

WESTERN SENTINEL.

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BY

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From the Jackson (Miss.) Crisis Feb. 10.

PROGRAMME IN THE NORTHWEST.

We have derived the subjoined information from a gentleman of high moral, social and political character—a distinguished citizen of one of the Northwestern States—and the information, therefore, is strictly accurate and entirely reliable. We make the statements for the information and gratification of our readers and the Southern public generally.

The States of Indiana, Illinois and Ohio have determined to stop the war and make terms of peace with the Confederate States, cost what it may. In one purpose, whatever the future may be, they are firmly and unalterably united and resolved, and that purpose is, the war against the Confederates shall cease, or, if it is to be carried on, the Northwest will throw its military power into the scale against the aggressor. The citizens of those States who have been drafted, or enrolled in the Federal army are leaving that army by the hundreds and by the regiment, and there is no authority in the army which can control this movement. Out of 150,000 men organized by the Federal Government to operate on the Mississippi river under Grant and McClernand, not more than 40,000 effective soldiers remain and that number is daily being diminished by mortality from sickness and voluntary abandonment of an enterprise with which they are most thoroughly disgusted.

The Legislatures of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, are to convene at Frankfort in general Convention on the 13th day of February, inst., and will there agree upon the principles upon which a North western Confederacy is to be instituted, and propose terms of peace and commerce with the Confederacy for States bordering the Mississippi and its tributaries—proposing a treaty offensive or defensive with the South, or an adoption of the Confederate States Constitution to incorporate those new members into the Confederacy if that be agreeable to the people of the Confederate States. But in any event, and independently of all other questions, relations of peace, amity and commerce with the South are to be established.

When these principles are agreed upon in convention, Commissioners will be deputed to bear the result to Richmond for a final and satisfactory adjustment of all interests involved. This action will be taken not secretly, not clandestinely, but openly and with a serious and dignified determination, representing the sovereignty of those great and populous States.—When the terms of adjustment are settled at Richmond, they will be submitted for the ratification of the people of those States respectively, by organic action at the ballot box, provided for by the Legislatures of the respective States. When thus ratified the work of separation from the United States will be regarded as finally and irrevocably perfected.

But we suggested, "Maj.—what if Mr. Lincoln shall send a detachment to Frankfort to arrest the convention and its peace delegates to Richmond.

"Let him dare lift a finger or march an army to disturb the deliberations of that convention or arrest its delegates and three hundred thousand Western men will move to Washington City and hang Mr. Lincoln had his Cabinet.

Again we suggested, Mr. Lincoln has the army and the navy and the treasury.

Let him send Grant's Army said our informant to Illinois and that is the last Grant will ever see of his army. He would not have a corporal's guard remaining attached to his command while our Southern allies would recapture every town and city on the Mississippi from New Orleans to Cairo. Let Rosencranz take his army to the Ohio river and it will cease to exist in like manner. We already have one hundred and eighty thousand returned federal soldiers in those States, ready to join us and we have the army and we have

the leaders and if the Black Republicans at Washington City dare to interfere with us the majesty and power of a great people will be exerted to Washington City and hang the last one of them. As to operations upon the river the gunboats shall be yours."

And what will you do with the Federal war debt?" we asked.

We will repudiate the last farthing of it," said he. It was never constitutionally contracted."

And what will you do with the green backs' in circulation to the amount of many millions.

We will make a bonfire of them and consume them at the altar of sacrifice."

And what will you do with the Middle and New England States.

We expect the moral support of New York and Pennsylvania. We'll cut off Michigan to Canada where she ought to belong. And if New England interferes we'll whip her out of the Union or into good behavior. And what time we asked do you expect the present war to close?"

"I expect," said he, no more general engagements unless one should occur in Middle Tennessee, between the forces under Bragg and Rosencranz, and I should deem that a great misfortune, as being unnecessary and involving a useless sacrifice of life. By the first of April there will be a practical cessation of hostilities in the Southwest and by the first of June a permanent peace unless the Black Republicans determine to wage a war against the Northwest.

The above statements comprise substantially the information we have derived. Our informant seemed to entertain little doubt, Indiana and Illinois, at least, would fall into the Confederacy, along with Missouri and Kentucky. He thought it was also the destiny of Ohio, but seemed less confident of that State. Whether these States should belong to the Confederacy or not, he had no doubt at all of the foundation of a Northwest Empire, in the event of their exclusion from the South.

From the Morning News.

A learned Judge has said: "our present war will be fought by women and children." As an illustration I send you the views of a MOTHER, whose sons are in service, on the reconstruction of the Union. Her sentiments will meet a response in the heart of every true hearted woman in the Confederacy:

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE UNION!

