

# The People's Press.

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## The People's Press.

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BY L. V. BLUM.

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### BETWEEN THE LINES.

A chilling wind. A murky sky. An atmosphere of terrible gloom. A hillside covered with trees, and men with muskets in hand resting on the muddy ground. In a rotten log, a staff with a flag. At the foot of the hill, a skirmish line, the rattle of rifle balls, and wounded men hobbling rearwards. Further on a valley, and scores of dead. Beyond this, a net-work of felled timber; and high over all, at the summit of the hill, huge earthworks, a strange banner, and a semi-circle of cannons sending forth grape and canister with an echo that smites the ear almost to deafness. Four o'clock, Saturday afternoon. Siege of Fort Donelson.

"Fall in!" Four brigades spring into line as a single battalion. Out of the wood, across the valley, and among the tangled abatis, are they in ten minutes, shooting and loading, falling and dying. "Halt! That battery on the left must be silenced. Who will charge it?" The 2nd Iowa and 50th Illinois Infantry answer by starting briskly forward. Unerring streams of shot and shell from the embrasures above plow furrows through their ranks; but they close up again and again, still facing to the front, still pressing firmly forward. Another pte. and—Hurray, they plant the old flag upon the fort!—Ah, it drops—they turn! Useless endeavor—vain sacrifice. Four brigades are no match for a single division. Persistence would be suicide. They fall back to the old position in the wood, and as the smoke clears away, the skirmishing is renewed as if nothing unusual had happened. Only thirty minutes' conflict, and finally retreat; but it has added a bloody chapter to the history of a hemisphere.

Rubbing my eyes into activity, I found myself stretched at full length beside a log. Then a stinging pain and a glance at a bloody leg told me that I was wounded. A moment made it all plain. I had fallen as we retreated, and been left upon the field. Between the lines with a wounded limb! That was my situation, precisely and as the fact came to me in the whizzing of the skirmishers' musket-balls, I think I nestled about as closely to mother earth as I could without scratching her countenance.

I do not know how long I laid there, but when at last, I raised myself upon my elbow, I saw the sun setting in a sea of gorgeousness. Never before had a sunset seemed to me so beautiful! How could such a mournful day close so gloriously? It may be that the reflection of human crime and folly does not go heavenward though earth does sometimes glow with the splendors of the Better Land. No matter. Soldiers should not poetize and wounded men are ill-fitted to philosophize. Regular firing had ceased, on either side, but the exchanging of occasional volleys still continued at intervals of a few minutes. The cloud of smoke that enveloped the fields a short time before had dispersed leaving the air stagnant with the scent of powder. I could see our lines in the wood and fancied I could even distinguish the faces of comrades. How I wished I was with them! Alas, I could not go to them, nor could they come to me. Twenty paces either way would have been certain death. The dividing space was directly in range of the enemy's sharpshooters. Gradually came darkness, and clouds floated over the stars above me, as if to absorb their radiance. A keen gust of wind made me rise to a sitting posture; and folding my great coat around me I thought of sleep.

"Hooray for the Union, if I niver spake agin!" sounded on the air. The cry startled me, for I knew the voice. It could be that of no one but Dennis McQuaig of my own company—"the Cork pill" as he was nicknamed in the Regiment—an uncouth Irishman, rude in speech and conduct; but full of pranks and joviality. I called to him and he answered. Then I heard footsteps, and soon he fell heavily across the log at my side.

"Divil take the brush; I've stumbled right onto a tree." I knew he had fallen from weakness; still I could not honor the falsehood by which he attempted to hide his misfortune; for the true soldier abhors nothing so much as helplessness. I gently assisted him over the log, and soon learned that he had received a rifle shot in the left breast, very near the heart.

"Well," said he, reviving, "we're on detached duty without any detail. Moighty unpleasant duty, too, far as I've got. I'd like to meet a quartermaster now, and draw a blanket; but there's no use wishin' the likes o' that; you'd niver find one o' them 'hard tack' haros in sich a place as this. Chaplains arn't very plinty in this

section either, though it would be a bully place for 'em to warm up the 'dear sours,' wid talk about the brimstone country."

