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Vice President Stephens's Views upon Peace Movements.

The following letter from Vice President Hon. A. H. Stephens, giving his views upon "Peace Movements," will be read with interest. It was written in answer to a letter addressed to him by several gentlemen in the interior of the State:

Crawfordsville, Ga., Sept. 22d, 1864.

GENTLEMEN:—You will please excuse me for not answering your letter of the 14th instant, sooner. I have been absent nearly a week on a visit to my brother in Sparta, who has been quite out of health for some time. Your letter I found here on my return home yesterday. The delay of my reply thus occasioned I regret.

Without further explanation or apology, allow me now to say to you that no person living can possibly feel a more ardent desire for an end to be put to this unnatural and merciless war upon honorable and just terms than I do. But I really do not see that it is in my power, or yours, or that of any number of persons in our position, to inaugurate any movement that will even tend to aid in bringing about a result that we and so many more so much desire. The movement by our Legislature at its last session, at the suggestion of the Executive, on this subject, was by authority properly constituted for such a purpose. That movement in my judgment was timely, judicious, and in the right direction. Nor has it been without results. The organization of that party at the North to which you refer may justly be claimed as a part of the fruits of it. These it is to be hoped will be followed by others of a more marked character, if all in both sections who sincerely desire peace upon correct terms will give that movement thus inaugurated all the aid in their power.

The Resolutions of the Georgia Legislature at its last session, upon the subject of peace, in my judgment embodied and set forth very clearly those principles upon which alone there can be permanent peace between the different sections of this extensive, once happy and prosperous, but now distracted country. The easy and perfect solution to all our present troubles and those far more grievous ones which loom up in prospect and portentously threaten in the coming future, is nothing more than the simple recognition of the fundamental principle and truth upon which all American Constitutional liberty is founded and upon the maintenance of which alone it can be preserved; that is, the sovereignty—the ultimate absolute sovereignty of the States. This doctrine our Legislature announced to the people of the North and to the world. It is the only key-note to peace—permanent, lasting peace—consistent with the security of public liberty. The old Confederation was formed upon this principle. The old Union was afterwards formed upon this principle; and no Union or League can ever be formed or maintained between any States, North or South, securing public liberty upon any other principle. The whole frame work of American Institutions which in so short a time had won the admiration of the world and to which we were indebted for such an unparalleled career of prosperity and happiness, was formed upon this principle. All our present troubles spring from a departure from this principle—from a violation of this essential vital law of our political organism.

In 1876 our ancestors and those who are waging this unholy crusade against us, together proclaimed the great and eternal truth for the maintenance of which they jointly pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, that "Governments are instituted amongst men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed;" and that "whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends (those for which it was formed,) it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and to institute a new Government laying a new foundation on such principle and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

It is needless here to state that the "peo-

ple" and the "governed" in this annunciation is meant communities and bodies of men capable of organizing and maintaining Government, not individual members of society. The "consent of the governed" refers to the will of the mass of the community or State in its organized form and expressed through its legitimate and properly constituted organs.

It was upon this principle the Colonies stood justified before the world in affecting a separation from the mother country. It was upon this principle that the original thirteen co-equal and co-sovereign States formed the Federal compact of the old Union in 1787. It is upon the same principle that the present co-equal and co-sovereign States of our Confederacy formed their new compact of Union. The idea that the old Union or any Union between any of their sovereign States consistently with their fundamental truth can be maintained by force is preposterous. This war springs from an attempt to do this preposterous thing. Superior power may compel a Union of some sort, but it would not be the Union of the old Constitution or our new—it would be that sort of union that results from despotism. The subjugation of the people of the South by the people of the North, would necessarily involve the destruction of the Constitution and the overthrow of their liberties as well as ours. The men or the party at the North to whom you refer who favor peace, must be brought to a full realization of this truth in all its bearings before their efforts will result in much practical good; for any peace growing out of a Union of States established by force, will be as ruinous to them as us. The action of the Chicago Convention, so far as its platform of principles goes, presents as I have said on another occasion, "a ray of light which under Providence may prove the dawn of day to this long and cheerless night. The first ray of light I have seen from the North since the war began. This cheers the heart, and towards it I could almost have exclaimed

