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THE LATEST NEWS,

OF THE PROGRESS OF THE

WAR,

Up to the hour of going
to press,

And all other matters of
interest to the general
Reader.

WHO WOULD BE WITHOUT
THE NEWS?

We design making the Argus more
of a family paper than we have been
enabled to do heretofore. There is
no question likely to arise to disturb
the harmony existing among us. We
have confidence in our President, in
our Generals, in our soldiers, in our
people. We have confidence in God.
So long as we have this confidence,
we are invincible. We shall give the
news—the news first, and then fill up
with matter interesting, instructive,
profitable. Come and subscribe; and
stop borrowing your neighbor's pa-
per.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, To the Congress of the Confederate States of America:

GENTLEMEN: My message to you at the commence-
ment of the session contained such full information of
the state of the Confederacy as to render it unneces-
sary that I should now do more than call your atten-
tion to such important facts as have occurred during
the recess, and to matters connected with the public
defence.

I have again to congratulate you upon the accession
of new members to our Confederation of free, equal,
and sovereign States. Our loved and honored breth-
ren of North Carolina and Tennessee have consum-
mated the action foreseen and provided for at your
last session, and I have had the gratification of an-
nouncing by proclamation in conformity with law,
that those States were admitted into the Confederacy.
The people of Virginia, also, by a majority previously
unknown in her history, have ratified the action of
her Convention, uniting her fortunes with ours. The
States of Arkansas, North Carolina and Virginia
have likewise adopted the Permanent Constitution of
the Confederate States, and no doubt is entertained
of its adoption by Tennessee at the election to be held
next month.

I deemed it advisable to direct the removal of the
several Executive Departments, with their archives,
to this city, to which you had removed the seat of
Government, immediately after your adjournment.
The aggressive movements of the enemy required
prompt and energetic action. The accumulation of
his forces on the Potomac sufficiently demonstrated
that his efforts were to be directed against Virginia,
and from no point could the necessary measures for
her defence and protection be so efficiently directed
as from her own capital.

The rapid progress of events for the last few weeks
has fully sufficed to strip the veil behind which the
true policy and purposes of the Government of the
United States had been previously concealed. Their
odious features now stand fully revealed. The mes-
sage of their President and the action of their Con-
gress, during the present month, confess the inten-
tion of subjugating these States, by a war, whose
folly is only equalled by its wickedness; a war by
which it is impossible to attain the proposed result,
whilst dire calamities, not to be avoided by us, will
fall with double severity on themselves. Commencing
in March last with an affectation of ignoring the se-
cession of the seven States which first organized this
Government—persisting in April in the idle and ab-
surd assumption of the existence of a riot which was
to be dispersed by a *poor comitatus*—continuing in
successive months the false representation that these
States intended an offensive war, when in spite of
conclusive evidence to the contrary, furnished as well
by official action as by the very basis on which this
Government is established, the President of the United
States and his advisers succeeded in deceiving the
people of those States into the belief that the purpose
of this Government was not peace at home, but con-
quest abroad; not the defence of its own liberties,
but the subversion of those of the people of the
United States. The series of manoeuvres by which
this impression was created, the art with which they
were devised, and the perfidy with which they were
executed, were already known to you, but you could
scarcely have supposed that they would be openly
avowed, and their success made the subject of boast
and self-laudation in an executive message. Fortu-
nately for the truth of history, however, the Presi-
dent of the United States details with minuteness the
attempt to reinforce Fort Pickens, in violation of an
armistice, of which he confessed to have been informed
but only by rumor, too vague and uncertain to fix at-
tention—the hostile expedition despatched to supply
Fort Sumter, admitted to have been undertaken with
the knowledge that its success was impossible—the
sending of notice to the Governor of South Carolina
of his intention to use force to accomplish his object,
and then quoting from his inaugural address the as-
surance that there could be no conflict unless these
States were aggressors, he proceeds to declare that
his conduct, as just related by himself, was the per-
formance of his promise, so free from the power of
ingenious sophistry, as that the world would not be
able to misunderstand it, and in defiance of his own
statement that he gave notice of the approach of the
hostile fleet, he charges these States with becoming the
aggressors of the United States, without a gun in sight
or in expectancy, to return their fire, save only the
few in the fort. He is, indeed, fully justified in say-
ing that the case is so free from ingenious sophistry,
that the world will not be able to misunderstand it.
Under the cover of this unfounded pretence that the
Confederate States are the aggressors, that high func-
tionaries, after expressing his concern that some for-
eign nations had so shaped their action, "as if they
supposed the early destruction of our national union
were probable," abandons all further disguise, and
proposes to make this contest a short and decisive
one, by placing at the control of the Government,
for the work, at least four hundred thousand men and
four hundred millions of dollars. The Congress, con-
curring in the doubt thus intimated, as to the suffi-
ciency of the force demanded, has increased it to half
a million men.