"Dennis, you do wrong to make light of serious things, at such a time, and in such a place as this."

"Supposin' I do," he replied, "that's better than cuddlin' down and dyin' wid your hands together, and your mouth runnin' over wid talk about angels and gould side-walks. I know I'm a hard case. I've groved to it. If I iver had sich a thing as a father or a mother, it must 'a' been very airy in life; for the first I know'd of the McQuaig family, it consisted intirely of meself and me young brother, Jamie."

"We don't resemble one another any more'n a mud turtle resembles a nightingale; and Jamie might be me uncle as much as me brother, for all I know as to where either of us come from. He's a slender, sober-looking lad, wid red hair and little red spots on each cheek. He's groved to school now, back in Quincy, Illinois, and I'm sending him money, for to keep up my insurance, and to git him to be a squire or a school teacher or something o' that sort, as don't take hard work, 'cause he's got no string."

"I an, I love that lad like a regular mother, and I don't love any body else."

"What," said I, "you an Irishman, with no lady love! Come, Dennis, that never'll do."

"O, go 'way wid your wimmin folks,—the desavin' oraters, wid false hair, and patent teeth. I aint on that. Its tellin' the truth, I am. I don't love anybody but little Jamie—for he's little yet, if he be rising fourteen. He aint like me at all, at all. He is a good boy—a rale simon-pure Christian lad. Yes, sir, he takes to prayin' and the Tistamint jist as natural as I take to tother side, and I love him for it. That's curious, but its true. If I'd hear any one making fun of Jamie's religion, I'd whip him quicker than lightning!"

and he clenched his fists till his whole frame shook violently.

"Whin I started to the fightin'," he continued, "Jamie gave me a Tistamint to carry wid me. I have it in me knapsack over at camp; and though I've niver read one line av it, I always look at it whin I'm thinkin' av him—and that is purty often. If all the world was as good as Jamie there'd be no nade av two places to send dead people to. Why, he used to knale down by the bed ivery night, and ask God to bless his brother—manin me, you know. Yis, yis, he's a good boy, but he is so fable. Poor lad! Sometimes I think if I should die"—he paused a moment, then added, solemnly, "little Jamie would be all alone in the world."

only the barrin thousand his brother has laid by for him in the insurance company."

"He tried to choke down the sobs, but they tied his tongue. Then he sprang up on his knees, and I could feel the blood dripping from his wound upon my sleeve."

"Oh, Jamie!" he cried piteously, "open the window, quick—its choking I am!" I shuddered; he was delicious! "Hurry wid the water lad! Loose me collar! Oh, no, you can't—you're too small and wake-ly. You're good though, that ye are, and I won't ax ye to work. There, now, don't cry. Come up by me and let me hear the little prayer ye say on mother kin hear in heaven. Tell her I'll be a father to ye, Jamie. Tell her I'm wicked, but theres some decency in me. Tell her—blow out that light, quick, quick, its blindin' me eyes—its—tell her—God—Ill—Jamie!"

He fell back into my arms with a deep moan, and I heard no more. I lifted his head—he was a corpse. Heedless of my own suffering, I wrapped the skirts of my coat about the dead body, and drew it to my bosom, as the clouds overhead sent down a shower of sleet which cut our faces like bits of broken glass.

Thus I sat in the storm until the dawn of morning, when I heard a shout of triumph from the lines. Looking eagerly upward, I saw white flags upon the fort. It had surrendered. Soon our troops came marching by, and I was lifted into an ambulance. Not, however, before I had cut a lock of hair from poor Dennis' head with my pocket knife, hoping I might some day give it to little Jamie.

The Sabbath sun shone out brightly as Grant's columns moved into the humbled fortress, with music and huzzas; and late in the afternoon a "burying squad" dug a shallow grave for our poor Irish comrade near the spot where he fell. A day or two afterwards, as I stood gazing upon the little mound of earth, and the rough head board on which some friendly hand had marked his initials, I could not resist the thought, that somewhere in every human heart there is a spark of goodness, though it may take the rustle of angel's wings to stir it into speech, as on that fearful Saturday night "Between the Lines."