Hail, holy light, offspring of Heaven first born,
Or of the eternal co-eternal beam.
May I express thee unblamed? since God is light

Indeed, I could quite so have exclaimed but for the sad reflection that whether it shall bring healing in its beams or be lost in dark and ominous eclipse ere its good work be done, depends so much upon the action of others who may not regard it and view it as I do. So at best it is but a ray—small and tremulous ray—enough only to gladden the heart and quicken hope.

The prominent and leading idea of that Convention seems to have been a desire to reach a peaceful adjustment of our present difficulties and strife through the medium of a convocation of the States. They propose to suspend hostilities to see what can be done, if anything, by negotiation of some sort. This is one step in the right direction. To such a convention of the States I should have no objection as a peaceful conference and interchange of views between equal and sovereign Powers—just as the convention of 1787 was called and assembled. The properly constituted authorities at Washington and Richmond, the duly authorized Representatives of the two Confederacies of States, now at war with each other, might give their assent to such a proposition. Good might result from it. It would be an appeal on both sides from the sword to reason and justice. All wars which do not result in the extinction or extermination of one side or the other must be ended sooner or later by some sort of negotiation. From the discussion and interchange of views in such a convention, the history as well as the true nature of our institutions and the relation of the States towards each other and towards the Federative Head would doubtless be much better understood generally than they are now. But I should favor such a proposition only as a peaceful conference as the Convention of 1787 was. I should be opposed to leaving the questions at issue to the absolute decision of such a body. Delegates might be clothed with powers to consult and agree if they could upon some plan of adjustment to be

submitted for subsequent ratification by the sovereign States whom it affected, before it should be obligatory or binding, and then binding only on such as should so ratify. It becomes the people of the South as well as the people of the North to be quite as watchful and jealous of their rights as their common ancestors were. The maintenance of Liberty in all ages, times and countries, when and where it has existed, has required not only constant vigilance and jealousy but has often required the greatest privations and sufferings and sacrifices that people or States are ever subjected to. Through such an ordeal we are now passing. Through a like and even severer ordeal our ancestors passed in their struggle for the principles which it has devolved upon us thus to defend and maintain. But great as our sufferings and sacrifices have been and are to which you allude, they are as yet far short of the like sufferings and sacrifices which our fathers bore with patience, courage and fortitude in the crisis that "tried men's souls" in their day. These are the virtues that sustained them in their hour of need. Their illustrious and glorious example bids us not to underestimate the priceless inheritance they achieved for us at such a cost of treasure and blood. Great as are the odds we are struggling against, they are not greater than those against which they successfully struggled.

In point of reverses, our condition is not to be compared with theirs. Should Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, Augusta, Macon, Montgomery, and even Petersburg and Richmond fall, our condition would not then be worse or less hopeful than theirs was in the darkest hour that rested on their fortunes. With wisdom on the part of those who control our destiny in the cabinet and in the field, in husbanding and properly wielding our resources at their command and in securing the hearts and the affections of the people in the great cause of Right and Liberty for which we are struggling, we could suffer all these losses and calamities, and greater even, and still triumph in the end. At present, however, I do not see, as I stated in the outset, that you, or I, or any number of persons in our position, can do anything towards inaugurating any new movement looking to a peaceful solution of the present strife.

The war on our part is fairly and entirely defensive in its character. How long it will continue to be thus wickedly and mercilessly waged against us, depends upon the people of the North. Georgia, our own State to whom we owe allegiance, has with great unanimity proclaimed the principles upon which a just and permanent peace ought to be sought and obtained. The Congress of the Confederate States has followed with an endorsement of these principles. All you, and I, and others in our position, therefore can do on that line at this time, is to sustain the movement thus inaugurated, and to the utmost of our ability to hold up their principles as the surest hope of restoring soundness to the public mind North, as the brazen serpent was held up for the healing of Israel in the Wilderness.

