THE PEOPLE'S PRESS.

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The People's Press.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

One square, (fifteen lines or less,) first insertion, One Dollar; and twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion. Deductions made in favor of standing advertisements, for a square, as follows:

For three months,	$3 50
For six months,	$5 50
For twelve months,	$8 00

Professional or Business Cards, not exceeding five lines in length, Five Dollars a year,—longer ones in proportion.

MISCELLANEOUS.

EXAMINE THE BOTTOMS OF YOUR WELLS.

It is not generally known, we think, how easy a matter it is to examine the bottom of a well, cistern, or pond of water, by the use of a common mirror. The New Hampshire Journal of Agriculture says:

When the sun is shining brightly, hold a mirror so that the reflected rays of light will fall into the water. A bright spot will be seen at the bottom, so light as to show the smallest object very plainly. By this means we have examined the bottoms of wells fifty feet deep, when half full of water. The small bit straw or other small object can be perfectly seen from the surface. In the same way one can examine the bottom of ponds and rivers, if the water be somewhat clear, and not agitated by winds or rapid motion. If a well or cistern be under cover or sheltered by buildings, so that the sunlight will not fall near the opening, it is only necessary to employ two mirrors, using one to reflect the light to the opening, and another to send it down perpendicularly into the water. Light may be thrown fifty or a hundred yards to the precise spot desired, and reflected downward. We have used the mirrors with success to reflect the light around a field to a shaded spot, and also to carry it from a south window through two rooms and then into a cistern under the north side of the house. Half a dozen of the reflections of the light may be made, though each mirror diminishes the brilliancy of the light. Let any one not familiar with this method try it, and he will then find not only a useful, but a pleasant experiment. It will, perhaps, reveal a mass of sediment at the bottom of a well which has been little thought of, but which may have been a fruitful source of disease by its decay in the water.

NEW YORK AMERICAN CONVENTION.

"The Balance-of-Power Americans" met in State Convention last week, and adopted resolutions endorsing the National Union organization of New York, and that of Washington, as worthy their support. The Hon. Washington Hunt and Mr. C. B. Truman were appointed as delegates at large to a proposed National Union Convention, with subordinates from the several districts. An address declares the Republican Party sectional, and accuses the Democratic Party of having departed from its first principles. For these reasons, neither of these organizations can be supported by that body of conservative men, which, last Fall, appeared to hold the balance of power in the State election. Until it can see its way clear to contend for principles which are not sectional, it will maintain the position it has hitherto held.

NORTH CAROLINA MADE OF LADIES' FINE BOOTS, GAITERS, SHOES, AND BROGANS.—We have had exhibited to us samples of Ladies' fine Boots, Gaiters, etc., which were manufactured at Thomasville, in this State, that for elegance and finish are altogether equal to the northern made article, and much more serviceable they will wear twice as long. The prices are about equal.

We also saw in Mr. Stockton's store several other North Carolina fabrics, among them very plain and striped cotton Cloths, that were made at a factory in Alamance county, which are pretty beautiful and quality excellent.—*Fay. Express.*

NOT A WORD.—Since the publication of Daniel Worth's letter, we haven't heard a word from any quarter against the Guilford Quakers—and the Standard is decidedly mum about the abolitionists of High Point and Jamestown.—*Greensboro Patriot.*

And what is more, we doubt if a single Democratic paper in N. C. has ever allowed its readers to know that Daniel Worth ever wrote such a letter, abusing Mr. Gilmer as the worst enemy of his incendiary gang.—*Observer.*

Daniel G. Porter was acquitted in Wilmington, on a charge of robbery, because the indictment read "twenty dollar gold pieces," instead of "double eagle," the legal name of the coin.

Brown's Army Executioner.—The convicted traitors, Stevens and Hazlett, will be hanged on Friday, March 16. They deny guilt and charge prosecuting witnesses with perjury.

THIEF PROOF.—The Charlotte Bulletin states that a set of paymen was recently sold in Buffalo [illegible] prices, Left, $1,000; Center, [illegible]; Right, $1,500; and children, $1,000. Money, [illegible] Albany, $2,150.

Political.

