be lawful for the Surgeon General or the Commissary General to make all necessary contracts for the manufacture and distillation of whiskey, brandy, and other alcoholic and spirituous liquors for the supply of the army and hospitals upon such terms as may be conducive to the public interest; and that the said contracts and any heretofore made shall operate as a license to the contractor to manufacture the same for the purpose aforesaid.

Sec. 2. That the Surgeon General and the Commissary General shall be authorized to establish manufactories or distilleries for the purpose of obtaining the supplies aforesaid, and to employ laborers in the same, in full compliance with their contracts; nor shall it be lawful for any contractor to sell, or in any way dispose of, otherwise than as said contract or contracts may require, any alcohol, whiskey, brandy, or other alcoholic or spirituous liquors; nor shall this act operate as a license to any contractor for any violation of the prohibitions herein contained, when such violation shall be a crime or misdemeanor under the laws of the State in which the same may occur.

Approved June 14, 1864.

An Act providing for the establishment and payment of claims for a certain description of property taken or informally impressed for the use of the army.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to appoint and assign, in each congressional district and for each territory, an agent, not liable to military duty in the field, who shall, at stated times, in each county or parish, under the direction of the post quartermaster nearest to him, receive and take proof, under oath, in relation to all claims in said district for forage, provisions, cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, mules, teams and wagons heretofore furnished to the army by the owner, or heretofore taken or informally impressed for the use of the army, and not yet paid for, by any officer in the military service, or by his order or direction, express or implied, from the use of the property, whether said officer be a line or staff officer, and whether he be a bonded officer or otherwise, and report the facts and transmit the evidence in each case to the proper accounting officers of the Treasury; the performance of the duties herein prescribed shall be a part of the duty of the agent in each district, and he shall be authorized to audit and control and order payment of such claims as appear to him to be equitable and just; provided, That all such claims originating in any congressional district shall be reported to the accounting officers of the Treasury Department, who are hereby authorized to audit, control and direct payment of the same in the same manner as the accounting officers of the said district are authorized to do in relation to claims for property taken or informally impressed, in taking testimony in regard to said claims, to administer oaths to witnesses, and, if he think proper, to the claimants themselves.

The compensation allowed to said agent shall be ten dollars per day while actually engaged in the performance of the duties imposed on him by this act, and 30 cents per mile for every mile actually traveled by him, to be paid under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of War; provided, That the Secretary of War may assign to the duty herein mentioned any quartermaster or bonded officer of the army; and, in that event, said officer or quartermaster shall, in addition to the compensation now allowed him by law, be entitled to mileage at the rate of forty cents per mile: provided, further, That the Secretary of War may appoint any non-commissioned officer or private to perform the duties under this act who may be unfit for active service in the field because of wounds received or disease contracted in said service, and the pay and allowance of such non-commissioned officer or private, when so appointed and assigned, shall be the same as are allowed to persons so appointed who may not be liable to military service.

Sec. 2. That this act shall cease and determine on the first day of January, 1865, east of the Mississippi river, and on the first day of May, 1865, west of the Mississippi river; and all claims of the description aforesaid, not presented to the agent aforesaid prior to said dates at the respective places mentioned, shall not be entitled to the benefits of this act.

Approved June 14, 1864.

An Act to increase the compensation of the heads of the several Executive Departments, and the Assistant Secretary of War and the Treasury, and of the Assistant Treasury and other officers therein named.

FOR THE WESTERN DEMOCRAT

A GREAT ENEMY.

Mr. Editor: Will you be kind enough to allow me space in your paper to address a few remarks to the ladies who are addicted to the habit of using snuff. Enough has not yet been said concerning this injurious practice. Nothing is more difficult to be accounted for, even by men of acute and profound observation, than the strong attachment of human species to practices which are absolutely at war with nature and hostile to every principle of true enjoyment and happiness.

Sec. 3. That the offices left vacant by such resignations shall not be filled, and that hereafter the lowest grade of commissioned officer shall not be filled unless there are upon the rolls of the company for service at least fifty non-commissioned officers and privates; nor shall the position of senior second lieutenant be filled, in case of a vacancy therein, unless there are upon the rolls of the company for service at least thirty non-commissioned officers and privates; nor shall the position of first lieutenant be filled, unless in case of a vacancy there are at least twenty non-commissioned officers and privates on the rolls of the company for service, which facts shall in each case be certified by the captain of the company and approved by the colonel of the regiment, before such promotion can be made.