The chief aid and encouragement we can give the Peace Party at the North is to keep before them these great fundamental principles and truths which alone will lead them and us to a permanent and lasting peace, with the possession and enjoyment of Constitutional Liberty. With these principles once recognized the future would take care of itself. There would be no more war so long as they should be adhered to. All questions of boundaries, Confederacies and Union or Unions would naturally and easily adjust themselves according to the interests of the parties and the exigencies of the times. Herein lies the true law of the balance of power and the harmony of States.

Yours respectfully,
ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS,

THE JEWS IN MOROCCO.—Sir Moses Montefiore has addressed a letter to the Prime Minister of the Sultan of Morocco in re-

ference to the recent disturbances in that country. The venerable philanthropist urges the Minister to watch carefully over the carrying out of the edict of the Sultan in regard to the liberties of the Jews and non Mussulmans in Morocco.

This wealthy Israelite has made himself conspicuous for his energetic services in Europe and the East in behalf of his countrymen the Jews. He has often visited Palestine and the coast of Africa where many of his people reside, and his idea is to provide ways and means for their return to the land of their fathers. With this scheme in view he has had interviews with the Emperor of France, and we believe with other crowned heads also, seeking such co-operation as governments can afford, to promote the object. The theory of some interpreters of prophecy is that when Louis Napoleon makes a treaty with the Jews to aid them in their return, we may know from that moment the period that is to intervene before the coming of the Lord Jesus to reign on the earth! The prophecy of Daniel is referred to as intimating this fact.

N. Y. Observer.

THE FAITHFUL MINISTER.—We have seldom read a more beautiful tribute to the true Minister of the Gospel than the following extract from an able speech delivered in the United States House of Representatives, by Hon. D. W. Voorhees, of Indiana:

"Sir, let not these remarks and records of faithful history be construed into an attack upon the ministers of our divine religion. I have endeavored rather to portray the evil results which flow from a desecration of that high calling. To my mind there is no vocation, on this side of the mysterious river which divides time from eternity, so lofty, no career of life so serenely beautiful, and bordering so closely upon heaven, as the benevolent pursuits of him who tenders the cup of salvation to the low of a falling world. A halo hovers around his head which tells that he walks in the footsteps of his blessed Master. In the presence of such a man I would stand uncovered and do him reverent homage. And there are many such whose pure and noiseless lives pass almost unheeded by the busy, striving world, but around whom the comforting angels of the Lord encamp by night and by day. In their keeping are all the future hopes of the Church—the Christian welfare of mankind. The youth of the land should sit at their feet and learn wisdom, and both young and old should rise up and call them blessed. But in this bright category of human excellence—this high galaxy of stars shining with an unearthly splendor—there is no place for such as take charge of Churches by order of the War Department, and preach the gospel as commanded by the President of the United States. The vineyards where they labor never bear the fruits of peace—never smile with domestic tranquility. Before them I do not plead my cause. From them I expect to hear no voice save the continued and protracted cry of havoc."

TERRIBLE EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.—We learn that on Saturday afternoon last, about five o'clock, Mr. Nelson Lew, who lives in this county, between Lilesville and the Grassy Islands, had three children (boys) killed from the effects of lightning—aged respectively 17, 14 and 7. It appears that at the time they were killed no rain had fallen immediately in their neighborhood, and that two of the children were sitting in the door watching the play of the lightning as the cloud was passing, with the third lying behind them on the floor near the door. Their mother was somewhere about the house. She was considerably shocked by the stroke that killed her children. When she recovered her first thought was of her children, and when she went to look after them, she saw the one that had been lying on the floor, still in that position with his clothes on fire. She put the fire out, and found him dead. The other two had fallen from the door outside—one lying on his face, the other on his side, and both dead.

Wadesborough Argus.