Twelve months later, being in Quincy, Illinois, I sought out "little Jamie." He was attending the public school, and living in the family of a benevolent gentleman, who was overseeing his education. His brother's death caused him intense grief, and this grief was rendered all the more bitter by the discovery, which was soon made, that owing to the neglect of Dennis to pay the extra premium required of soldiers on active duty, the policy on his life had been forfeited, and the poor boy left not only alone, but penniless.

The latter misfortune, however, was warded off; for, on proper representations being made to them, the officers of the Life Company became satisfied that the neglect to pay the extra rate was the result only of ignorance and misapprehension, and they generously paid the full amount of the policy. Thus the orphan lad, thanks to the wise forethought of his devoted brother, was lifted above want, and given the means of securing a good education.

### The Better Half of a Great Man.

To promote her husband's interests, Mrs. Benj. Franklin attended shop where she bought rags, sewed pamphlets, folded newspapers, and sold the few articles in which he dealt, such as ink, paper, lamp-black, blanks and other stationery. At the same time she was an excellent house-keeper, and besides being economical herself, taught her somewhat careless, disorderly husband to be economical also.

Sometimes, Franklin was clothed from head to foot in garments, which his wife had both woven and made, and for a long time she performed all the work of the house without the assistance of a servant. Nevertheless she knew how to be liberal at proper times. Franklin tells us that for some years after his marriage, his breakfast was bread and milk, which they ate out of a two penny earthen vessel, with a pewter spoon; but one morning, on going down to breakfast, he found upon the table a beautiful China bowl, from which his bread and milk was streaming with a silver spoon by its side, which had cost a sum equal in our currency to \$10.

When he expressed his astonishment at this unwonted splendor, Mrs. Franklin only remarked that she thought her husband deserved a silver spoon and china bowl as much as any of his neighbors. Franklin prospered in his business until he became the most famous editor and most flourishing printer in America, which gave him the pleasure of relieving his wife from the cares of business, and enable him to provide for her a spacious and well furnished abode. She adorned a high station as well as she had a lowly one, and presided at her husband's liberal table as gracefully as when he ate his breakfast of bread and milk from a twopenny bowl.

—Parton's Life of Franklin.

### GO AHEAD.

A traveller who had circulated in every climate, was once asked where he would rather live. He replied, "Let me be a young man in the United States of America, in the middle of the nineteenth century, and live here now." The world was never so wide awake as now. It would be a familiar thing to say that this is an age of steam and lightning. These two grand instrumentalities affect the world, and make the age what it is. They have breathed into the world the spirit of the age. Wherever you turn your eyes, into whatever rank of men you direct your attention, you find those avenues full of earnest, industrious men, saying, "What soever thou doest, do quickly." That steam horse making the time of a planet as it goes over the mountain, and through the mountain valleys, and makes our factories and shops beehives of industry; that steam horse that spits and belches forth his fire with boiling blood, is not a bad type of the age in which we live. The conductor of the train has only time to see that all is right, and his motto is, "Go ahead!" "Go ahead!" is the watchword of the age. The argument as to character is simply this: A man must be all energy and action. Those who come into the world with only one eye open, and sit around with their hands in their pockets, doing nothing and thinking nothing, without a spark of heart in their bosoms are no men for the age. They have no business here at all, and ought to be born over again, if they expect to do anything or be anybody in this age. They believe in luck, not in labor. The age is a lively quick-step, and the essential element is energy first, with other requisite qualifications. We see great differences among men. While some remain stationary, making no advances, others mount the pinnacle of prosperity and fame. This is all owing to the possession of the simple element of energy. No circumstances, no reliances, no opportunities, will make an energetic man without the exercise of this essential. Open your eyes and take a survey. Who are the men who are making their mark in this age? It is not those who carry slim canes, wear finely polished boots, support a head of frizzled hair, and spend most of their time in viewing the ladies through a pair of opera or steel eye-glasses. No, not that class, but a very different class. Men of industry, energy, and action—not those who sit down, but those who come forth with a spirit of indomitable energy in their bosoms, and knowing their duty, do it with all their might, mind, and strength—and if the way seems doubtful, if the way is not open, they push forward with strong hand and strong heart, overcoming all obstacles to the road of influence and to happy homes. Such are bound to succeed. The elastic energy is in them, and you cannot destroy it. They must succeed. These are the men who have made their mark in this age. The next qualification is practical intelligence. A new sign is visible, and it reads, "The educator is abroad." These four words define the true state of the case. He is here among the masses. The people have instruction, and the instrumentalities of acquiring intelligence are so universal, that the excuse for ignorance has passed away. A young man, therefore, who lacks this qualification has no one to blame but himself; and he who has no purpose of reaching the golden opportunities of this age, can have his fortune told without the extra charge of venturing to predict for him that he cannot become great by any possible luck of his. The young man who resolves to store his mind with useful things, must dig deep and through the surface, as men dig for gold. The young man of this age who starts forth with a purpose will always find assistance, however poor he may be, no matter what his circumstances. If he is a young man bound to mouat, he will be recognized. Open your eyes and look about you. Who are the men of this age?—men who shine out like diamonds of