Reconstruct the Union! Yes, from the wreck of outraged humanity, from the miserable tattered rags of a constitution, trampled under foot, rent and scattered to the winds.

Reconstruct the Union! Yes with letters forged for your brave and gallant officers and Soldiers, who under God have fought and won your glorious victories, and from the dark dungeons and pestilential prisons where tyranny has had them in durance vile amidst inhuman insults and privations.

Reconstruct the Union! Yes and lay its new foundations deep in the blood-stained soil of your desolated homes, of the whitened bones of your countrymen murdered upon the battle fields of their own, their native land and cemented with the clot ed gore of fathers, husbands sons and brothers, poured out in defence of freedom—of justice—and of truth.

Rebuild it! From the violated graves of your honored dead, from the desolated hearth-stones where only memory of departed loved ones now may linger, from the ruined temples and desecrated altars of our one living and true God where we and our fathers worshipped; beside whose pastures green we hoped to have led our children, and when the work of life was closed beneath whose quite church-yards to have laid us down to rest—with the peaceful sleepers there awaiting the arch angel's trump to bid them rise to life and light—upon the resurrection morn.

Reconstruct the Union! Yes, and let its garniture be—the polluted virtue—the defamed characters—the insulted dignity the broken helpless, babes—your grey haired fathers and mothers—your penniless daughters and sisters your stolen straying, perishing servants.

Reconstruct the Union! Yes, join brotherhood with the dastards who have armed your slaves and incited them to deeds of infamy and blood around your own firesides.

When light has learned to dwell with darkness; truth with falsehood, honor with dishonor, justice with fraud; pure and undefiled religion with vile infidelity and low fanaticism then—Reconstruct the Union, and over it plant the Stars and Stripes, once the standard of the free and the brave! But now, wherever it waves on Southern soil or floats upon the sea, we hail it as the ensign of tyranny—the abomination that maketh desolate."

Reconstruct the Union! Forever perish the birth of such a thought.

RETALIATION.

Hon. Mr. Hodge, of Kentucky, has introduced in the Confederate House of Representatives, the following preamble and resolution on the subject of the Yankee negro army, which we are glad to see, was agreed to by that body.

WHEREAS, Information has reached this Congress of the passage by the Congress at Washington, D. C., of a bill for the enlistment of negroes as soldiers in the armies of the United States, which armies are to be engaged in the further invasion of the Confederate States of America, and, whereas the Constitution both of the Confederate States and of the United States recognizes Africans and their descendants as property, and whereas, we cannot consent to any change in their political status and condition therefore.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire into the expediency of bringing in a bill, providing the proper prisons for the disposition of all negroes or mulattoes who may be captured from the enemy in such manner, that those of them who are fugitives from their masters may be returned to their rightful owners, and those for whom no masters can be found shall be sold into perpetual bondage for the purpose of raising a fund to re-imburse citizens of this Confederacy who have lost their slave property by reason of the interference therewith of the enemy.—Agreed to.

The late Attack upon Fort Donelson.—Through a letter of a participant in the attack published in the Shelbyville Rebel Banner, we learn some interesting particulars of the affair:

It seems that on the evening of the 3d inst., Gen. Forrest being in the vicinity of Fort Donelson learned that the garrison of that post consisted only of some twelve hundred men. Having with him between seven and eight hundred cavalry, he determined to assault the place at once.

Dividing his forces, Gen. Forrest made a simultaneous attack at two points. At the first charge the enemy was at both points driven within his fortifications and followed by our troops into the town. But after a three hours fight against superior numbers who had the advantage of entrenchments, Gen. Forrest deemed it expedient to retire. He was hastened to this determination by the information that heavy reinforcements were coming to the enemy from Fort Henry. A handsome brass field piece was taken by General Wharton's command, who made the attack and entered the town near the river. The same troops captured and destroyed a large new ferry boat laden with powder. The other results of the expedition were the killing and wounding of over fifty of the enemy, the capture of nearly a hundred prisoners and a number of wagons, ambulances, and small arms. Our whole loss, as previously stated, was only ninety eight. The casualties on our side were marvelously few considering the fact that for three full hours our troops were exposed to a battery of field pieces and to the enemy's sharpshooters, who kept up a continuous fire from rifle pits and the windows of the houses.

The following summary of the result of General Bragg's campaigns in Kentucky and Tennessee, taken from a correspondent of the Columbus Enquirer, by the Wilmington Journal, places the fame of General Bragg upon an enviable eminence. Impatience of grand results, without looking to the adequacy of the means in his hands, has been the source of great injustice to that officer. Hereafter, when calm reflection takes the place of hasty censure, General Bragg's name will be cherished as one of the brightest ornaments of our military history:

Enemy's loss in killed, 5,380; wounded, 28,500; captured, 26,874—total casualties 60,904 Property captured or destroyed—Artillery, 74; muskets, 33,160; wagons, 1,300; mules and horses, 6,000.