These enormous preparations in men and money for
the conduct of the war, on a scale more gigantic than
any which the New World has witnessed, is a distinct
avowal in the eyes of civilized men, that the United
States are engaged in a conflict with a great and pow-
erful nation. They are at last compelled to abandon
the pretence of being engaged in dispersing rioters and
suppressing insurrections, and are driven to the ac-
knowledgment that the ancient Union has been dis-
solved. They recognize the separate existence of
these Confederate States by the interdiction, embargo
and blockade, of all commerce between them and the
United States, not only by sea, but by land; not only
in ships, but in cars; not only with those who bear
arms, but with the entire population of the Confed-
erate States. Finally, they have repudiated the foolish
conceit that the inhabitants of this Confederacy are
still citizens of the United States, for they are waging
indiscriminate war upon them all, with a savage feroc-
ity unknown to modern civilization. In this war rap-
idly is the rule. Private residences in peaceful rural retreats

are bombarded and burnt, grain crops in the field are
consumed by the torch, and, when the torch is not con-
venient, careful labor is bestowed to render complete
the destruction of every article of use or ornament re-
maining in private dwellings after their inhabitants
have fled from the outrages of a brutal soldiery.

In 1781, when Great Britain, invaded her revolted
colonies, she took possession of the very district of
country near Fortress Monroe, now occupied by the
troops of the United States. The houses there, in-
habited by the people, after being respected and pro-
tected by avowed invaders, are now pillaged and des-
troyed by men who pretend that the victims are their
fellow-citizens. Mankind will shudder to hear the
tales of outrages committed on defenceless females by
the soldiers of the United States now invading our
homes. Yet these outrages are prompted by inflamed
passions and the malignity of intoxication; but who
shall depict the horror with which they regard the cool
deliberate malignity, which under the pretext of sup-
pressing an insurrection, sail by themselves to be up-
held by a minority only of our people, makes special
war on the sick, including women and children, by
carefully devised measures to prevent their obtaining
the medicines necessary for their cure. The sacred
claims of humanity, respected even during the fury
of actual battle, by the careful diversion of attack
from the hospitals containing wounded enemies, are
outraged in cold blood by a Government and people
that pretend to desire the continuance of fraternal
connections.