Approved June 14, 1864.

An Act to amend an act entitled "An act to organize military courts to attend the army of the Confederate States in the field, and to define the powers of said courts."

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the above entitled act be amended that in all instances in which the particular division, corps district or other subordinate organization, to which a military court is or may be hereafter appointed or assigned, the commander of the army or department may by order, when in his discretion it shall be proper and safe to do so, direct and empower the commander of the subordinate division, corps, district, etc., to pass upon and refer for trial all charges and specifications to come before said court, review and endorse or disapprove the records thereof, transmit the same direct to the War Department, remit or suspend sentences (where lawful) and take all action and exercise all jurisdiction in that behalf which pertains under existing laws to the commander of the army or department.

Sec. 2. That from and after the passage of this act, when any person shall have been tried by any military court or court martial, and acquitted of the charge or charges preferred, the finding of the court shall be announced immediately, and the person so tried and acquitted, if a soldier, shall be released from arrest and returned to duty; and if other than a soldier, discharged from custody without awaiting the examination or report of the reviewing officer of such court.

Approved June 14, 1864.

An Act to amend an act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to organize military courts to attend the army of the Confederate States in the field, and to define the powers of said courts,' approved February thirteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four."

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the proviso to said act, and also so much thereof as requires that the judge of the military court in North Alabama shall give ten days notice of the times and places of holding said courts before the same are held, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Approved June 14, 1864.

An Act to amend the laws relating to the commutation value of hospital rations.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the commutation value of rations of the sick and wounded officers and soldiers in hospitals or other places used in camp or in the field as hospitals, be fixed at the Government cost of said rations, and one hundred per centum thereon; provided, That said one hundred per centum on the Government cost of each ration commuted shall constitute a hospital fund, to be drawn and appropriated as the Secretary of War shall deem necessary, to purchase supplies for the use of the sick and disabled of the army in hospitals.

A LONDON NIGHT.

The Lower Classes of English Society Suffer.

The London Times has the following account of some night scenes in London, curiously illustrative of some of the statements made by Mr. Kay in his work on the "Social Condition of the English People."

A few evenings ago, a little before 6 o'clock, when the darkness was heavy and damp with that slow, incessant November rain, which seems to creep under any shelter and to spread its cold touch over every part of the body, any unwilling passenger who had to pass at the back of the national gallery would have noticed a close crowd of more than forty persons pressing one of the doors of St. Martin's work-house. He would have found that they were waiting for the opening of the casual ward in the hope of obtaining a night's shelter and a little food.

If he went up to them he would have seen them huddled together for warmth. They would have taken little notice of him, except that a man on the outside of the circle might glance uneasily at him, and edge away as if he did not like to be seen, and, as if moved by a sense of suspicion, whisper to the stranger, "I never did this in my life before."

The work-house only admits, as a rule, twelve men and twelve women, and some of them must have the door shut against them. The door soon opens, and all their eyes fasten on a burly, well-dressed, well-combed, well-brushed official, the greatest possible contrast to the ring of paleness, squalor, and dirt outside. He is well accustomed to this sort of sight, and there is a quiet business like coolness about his manner in strange contrast with the eager, imploring stare of the helpless faces below him. He surveys the group carefully, first to see if there are any who have been there before; for it will not do to allow the casual ward to become an ordinary refuge to any one. As he is sure to have to turn away some, he will audit those who have not been there before. It is too great a luxury to be enjoyed by any one two nights running.

At last he makes a sign, and one woman passed in, and another, and another, up to a dozen or so, and then a pale, weary-looking woman, with young features, but aged looking hair, is pushed on one side, not roughly, but irresistibly by his arm, and her head drops back and her eyes close despairingly as she falls away into the rain-fog. Then he looks around at the men and admits a few of them, pushing one or two of them back with a touch of roughness he hardly showed the women.

"Don't tell me no lies," he says sharply, to one who assures him "I wasn't here last night, sir," in a tone which seems to imply that he knows why he is rejected. Fewer of them are admitted than of the women, but there are still about a dozen and a half of men and women outside. "It is very wet, sir," says a pious woman's voice. "I know it is wet," he says, as though the circumstances were quite familiar to him, "but I haven't room for all of you." After a word with the authorities behind he admits one or two more, and the door shuts quietly, but inevitably; and it is no good for those who remain to look up at the light above the door and hope for warmth within, and they turn their faces away to the night.