[illegible]

[illegible] results to which, in its present distempered state, it was likely to lead. Hitherto I have forborne to take any part in the various schemes and public meetings that many worthy and conservative men of our own party have felt it to be their duty to unite in promoting, because I did not wish to lend my name or countenance to anything, that in my judgment, was calculated either to increase or keep alive a state of excitement in the public mind, the necessity for which, from first to last, I have not been able to realize; at the same time, I have had no disposition to obtrude my private reflections and conclusions on the consideration of others, who looked upon the events of the last ninety days in a light which I was not able to bring my mind to believe was one altogether of calm dispassionate consideration. For these reasons I have been not only inactive, but silent, as far as the public was concerned; but when I find myself called upon by so large and respectable a body of gentlemen, who themselves represent a large portion of the intelligence and conservatism of the State, no alternative is left me, and I am constrained to comply with the request preferred; though I have reason to fear, from the general tone of the public press, as well as from the proceedings of public meetings, that my opinions will be found in striking contrast with those of my fellow citizens generally. Whether they or I have come to the most correct conclusions, it will not require much *time* to determine, and to that great arbiter of truth I am willing to defer for the ultimate result; but for the passing moment, I fear my opinions are of rather too conservative an order; but for all that, I cannot, and I will not, play the hypocrite, and pretend to see what I do not see, nor affect to feel what I do not feel.

Without regard, then, to the order in which your subjects for consideration are presented, I will proceed to lay before you the reflections that have passed through my mind, and the impressions they have left.

I do not wish to judge harshly, or do any man any injustice; I am willing to hear before I strike; but it is undoubtedly true that a condition of things has been brought about in this State and which has been extended greatly beyond its limits, for which, if any sufficient reason has existed, I have not been able to discover or comprehend it.

That a bold, daring, reckless outlaw, a mono-maniac on the subject of slavery, but none the less dangerous and culpable on that account, who had been taught to believe by the dominant party of this State, that he had sympathizers aiders and abbettors throughout the Commonwealth, among whom, you and I, and *all* in opposition to their general policy, and especially every man of mark in our party, were numbered, did undertake with the aid of some fifteen or twenty others, white and colored, to incite a servile insurrection at and about Harper's Ferry; in the attempted execution of which they were guilty of the highest offences known to our laws, has now become a matter of history as well as of fact; that this lawless band of desperate and misguided men deserved the punishment they have met with, and that they courted and provoked, no right minded man can doubt; but that any portoion of my fellow-countrymen had any knowledge of, or had participated, directly or indirectly, in this hell-born scheme of violence, *I have not, I cannot, and I will not* believe, and especially upon the simple conjecture of others, or among more communications, which would be insufficient to convict a free negro or slave of robbing a hen-roost, before any magistrate of the State, who knew his duty, and was disposed to pursue it; for not one man, of good or bad character, has yet testified or made a declaration of a single fact, coming within his own knowledge, which we have been permitted to see or to know, implicating any others than those who were actually engaged in the enterprise.

And yet the effort has been made, and my blood runs cold, and I shudder when I say, *successfully made*, to a great extent, to create the belief that a great and powerful party, numbering in its ranks, more by hundreds of thousands, perhaps, than any other party in the country, knew and approved of, and participated indirectly in the crimes and outrages perpetrated, and that they sympathize with the convicted felons by whom they were committed, when they paid the penalty of their guilt. Great God! what an idea to take possession of the minds of men heretofore considerate, reflecting, and conservative.

If I believe this to be true, I would no sooner consent to live in connection with them, if I could find the means of avoiding it, than I would continue to inhabit a house that was in flames from the basement to the roof.

If it shall be shown that Mr. Seward, the chief leader of that party, had a foreknowledge of John Brown's purpose we ac-

[illegible] good authority; and for thirty [illegible] they have preached the same nefarious doctrines that they hold now. But does that any more involve the general population of the North, that should render it necessary for them to purge themselves of all complicity in this affair, than that the open, bold, and treasonable declarations of another set of fanatics in the South, who are eternally sounding their obnoxious and silly threats of disunion in our ears, in the event of this contingency to-day, and that to-morrow, and for something else the day after, should create the necessity for us to acquit ourselves before the public of all participation in their guilty and treasonable schemes?—I adopt and act upon the principle that is recognized by law, that all men are innocent of great crimes until guilt is proved, and as I am not willing to be held responsible for crimes of those who clamor for disunion upon every idle pretext, because I do not feel it necessary to get up in public meetings and purge myself of their guilt, so I do not propose to hold them at the North responsible for any high crimes of which no evidence has been furnished against them specifically.