All these outrages must remain unavenged, save by
the universal reprobation of mankind, in all cases
where actual perpetrators of the wrongs escape capture.
They admit of no retaliation. The humanity of our
people would shrink instinctively from the bear idea
of waging a like war upon the sick, the women and
the children of the enemy. But there are other savage
practices which have been resorted to by the Govern-
ment of the United States, which do admit of repres-
sion by retaliation. I have been driven to the necessity
of enforcing this repression. The prisoners of war
taken by the enemy on board the armed schooner *Savannah*,
sailing under our commission, were, as I was
credibly advised, treated like common felons, put in
irons, confined in a jail usually appropriated to crim-
inals of the worst dye, and threatened with punishment
as such. I had made application for an exchange of
these prisoners, to the commanding officer of the enemy's
squadron off Charleston, but that officer had
already sent the prisoners to New York, when the ap-
plication was made. I therefore, deemed it my duty
to renew the proposal for exchange to the constitutional
commander-in-chief of the army and navy for the
United States, the only officer having control of pris-
oners. In making the proposal, I intimated President
Lincoln of my resolute purpose to check all barbarities
on prisoners of war, by such severity in retaliation on
prisoners held by us, as should secure the abandon-
ment of the practice. This communication was re-
ceived and read by the officer in command of the army
of the United States, and a message was brought from
him by the bearer of my communication, that a reply
would be returned by President Lincoln as soon as
possible. I earnestly hope that this promised reply,
which has not yet been received, will convey the as-
surance that prisoners of war will be treated, in this
unhappy contest, with that regard for humanity which
has made such conspicuous progress in the conduct of
modern warfare. As a measure of prevention, how-
ever, and until the promised reply shall be received, I
still hold it expedient to send all our prisoners of war
to the enemy, whom it had been my pleasure to enlarge
on parole, and whose fate must necessarily depend on
that of the prisoners held by the enemy. I append a
copy of my communication to the President and Com-
mander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United
States and of the report of the officer charged to deliv-
er it. (Marked document A.)

There are some other passages in the remarkable
paper, to which I have directed your attention, having
reference to the peculiar relations which exist between
this Government and the States usually termed border
Slave States, which cannot properly be withheld from
notice. The hearts of our people are animated by
sentiments towards the inhabitants of those States,
which found expression in your enactment, refusing
to consider them as enemies, or to authorize hostilities
against them. That a very large portion of the peo-
ple of those States regard us as brethren—that, if un-
restrained by the actual presence of large armies, the
subversion of the civil authority and the declaration
of martial law, some of them at least would joyfully unite
with us, and that they are with almost entire unanimity
opposed to the prosecution of the war waged against
us, are facts of which daily recurring events fully
warrant the assertion. The President of the United
States refuses to recognize in these our late sister
States the right of refraining from attack on us, and
justifies his refusal by the assertion that the States
have no other power than that reserved to them in the
Union by the Constitution; no one of them having ever
been a State out of the Union. This view of constitu-
tional relations leads to another assertion of the mes-
sage, that the Executive possesses the power of sus-
pending the writ of *habeas corpus*, and of delegating
that power to military commanders at his discretion;
and both these propositions claim a respect equal to
that which is felt for the additional statement of op-
inion in the same paper, that it is proper, in order
to execute the laws, that some single law, made in such
extreme tenderness of the citizen's liberty, that it prac-
tically relieves more of the guilty than of the innocent,
should, to a very limited extent, be violated.

We may well rejoice that we have forever severed
our connection with a Government that thus tramples
upon all principles of constitutional liberty, and with
a people in whose presence such avowals could be haz-
arded.

The operations in the field will be greatly extended,
by reason of the policy which heretofore secretly en-
tertained, is now avowed and acted on by the United
States. The forces hitherto raised proved ample for
the defence of the seven States which originally orga-
nized the Confederacy, as is evinced by the fact, that
with the exception of three fortified islands whose de-
fence is efficiently aided by a preponderating naval
force, the enemy has been driven completely out of those
States; and now, at the expiration of five months from
the formation of the Government, not a single hostile

foot presses their soil. These forces, however, must
necessarily prove inadequate to repel an invasion
by the half-million of men now grouped by the
enemy, and a corresponding increase of our forces
will become necessary. The recommendations for
the raising and efficient equipment of this additional
force will be contained in the communication of the
Secretary of War, to which I need scarcely invite
your earnest attention.

In my message delivered in April last, I referred to
the promise of abundant crops with which we were
cheered. The grain crops, generally, have since been
harvested, and the yield proved to be the most abun-
dant known in our history. Many believe the supply to
be adequate to two years' consumption of our popula-
tion. Cotton, sugar and tobacco, forming the surplus
production of our agriculture, and furnishing the ba-
sis of our commercial interchanges, present a most
cheering promise, and a kind Providence has
smiled on the labor which extracts the teeming wealth
of our soil in all portions of our Confederacy. It is
the more gratifying to be able to give you this state-
ment, because of the need of large and increased ex-
penditure in support of our army.