They do not grumble; the mass of them hardly make one murmur; they know their fate, and it is inevitable, and they submit in passive despair. Only one Irish woman begins to raise a wail of complaint, and seems, alone of them all, inclined to relieve herself by hard words against the work-house authorities. They break the circle and beg to shrink away, but, as the Irish woman turns and sees a gentleman waiting behind, she raises her voice to a louder and direr tone of complaint; and then the others, who seemed to wait even spirit enough to beg, follow her loud and less sensitive example, and gather in a doubtful and less puzzled circle around the stranger; and then when he can get the Irishwoman to be quiet he may hear, in dull, impassive tones, where the helpless creatures come from and what they have been doing. It is always the same story: "No work for three months." "It has been a dull time for trade." "Some have had no work since summer."

A SINGULAR DILEMMA.

The Cincinnati Enquirer relates the following rather singular occurrence:

In the police court, in Cincinnati, a singular occurrence was brought to light. About a year ago, a man named Edward Carey left an affectionate and beautiful wife and three interesting children to seek a fortune in the mines of California. For one year after his arrival in the gold country, Carey wrote constantly to his wife and inclosed sums of money. Suddenly the correspondence ceased, and Mrs. Carey, receiving no money, was compelled to adopt other means to obtain a livelihood. Finally she received information that her husband had been killed in the mines, which was corroborated by a subsequent letter from California. For three years she lived, as she supposed she was a widow. Receiving the attentions of an Italian named Joseph Reibe, who succeeded in gaining her affection, she consented to marriage, and about a year ago the two were legally united in the bonds of wedlock, and have ever since lived quite happily together. On Sunday last, as the church bells were summoning to the house of God the worshippers of the True Being, Edward Carey, who had arrived direct from California by the morning train, was making inquiries in the neighborhood in which his family resided when he left Cincinnati, for his wife and children. His neighbors and friends stood amazed, and trembled upon beholding the man whom they had long since believed to be dead. Upon being assured that it was Carey, who was not dead, but living, he was surrounded with the intelligence that his wife was again married to another man. Ascertaining the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Reibe, the afflicted husband hastened to ascertain whether what he had heard was true or false. Knocking at the door, a tall Italian, measuring about six feet, came to the door. Carey inquired,

"Does Mrs. Reibe live here?"

Italian—"She does. Will you walk in?"

Carey—"Yes, sir; will you please tell her that a gentleman desires to see her?"

The Italian consented, and going to the door leading into the dining room, called his wife by her first name. She answered, and all full of smiles came running into the parlor. Upon seeing her first husband, who rose from his seat to meet her, she screamed and fell fainting to the floor. The husbands both hastened to raise her from the floor. When Carey informed Reibe that he was Edward Carey, the lady's lawful husband, Reibe also claimed her as his wife, and added, "I shall never give her up." Before the wife had fully recovered from her fainting attack, the two husbands had become engaged in angry, violent words resulting in Carey drawing a pistol upon Reibe, and in the former being forcibly ejected from the house. Reibe, on Monday morning, had a warrant sworn out in the police court, charging Carey with disorderly conduct and provoking him to commit a breach of the peace. Carey was arrested, and when arraigned before Justice Warren, in the presence of Reibe and his wife, he asked the court to hear an explanation before he entered his plea. Judge Warren consented, and Carey stated that he and Reibe both claimed the lady, and he, believing himself to be the legal claimant, had become disorderly in demanding prerogatively of Reibe that he should give her up. Reibe exhibited to the court the marriage certificate, and the question was at once raised: "What further proceedings could be had in the court?" The wife, who, like Niobe, was all in tears, was called upon and asked by the court if either of these men was her husband. She replied that she had been married to both, but, having learned that her first husband was dead, she had formed an attachment for Reibe three years afterwards, and married him. After assuring the court of her deeply seated attachment always for Carey, and now her warm affection for Reibe, who had been to her an affectionate and devoted husband, the court inquired of her, viz:—

"What do you now propose to do—live with your first husband, who is legally such, or your last husband, who, by misapprehension and unintentionally, you have made your husband?"

The lady replied, "My duty and my desire is to go and live with my first husband, Edward Carey."