This by a force which at all times and at all places has never been 50,000, and which at Murfreesboro' was only 33,000! It will be seen that the enemy's casualties largely outnumber our whole force engaged, not on any one occasion, but at all times and places aggregated! When it is borne in mind, too, that Gen. Bragg was carrying on an offensive war, mostly in the enemy's territory and near his great lines of communication it will be readily seen that his chance of holding his advance positions was desperate indeed, without large accessions to his ranks from the people of the region, which he did not receive; and we may safely say that no other invasive expedition on our side can make such an exhibit of injury to the enemy.

The Crisis at Charleston—Non-Combatants ordered to retire. The following proclamation from Gen. Beauregard, has been published.

HEAD QUARTERS DEPARTMENT of S. C., Ga., and Fla., Charleston, Feb. 18, 1863.

It has become my solemn duty to inform the authorities and citizens of Charleston and Savannah that the movements of the enemy's fleet indicate an early land and naval attack on one or both cities, and to urge that persons unable to take an active part in the struggle shall retire.

It is hoped, however, that this temporary separation of some of you from your homes will be made without alarm or undue haste, thus showing that the only feeling animating you in this hour of supreme trial is the regret of being unable to participate in the defence of your homes your altars and the graves of your kindred.

Carolians and Georgians! the hour is at hand to prove your country's cause. Let all able bodied men from the seaboard to the mountains rush to arms. Be not exacting in the choice of weapons, pikes, scythes, will do for exterminating your enemies, and spades and shovels for protecting your friends. To arms, fellow citizens, to share with us our danger, our brilliant success or our glorious death.

[signed] G. T. BEAUREGARD. Gen. Comd'g.

RAISE WHEAT AND CORN.—It is to be hoped that every farmer and planter of the South who has a spark of patriotism will abstain from the cultivation of cotton and tobacco and give every acre of the soil to the production of Corn, Wheat, Peas, Potatoes and every description of food for man and beast. Even in a mercenary point of view—and it is humiliating that this has become in these times too common a principle of action these productions will pay better than any others. The man who raises cotton and tobacco now is not only aiming a blow at the independence of his country, but at what perhaps he values more his own interests.—The only enemy we have to fear is the sacrifice of the common good to individual greed. One more year of self denial and in all probability the South can return to the cultivation of its peculiar staples with safety and profit.—Richmond Dispatch

The Winchester (Tenn.) Bulletin is responsible for the following which is decidedly the best joke of the season.

When the Yankee prisoners were passing Decherd in this county, of course some anxiety was manifested to see the vile invaders of our soil. Among our citizens who were present was Mrs. P. S., a woman noted for her Southern feeling, her general stock of good humor and who by the bye has a mind of an uncommon natural powers. Among the Yankees was a big buck negro in Federal uniform who had a very important look. Mrs. S. walked up to him in presence of all the Yankees and assuming a very serious countenance, addressed him as Gen. Rosencranz. The negro appeared dumb-founded. Our friend appeared not to notice Ebony's confusion. The Yankees seemed amazed. Cuffee said, "I'm not Gen. Rosencranz, I belongs to a gentleman in East Tennessee." "Ah, General," said our friend, "You can't bluff me that way. Tell the truth you shan't be hurt. Tell me how you come to let the rebels get you. But Cuffee protested he was not Rosencranz. Our lady friend affected to disbelieve him and the Yankee prisoners seemed confused that a big buck negro should be taken for their commanding general. It was a rich scene.

People, outside of the army, in the vicinity of Fredericksburg, must have a hard time. A correspondent of the Examiner writing from Fredericksburg on the 10th, says:

The scarcity of subsistence stores, outside of the army supply, in this town and the surrounding country, is almost incredible. Corn brings readily twenty five dollars per barrel, and it is almost impossible to obtain even at that price. A peice of sweet country bacon would be hunted down like an old hare at \$1.50 per pound, whilst fresh meat is a luxury unknown, except occasionally when a stray cow meets an unexpected doom. The hogs have long since disappeared, and a domestic fowl would have the novelty of a natural curiosity. Indeed there is not a single feathered chauticleer to herald the morn within the hearing of Fredericksburg.

Elizabeth Jewel of Montgomery Va., has now living two hundred and ten descendants viz: eleven children, eighty nine grand children, one hundred and nine great grand children and one great great grand child. The old lady is in her eighty eighth year, is hale, hearty and vigorous, and bids fair to live many years yet.