Elevated and purified by the sacred cause they
maintain, our fellow-citizens of every condition of life
exhibit the most self-sacrificing devotion. They man-
ifest a laudable pride in upholding their independence,
unaided by any resources other than their own; and
the immense wealth which the fertile soil and gen-
eral climate have accumulated in this Confederacy of
agriculturists, could not be more strikingly displayed
than in the large revenues, which, with eager zeal,
they have contributed at the call of their country, in
the single article of cotton. The subscriptions to the
loan proposed by the Government cannot fall short of
fifty millions of dollars, and will probably largely ex-
ceed that sum; and scarcely an article required for the
consumption of the army is provided otherwise than
by subscription to the produce loan so happily devised
by your wisdom.

The Secretary of the Treasury in the report sub-
mitted to you, will give you the amplest details con-
nected with that branch of the public service.

But it is not alone in their prompt pecuniary con-
tributions that the noble race of freemen who inhabit
these States evince how worthy they are of those lib-
erties which they so well know how to defend. In
numbers far exceeding those authorized by our laws,
they have pressed the tender of their services against
the enemy. Their attitude of calm devotion to their
country, the cool and confident courage with which
they are already preparing to meet the threatened in-
vasion in whatever proportions it may assume, the as-
surance that their sacrifices and their services will be
renewed from year to year with unflinching purpose,
until they shall have made good to the uttermost their
right to self-government; the generous, and almost un-
questioning confidence which they display in their
Government during the pending struggle, all combine
to present a spectacle such as the world has rarely, if
ever seen.

To speak of subjugating such a people, so united
and determined, is to speak a language incompre-
hensible to them. To resist an attack on their rights
or their liberties is, with them, an instinct. Whether
this war shall last one, or three, or five years, is a
problem they leave to be solved by the enemy alone.
It will last till the enemy shall have withdrawn from
their borders—till their political rights, their altars,
and their homes are freed from invasion. Then, and
then only, will they rest from this struggle, to enjoy
in peace the blessings which, with the favor of Provi-
dence, they have secured by the aid of their own
strong hearts and sturdy arms.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Va., July 22—10: 15 P. M.

Congress met at noon to-day. After prayer the fol-
lowing dispatch, dated Manassas, Sunday night, was
read by the Clerk:

To Gen. S. Cooper, Adjutant-General.

Night has closed upon a hard fought field. Our force
have won a glorious victory. The enemy was routed
and fled precipitately, abandoning a very large amount
of arms, munitions, knapsacks, and baggage. The
ground was strewn for miles with those killed, and the
farm houses and the grounds around were filled with
his wounded.

The pursuit was continued along several routes to-
wards Leesburg and Centerville, until darkness covered
the fugitives.

We have captured several field batteries and regi-
mental stand of arms, and one United States flag.
Many prisoners have been taken.

Too high praise cannot be bestowed, either for the
skill of the principal officers or for the gallantry of all
the troops.

The battle was mainly on our left, several miles
from our field works. Our forces engaged is believed
not to exceed 15,000, and that of the enemy estimated
at 35,000.

Signed JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The following resolutions were offered by Mr. Mem-
minger, and unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That we recognize the hand of the Most
High God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, in
the glorious victory with which he hath crowned our
army at Manassas, and that the people of these Con-
federate States are invited by appropriate services on
the ensuing Sabbath, to offer up their united thanks
—giving thanks and praise for this mighty deliverance.

Resolved, That deeply deploring the necessity which
has washed the soil of our country with the blood of so
many of her noblest sons, we offer to their respective
families and friends our warmest and most cordial sym-
pathy, assuring them that the sacrifice made will be
consecrated in the hearts of our people, and will there
enshrine the name of the gallant dead as the champ-
ions of free and constitutional liberty.

Resolved, That we approve of the prompt and pa-
triotic efforts of the Mayor of the city of Richmond,
to make provision for the wounded, and that a commit-
tee of one member from each State be appointed to co-
operate in the plan.

Resolved, That Congress do now adjourn.