The scene which followed can never be described. Carey and his wife approached each other and wept aloud, while the disappointed Italian, seated in his chair like a statue, presented a picture of despair and disappointment. Presently his feelings were overcome, and he grievously wept, eliciting the sympathy of all. Carey and his wife, arm in arm, left the court room, and Reibe, after receiving kindly admonition from the court that he must resign of his dispute, pursued the matter no further, left the presence of the court deeply abashed and terribly mortified at the fate which had befallen him. Carey and his family were preparing to leave the city, and Reibe, all alone in a deserted house, refuses to be comforted.

A POINTED SERMON.—Mary, a discourse of an hour's length is not half as impressive as the following from an eccentric English divine:

Be sober, grave, temperate. — T. B. II. 9.

1. There are three companions with whom you should always keep on good terms.
2. Your wife.
3. Your stomach.
4. Your conscience.
5. If you wish to enjoy peace, long life and happiness, preserve them by temperance. Intemperance produces: 1. Domestic misery, 2. Premature death, 3. Infidelity.

To make these points clear, I refer you

1. To the Newgate Calendar, and work-houses.
2. To the hospitals, infirmaries, and work-houses.

To the past experience of what you have seen, read and suffered in mind, body and estate. Reader, decide! which will you choose? Temperance, with happiness and long life, or intemperance, with misery and premature death?

HOUSES.

The net value to the winner of the Derby was seven thousand sovereigns; so Blair Athol won, in these two races alone, over sixty thousand dollars—a pretty neat amount for one horse. These facts go far to show the extraordinary care of English breeders of the blood horse, and their extraordinary value for all useful purposes. No horse can be compared to the English thorough bred, from which our own stock is descended, for the saddle, harness, draft and particularly for military operations. Our cavalry horses are superior to any others on this continent, only as far as they have a greater or smaller infusion of good blood.

It is greatly to be regretted, even in a national point of view, that for the last twenty years we have paid so little attention to the breeding of thorough-bred stock, and let slip the golden opportunity of filling our country with the sons and daughters of such imported horses as Margrave and Prim, Fraaby and Chateau Margaud, Zingaro and Eucanption, which, judiciously crossed on our own blood stock, would now furnish our army with superior cavalry horses in great abundance, and thus enable us to protect our country most successfully and amply from all Yankee foraging and raids.

During the European wars for fifteen or twenty years previous to the battle of Waterloo, the English cavalry had proven itself so vastly superior to all Continental cavalry, on all occasions and all battle-fields, that every nation and monarch soon began to seek after and purchase the English thoroughbred, to carry to the continent to improve their stock and provide for future wars and wars. Even Napoleon himself at one time offered a patent of nobility, to an English gentleman residing on the continent, who had a very fine stud of horses, in exchange for his horses, intending them for immediate use and the improvement of the French cavalry horse. This day every encouragement is given all over Europe by the different crowned heads to keep an ample supply of thorough-bred stallions for breeding purposes.

Government alone has about 340 imported English horses, and in their hands—many of them bought at great cost, located in the different departments, and placed at the service of breeders. The Flying Dutchman, purchased at five thousand sovereigns, winner of the Derby and St. Leger, and Cossack, also winner of the St. Leger, head this list of horses imported into France by the late and present monarchs of that country.

The well-mounted cavalry, in advance and in retreat, in battle and on the scout, is a virtually master of his position. His noble horse is his best friend—never failing when well treated—until overtaken by disease or death; and when this war is over, in justice to ourselves and country, we must by all means patronize most fully this noblest and most unflinching friend.

GOLD NOT A STANDARD.—In a late speech at Mobile, which was first reported in the Tribune of that city, Senator Semmes, of Louisiana said:

The contrast of our paper with gold is not a fair mode of ascertaining its value. Gold in the Confederate States to-day is much more valuable than it was at the commencement of the war. It is like every other article, has risen in value among us. One dollar in specie to-day is equivalent to what two dollars and half was before the war. You can board now for one dollar a day. Negroes that were worth \$1,500 in gold would not now bring more than \$350 or \$400 in gold. He had to buy to Nassau for some articles for which he had to buy \$24 in gold.

When they were delivered in Richmond he found that they could have been purchased there for the same amount as he had paid for the gold, without any additional expenses, and without the risk of running the blockade.

A Confederate soldier, recently returned from a Yankee prison, advises that tobacco be sent to our prisoners at the North instead of money. With tobacco anything can be bought that is wanted, and it commands a very high price.