parrot lustre? Are they men of high, aristocratic birth and fortune? Not one of them. Nearly every name upon that scroll are those who have risen from the humble walks of life. Among them we find a Washington, "first in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen;" the printer, philosopher, and statesman, Franklin; and Bowditch; and Andrew Johnson, the tailor. What does this grand galaxy of names prove? It proves the truth of the statement that let a young man begin life with a purpose, and energetic that purpose, he will become great. A great many young men are dreaming of becoming great, waiting for a shaping of circumstances, or hoping that something may turn up. But men will never become great in that way. It is step by step, reaching up to the high points, and by heroic, many labor, that man can reach the sublime heights of wisdom. Such a one is always sure of employment. It is not dress that makes the man. The great want of the age is a recognition of worth, not dress; brains, not canes; not mustaches. Beings clothed in beautiful raiment, smelling of lavender and kids, are not the men for the age. The coat is there, but there is no man inside of it. The age wants manhood. Society is looking after men in the spirit that a man looks after a horse; all the good qualities are necessary and it is only such that can show a good pedigree that are wanted. The aristocracy of blood must give way to the fresh young blood of energetic manhood.

To cover a steep bank quickly with grass the following method is recommended by a German horticultural association. For each square rod to be planted take half a pound of lawn grass seed, and mix it intimately and thoroughly with about six cubic feet of good dry garden earth and loam. This is placed in a tub, and to it liquid manure, diluted with about two-thirds of water, is added, and well stirred in, so as to bring the whole to the consistency of mortar. The slope is to be cleaned off and made perfectly smooth, and then well watered, after which the paste just mentioned is to be applied with a trowel, and made as even and thin as possible. Should it crack by exposure to the air it is to be again watered and smoothed up, day by day, until the grass makes its appearance, which will be in eight or fourteen days, and the whole delicately will soon be covered by a close carpet of green.

RYE FLOUR FOR BREAD.—Mr. William Ray Snow, writing in the London Morning Star, directs attention to the use of rye bread, on the score of cheapness. The writer adverts to the fact that bread made from rye is eaten by all ranks of society in the north-east of Europe, and is scarcely ever absent from the tables of the noble and wealthy, because two sorts of bread are considered more wholesome and more nourishing than the exclusive use of one. Of the two kinds of bread, the rye and the finest wheat, made at the Vienna bakery of the Paris Exposition, and served at the adjoining lager beer saloon, the rye bread was largely taken in preference. The case of a German is cited, who in his own country, used to eat a slice of wheat bread and a slice of rye bread together, and who on his coming to reside in England, suffered much in health from the entire use of wheat bread.