But John Brown and his confederates have all been punished. Would to God it had stopped there? And why should it not? Suppose these men had been all from the body of our own State, or adjoining southern States, what then would have been the result? Why they would have been hung—exactly as Nat Turner and his confederates were hung, and there it would have ended. But because these men were from the free States, in the absence of all requisite proof that their scheme was known to a dozen men, beyond those engaged in the outrage, all nature has been convulsed, and the Union itself, in the opinion of many heretofore conservative men, is no longer to be tolerated, or borne with. I am no defender of any sectional organization, sectional man, or sectional sentiment. I ask, and claim what the Constitution grants to each and all sections; nothing more and nothing less. But if old Brown was a Republican, Cook and four others of his *officers*, out of nine, were Democrats, as shown by their own records; why then was not the Northern Democracy as responsible for their misconduct as the Republicans? And yet I would as soon hold my hand in the flames until it was burned to a cinder, as I would be guilty of the baseness of charging on the Northern Democracy complicity in the designs of these wicked men. But to make it appear that there was republican complicity, the people of this State were led to believe that large bodies of men in Pennsylvania, Ohio—even in New York, Boston, and elsewhere—were armed and banded together for the purpose of making a hostile invasion into Virginia, for the purpose of rescuing the execution of our laws, and of rescuing Brown and his followers from punishment. I will not say this was not so, because I will not say what I do not know to be true; but I will say, and I do say, that no evidence worthy of consideration has yet been laid before the public, to justify the belief that there was anywhere, at any time, a combination of 1,000—100—or 10 men formed, for any such purpose. That sensitive and excited imaginations were operated upon, either by anonymous and mischievous correspondents, wholly insufficient for the importance attached to them, or by secret disclosures not yet made public, or that there was some [illegible] view, there can be no question. That Brown and his party were kept as a thirty days wonder, and at last lionized, beronized, martyrized and canonized, with a display of "all the pomp, pride, and circumstance of war," that we have no warrant for believing, attended the crucifiction of the Savior of the World is not to be denied. That there has been an enormous public debt incurred, estimated as I learn, from a quarter to half a million of dollars; that there have been marchings and counter-marchings; that dictatorial and despotic powers have been exercised; that large bodies of troops have been quartered on peaceable and unoffending citizens; that in a time of peace a standing army has been collected, without the consent of our Legislature; that martial law has been proclaimed and rigidly enforced; that the general channel of communication through telegraphic agency has been controlled; that trade and travel, by certain railroads, have been suspended and prohibited; and that quiet citizens have been interrupted and put under guard, and, in some cases imprisoned, are matters of fact with which all are familiar; and that the public mind should have jumped to the conclusion that such things could not be, unless some dreadful and overpowering calamity threatened the safety of the State, was quite natural; and that sufficient cause did exist for the exercise of these extraordinary and dangerous powers, is another matter, and [illegible]

[illegible] regret, the Commander-in-Chief replied, "Not he did not, but he thought it a good opportunity to drill his boys, and show the North with what readiness troops could be raised in Va., for the defence of the State." In a letter now before me, dated Harper's Ferry, Nov. 28, the writer says: "In reply to a gentleman who asked him, this morning, if he had any fears of a rescue, he (the Governor) emphatically 'No, never had the least, but considered it the finest opportunity that had ever offered to put the State in military training.' He added, 'I, even now wish my boys had to encounter a band of marauders, and [illegible]

One thing I do know; whether designed or not, it has exasperated and phrensied the public mind—it has begotten an ill-feeling, antipathy, and hostility between members of the same political community, that every good man and patriot must deprecate, and that it becomes the administrators of the law and the representatives of the people to do all in their power to soothe down and rectify. It has had the effect, whether contemplated or not, of occasioning infinite confusion in the ranks of one of the political parties of this State, and of temporarily, at least, raising the drooping hopes of another; it has broken off all probable co-operation, (for the present at least,) between the North and South, without which it has been hoped an easy path to victory would be left open, to that party in whose hands and under whose legislation and control the present unhappy condition of things has been effected.

That all this has been providential or accidental, it would, perhaps, be uncharitable to doubt, if it were not that the time has arrived when it was indispensable to their success, that something should turn up that would throw the whole South into a fever on the question of slavery. Periodically, every four years, for the last twenty, and always happening to be in that year in which a Presidential election is to take place, something has occured, either providentially, or by accident, or by management, to impress the public mind with the conviction that the institution of slavery was in danger, and that the great national Democratic party was the only one to be relied on for its security. Under these circumstances, whatever may be the general readiness of our people to rely with confidence upon the necessity for all the revulsion and convulsion of public sentiment, which it has been painful to witness, those of us, who have become habituated to such occurrences, and have passed the heyday of youth, and, are therefore, of less excitable temperaments, may be excused for looking, if not distrustfully, at least with some degree of caution, before we leap blindfold into the pitfall, that, in every "leap year" is dug for unwary and unsuspecting youth, as well as for timid and wavering gray beards who happen not to deify that party to whose advantage is results.