Committee on Penal Institutions.—Messrs. Lassiter, Welker, Robbins, Beasley, Shoffner, Love and Etheridge. The following resolution introduced by Mr. Burns, was taken up, adopted, and transmitted to the House:

Resolved, That a joint committee of two from the Senate, and two from the House of Representatives, be appointed, whose duty it shall be to inquire into, and report as an early day as is practicable, the condition of the office of Auditor of Public Accounts, and that said Committee, if deemed necessary, may employ such aid, as in their judgment will facilitate the progress of their duties.

The following messages were received from the House of Representatives:

A message concurring in the Senate resolution to print the rules of both Houses.

A message returning Senate resolution concerning election frauds in Caswell County, amended by adding, "and all other evidence pertaining to similar cases in the State."

On motion of Mr. Etheridge, the Senate concurred in the House amendment. A message was transmitted to the House of Representatives, informing that body of the same.

The President appointed Messrs. Galloway, Welker and Love, as Senate branch of that committee.

Also, Messrs. Burns and Brogden, as Senate branch of the committee on the resolution relative to the office of Auditor of Public Accounts.

A message was received from the House of Representatives, proposing to go at once into an election of an Enrolling Clerk, asking the concurrence of the Senate.

On motion it was ordered that the proposition of the House of Representatives, to proceed to an election for an Enrolling Clerk, be concurred in, and that a message be sent to the House of Representatives, informing that body of the same, and that Messrs. Sweet and Wilson have been appointed by the President to superintend the election; and that the Senate will proceed to the election upon the return of the messenger.

Mr. Barrow nominated John A. McDonald. A message was sent to the House of Representatives, notifying that body of the same.

The President announced the return of the messenger, and that the Senate would proceed to the election of an Enrolling Clerk.

The following Senators were excused from voting: Messrs. Robbins, Forkner, Beasley, Barnes, Eaves, Smith, Love, Etheridge, and Epes.

On motion of Mr. Moore, of Carteret, the Senate proceeded to elect an Engraving Clerk.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, nominated Mr. W. B. Rich, of Pitt County.

Mr. Love nominated R. W. Best, late Secretary of State.

The yeas and nays were taken. Senator Rich was excused from voting.

Mr. Rich having received 23 and Mr. Best 6, was declared elected.

On motion of Mr. Robbins, the rules were suspended to allow him to introduce a bill in relation to marriage licenses.

The bill was read first time.

On motion the rules were suspended—and the bill passed its second reading.

A motion to suspend the rules, and put the bill upon its third and last reading, was lost, and upon the motion of Mr. Jones, of Wake, the bill was referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TUESDAY, July 7th, 1868.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Mr. White's bill for the relief of Sheriff's and the sureties of such as have died, was put upon its third reading.

Mr. Abbott moved to amend by striking out Section 1. Carried.

Mr. Abbott moved to amend Section 3, by inserting "that the liens of the State shall not be impaired." Carried.

Mr. Abbott introduced the following resolution, which was adopted:

"WHEREAS, It being known to some of the members of this body, that Rev. Henry Hardie, of this City, has made a tour of this State, and is now engaged in preparing a volume, which shall embody an account of the resources of North Carolina for the information of the public, especially those at a distance, who contemplate settling here. Therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee on Education, be instructed to confer with Mr. Hardie as to the contents of the book, look to its publication, and make such recommendations in regard to it as may seem to them proper."

Mr. Banner, Representative elect, from Watauga appeared, qualified, and took his seat.

Mr. Durham moved that a message be sent to the Senate proposing to go at once into the election of Enrolling clerk.

A message was received from the Senate asking the concurrence of the House in a resolution to raise a joint committee of seven on the removal of political disabilities from certain citizens. Messrs. Galloway, Welker and Love constituting the Senate branch of that committee.

On motion of Mr. Sinclair, the House concurred.

The Speaker appointed as the House branch, Messrs. Graham, Sinclair, Foster and Sykes.

The Senate, by message, also asked the concurrence of the House in a resolution

to raise a joint committee of five—two on the part of the Senate, and three on the part of the House—whose duty it shall be to inquire at an early day into the condition of the accounts, &c., of the Auditor of Public Accounts, and reports.

On motion of Mr. Estes, the House concurred and the Senate was ordered to be so notified.

Senate branch of the committee consists of Messrs. Burns and Brogden; and the House branch, Messrs. East, Davis of Carteret, and Blair.

Received a message from the Senate, concurring in the proposition of the House to go immediately into the election of Enrolling clerk and nominating for that office Mr. John A. McDonald of Chatham.

Mr. Durham nominated Mr. John Sykes, of Wake, and the Senate was ordered to be so notified.

Messrs. Vost and Harris, of Franklin were appointed to superintend the election.

[From the Sentinel.]  
SENATE,  
WEDNESDAY, July 8, 1868.

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Welker, from Guilford.

A messenger was received from the Governor, relative to the resolution authorizing the publication of his Inaugural, &c., and transmitting official papers issued by Gen. Canby heretofore, in reference to carrying out the Reconstruction acts.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Jones, of Wake: A bill to extend the Chatham Railroad. Referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

By Mr. Davis: A resolution fixing the per diem and mileage, allowing \$5 per day for each member for every day of actual attendance, and 20 cents mileage.

By Mr. Blythe: Resolution proposing to raise a Joint Committee to be known as the Committee of Salaries and Fees. Lies over.

The following bills and resolutions were taken up and acted upon as follows, to wit:

Bill providing for the relief of Sheriff's and their sureties. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Resolution providing for the appointment of a Committee to take into consideration arrangements for establishing a Penitentiary. Adopted.

Resolution proposing to raise a Committee of the Whole on the Commission on the Code. Amended by striking out all after the word Resolved and inserting: "That the several standing Committees be authorized to consult with the Commission on the Code, and report such amendments as may seem necessary." As thus amended, adopted.

Mr. Moore's resolution fixing the per diem for members at \$6 and Speakers and Clerks at \$10 and allowing 20 cents mileage for all, was taken up.

Mr. Blythe moved to strike out \$6, and insert \$4.

Mr. Barrow moved that this resolution, including all others relating to this subject, be referred to a select Committee; and the reference was made.

Mr. Robbins moved that the galleries of the Senate be allotted to the two races, so as to avoid their mingling.

A. H. Galloway, moved to amend as follows: "That the white ladies and gentlemen should occupy one side and the colored ladies and gentlemen the other; and that the centre be occupied by any one who desires to do so," which was adopted.

The Chair announced: "The Gallery to the right of the Speaker will be set apart for white ladies and gentlemen, and the left to the colored ladies and gentlemen."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WEDNESDAY, July 8, 1868.

The Chair called attention to several Rules of Order, among them Rule 12, concerning Reporters. He quoted from authorities touching the liberties of Reporters and the legal mode of punishment, in case of their treating the body with disrespect. He also read the resolution passed by the late Convention, and said that several members of this House had complained to him, that the Reporter of the Sentinel added the word "negro" to the names of colored members, which they consider as a personal insult.

The Chair then declared if any Reporter continued the same disrespectful course, he would by virtue of the authority vested in him exclude him.

Mr. Abbott, from the Select Committee on Disabilities, asked for instructions whether their functions are restricted to the mere question of admitting to seats banned by the 14th article, or whether their powers extend to the investigation of the special cases.

Mr. Sinclair moved to instruct the Committee to investigate each case upon its individual merits.

Mr. Seymour moved to amend, by instructing the Committee to confine their report to the general question "whether members elect, banned by the Howard Amendment, are disqualified from taking their seats."

Mr. Durham said that this Committee had been raised by a joint resolution. The Senate Branch of it had investigated each special case, and had admitted some five or six Senators. But the Chairman of the House Committee had seen fit to construe the duties of said Committee merely to enquire whether or not the 14th article was operative.

Mr. Abbott replied that he understood the duty of the Committee to be merely to express an opinion as to the legality of the article, supposed to disqualify certain persons claiming seats on this floor.