The first occasion for ordering out the troops from a distance from Charlestown, I think, was founded on a telegraphic dispatch from the officer in command at Charlestown, (as reported in the papers) that 250 men were encamped near Berryville ford, in Clarke county, which, geographically, is nearly in a direct line from this city, to Charlestown, so they must have passed & got in the rear, but more into the heart of the State—which was so improbable as that, the wonder was, that any one could have been imposed upon by it; at all events, an hour's ride of a messenger would have determined the fact—yet troops were telegraphed for, and some 500 immediately despatched in hot haste for the bloody field, when the troops arrived, it had been ascertained that there had been a broomstick fight between some old women and a few men, who went to search the house formerly occupied by Underwood, who was driven from the State in 1856; so the several companies of volunteers wheeled to the right about and came home again. I think there was nothing in that, exploit to justify excitement or alarm; yet it did so to a very [illegible] extent. By the time the companies reached Richmond, another alarming telegraph was received that somebody's barn or straw stack had been set on fire—the troops were ordered back, and the howitzers, I think, it was, that arrived here on one day, returned the day after. Then came a third report that a large body of men were crossing the river at Wheeling, on their march to Charlestown to rescue Brown; a simple inquiry by telegraph to the authorities at Wheeling, would have shown that it was an unfounded rumor, which was ascertained by telegraph before the troops had gotten 80 miles from Richmond; and a dispatch here and there, or a few emissaries or detectives sent to the suspected places at the cost of $100, would have dissipated all apprehensions—but if the report had been true, they were not within 15 days march of Charlestown, and had to travel through a well settled portion of the country, occupied by loyal men, through which they could never have passed alive; but, about 7 o'clock at night, the alarm bells were sounded, a midnight march was ordered, the city was drained of its volunteers, men torn from their wives, children, mothers, and sisters, leaving the city defenseless in an unprotected state; and they arrived at the Relay House, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, where they were detained for a while, it was stated by the later writers of the press [illegible] being asked, if he thought there was really any purpose of an attempted [illegible]

[illegible] into service for, and it has [illegible] by the fact that no mortal eye has ever yet rested on the enemy they were called out to repel—as far as we know, why shall I not stand excused in the public judgment for not having felt alarmed, excited or disturbed.

The poet sings of

"Old ocean in wild tempest tossed,
To waft a feather or to drown a fly."

And I have often heard of "a tempest in a tea pot," but what is one to think of a hurricane in a tea spoon, that has stirred up the deep foundations of society, and lured men on their own to destruction and the ruin of their country? I beg to be excused for not participating in such excitement.

I do not say, that to make political capital was the object, or sole object, of what a very large number believe to have been, the unfounded apprehension that was created, notwithstanding the dilemma to which the Democracy were reduced for some new issue on slavery, while many of them admitted that this whole affair was a "*Godsend*" to their party; but what I do say is, that if that had been the sole object, the most efficient means were adopted to accomplish the end in view, temporarily at least; whether it will last long enough to result in forwarding the views of any great political party in the country, will depend very much, I presume, on the facts that may be disclosed by the investigating committees of our Legislature, and of the Senate of the United States; but we must have the facts and the names of parties, and not mere speculation and assertion. But, every thing said or done, or that was left unsaid or undone, at the North, has been exaggerated, magnified and distorted, by a portion of the public press, and by designing men at the South; whilst every indiscreet, intemperate and foolish thing, said or done by a highly excited people at the South, has in turn been paraded before the people of the North, with a view of extorting, in retaliation, every species of menace and denunciation, and of keeping the North united, until the general, but careless reader would have become impressed with the belief, that a state of things had arisen, that could only be terminated by the most disastrous civil strife.

The New York Herald and New York Tribune, both of which I take, and read every day, have for the last ninety days been loaded down with the most inflammatory matter; one is intended to operate on the southern mind, for what useful purpose I have not seen, and the other upon the North, for a purpose that is manifest—but between the two, they have furnished an abundant supply of fuel to keep the most extensive political furnace at its utmost capacity of heat.

That there are good and bad men in all countries, in all sections, in all communities, in all parties, and in all churches even, every one must admit—and that one depraved and wicked person can set a whole neighborhood in an uproar, and disturb the general peace of society, the occurrences of every day life have taught us all; that a few such men can effect similar mischief on a larger scale, every one must know—and when a large body of misguided and designing politicians at either end of the Union, have brought their minds to the conclusion that their only hope for whatever designs they might have in view, rested upon the amount of inflammatory excitement, that could be raised among their respective friends, sympathizers, and followers—and they set their heads to work, to find fault with everything, and criminate everybody, in the opposite section, and they in turn send back their indiscriminate denunciations and recriminations, and the ball is thus kept bandied backwards and forwards, with increased impetus at every blow; is it to be wondered at, that sooner or later, a spirit of misunderstanding, disaffection, hostility, and menace, should spring up among the idle lookers-on, which may finally extend itself to the whole community? These two parties, the Disunionists of the South, and the Abolitionists of the North, constitute the "Cassius" and the "Montagues" of our nation, by keeping all the rest in a constant state of commotion; and "*a plague on both their houses, say I.*" If the good men of the country, those who are satisfied to live in the Union as it was formed by our fathers, and upon the same terms and conditions that they lived, would only step forward, and take the control in their own hands, just for one year only, if they did not like it longer—and crush both these miserable factions into atoms, as they have the power to do, and then to keep them crushed, as there would be no serious difficulty in doing—they would accomplish an object that would be necessary to importance only to the work of their ancestors, in establishing the [illegible] ever other sum to which [illegible] will be quite sufficient in a few years to cure the evil, which will become small by degrees, and beautifully less, year after year, until it will disappear altogether. Let all offices, patronage, and influence be withheld from them, and disunionists or abolitionists, would soon become as useless, worthless, and contemptible in their influence at the polls, that they would no longer be courted and caressed; and, if they secretly cherished such damaging doctrines as are now publicly boasted of in their respective localities, they would no sooner proclaim them aloud, than they would make a public confession of their infidelity to the religion of their Saviour. *Money, Place,* and *Power,* is what the mischief makers *make mischief for;* deprive them of these, by a corrected public spirit, and a combined public effort, and the government, which is now a disgrace to the age in which we live, will be restored to harmony, dignity, and efficiency.

In a personal and private sense, there are good men of all parties in Congress—Democrats, Whigs, Americans, and Republicans—but how many of them are there, who would utter a threat of disunion—(for which they have been clothed with no more power than you or I,) and how many would make a speech on slavery, if they felt assured that it would be attended with their dismissal from the public service? I do not say that there is no district in the United States from which one or the other or both might not, at first be returned to Congress, but such influence on the part of the Government as I have mentioned, added to the exertions of the conservative men of each district whose interests are suffering, and whose patience is well nigh exhausted, would soon root them out, and force them into a different course of action; for then their influence would not be felt and courted at the polls, for this it is, that gives them all the consequence they possess.

But, what has occurred to justify that clamor for disolution, and general preparation for civil war? I subscribe for, receive, and read, fifty-two papers a week, besides a large lot of others that are sent me, or that I meet with elsewhere, that cannot, therefore, be very much of a circulance abroad, that I do not have a fair opportunity to see, or hear of, and yet, I am wholly uninformed of any occurrence, or reason for the one or the other. Indeed, I have seen no reason for alarm, or uneasiness at anything that has occurred, I pray that it may all be examined with close and scrutinizing eye, with a calmness and deliberation worthy of the great interests involved, that we may see what it amounts to, before we light up the torch of civil war; for say that may not find a temple, whilst the entire population may be unable to extinguish the flames.

Is it then, because old Brown, with his handful of free negroes and disaffected followers, made an unprovoked attempt to get up a servile insurrection, for which they have all suffered death, in some form or other, except the two who escaped early? I suppose not, for that matter is at an end, and they have paid the penalty of their misdeeds, and I presume, every one [illegible] there, [illegible] attempt, or one on a larger scale, is to be made hereafter, by any such [illegible] and who have witnessed the results of [illegible] miserable failure, and where they have upon what an immense force would be required to overcome the military [illegible] protection of our frontier, what an [illegible] our territory, what an [illegible] it? Never a bit, will they [illegible] odds again.

It merely is not to [illegible] for there are some left to be [illegible] two, and they attempt an [illegible] then is it? We are told that a [illegible] of religious enthusiasm and [illegible] fanaticism, continues in the [illegible] have followed for the last thirty [illegible] persist in preaching against [illegible] that those who have [illegible] rise and disorganize [illegible] disorganize it; so far from it, they [illegible] in many instances, profess to feel a [illegible] pretty far throughout, even those who are going to discover the great [illegible] form the State against [illegible]

Why, I see nothing [illegible] fact that sympathy should [illegible] and to those and by [illegible] "[illegible]" and "[illegible]" honest, sincere, and truthful [illegible] wild, visionary, dangerous [illegible]