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To the Friends of Education.

We publish below, a circular addressed to the teachers and friends of education throughout the Confederate States, by the State Educational Association of N. Carolina, hoping that each one who may see it, will consider it as sent especially to himself, and that all who can will be present at the proposed meeting.

All newspapers in the Confederacy that are disposed to aid in advancing this great cause, are requested to publish this circular, and call attention to its object.

RALEIGH, N. C.,
January 12th, 1863.

SIR:

At the last annual meeting of the State Educational Association of North Carolina, held in the town of Lincolnton, on the 14th and 15th of October last, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Association recommend a general Convention of the teachers of the Confederate States, to be held at _____ on _____ 1863, to take into consideration the best means for supplying the necessary text books for schools and colleges, and for uniting their efforts for the advancement of the cause of education in the Confederacy; and that the Executive Committee of the Association be directed to correspond with teachers in the various States on the subject.

We have thought it would facilitate the accomplishment of the object of the above resolution, to suggest a time and place for the holding of the Convention referred to; and we accordingly recommend that the meeting take place in Columbia, South Carolina, on Tuesday April 28th, at 8 o'clock, P. M.

The importance of this movement will be readily appreciated by every one in our beloved country; and we feel sure that no class of persons can be more useful in achieving, under God, the independence of a nation, than those who are engaged in training the hearts and minds of the young.

The integrity of society itself demands that at least those of our text books which relate to moral and political science should not be prepared by persons who hold opinions in conflict with those on which our institutions are based and if our schools are ever to be purged of the semi-infidel literature of the world, we will never have a better opportunity than the present for the commencement of this good work.

We would add in addition, that our national enemies arraign us at the bar of the civilized world as a people of inferior moral development and capability and every consideration which can appeal to our pride, to our patriotism and to our manhood, as well as to our sense of duty to God and to our fellow men, should prompt those who labor in the moral domain to be up and doing.

We cannot afford to permit any exigency which our vindictive foes can bring upon us, to arrest our efforts in behalf of those agencies which, next to religion, do most to prompt the welfare of society; and we know that if the rising generation is properly instructed, the lapse of time will, by the blessing of Providence, but insure that independence for which those who are now on the stage of action, are so heroically contending.

Believing that these views meet with your hearty concurrence, we respectfully and earnestly invite you to meet us in council at the time and place specified above, fully believing that, by Divine favor, we may thus be enabled to lay, in this day of trial the foundation of a work which will redound to the honor and prosperity of our noble country.

With much respect,
We are truly yours,
C. H. WILEY,
Supt. of Common Schools of N. C.
J. D. CAMBELL,
Ed. N. C. Journal of Education.
W. J. PALMER,
Prin. N. C. Inst. D. & D. & B.

Ex-Committee

The Richmond Whig of yesterday says:

The Exemption Bill was passed by the Senate yesterday. As it is quite lengthy, and has to undergo the revision of the House of Representatives, we deem it unnecessary to occupy space by publishing it in full. Its provisions differ from those of the act of last session in several particulars. The clause relative to the exemption of those unfit for service in the field provides that their bodily incapacity shall be "ascertained by a surgeon of the army who is not a resident of the part of the country from which those he is called upon to examine may have come." It also provides that persons so examined and declared unfit for duty "shall not be afterwards subject to be again examined and enrolled." How many times have they been examined already?

The clause exempting the judicial and executive officers of State Governments specifically exempts the Judges of the supreme, District, Superior, Circuit and Probate Courts, the Chancellors of State Courts, and Sheriffs, and excludes Justices of the Peace.

Persons appointed by the officers of the Executive Departments, since the 15th April, 1862, and who were liable to military service when appointed, are excluded from exemption.

Presidents or conductors of any railroad company, or train, who fail, neglect, or refuse to furnish seats or drinking water to sick and wounded soldiers, not to be exempted.

"One editor of each newspaper now being published, and such journeymen printers, engineers, pressmen, stenographic reporters and mailing clerks as the editor or proprietor there of may certify upon oath to be indispensable for conducting the publication," are to be exempted.

Manufacturers of various classes specified, are exempted on condition that the manufactured articles shall be sold at a net profit not exceeding thirty per cent. per annum on the net capital invested.

Two new clauses relative to the police of slaves, and to the protection of families not less than ten in number on any farm, are embraced in the bill. They were published in full as adopted in the report of the Senate proceedings, a few days ago.

These are the principle changes made in the Exemption Act passed at the last session.

An Abolitionist for Peace.

A few days since, Senator Conway, of Kansas, one of the most ultra, as well as one of the ablest, of the Republican members of Congress, made a strong speech in favor of peace and the stopping of the war. The speech is said to have the approval of Gen. Anderson, Charles Sumner, W. Phillips, Horace Greeley and other leading Abolitionists, who held a caucus in Washington just before it was delivered. It is a very important and significant demonstration.

Mr. Conway in his speech announced himself as opposed to re-union. He says:

"I am not in favor of restoring the constitutional relation of the slaveholders to the Union nor of the war to that end. I have never allowed myself to indulge in that superstitious idlatry of the Union so prevalent among simple but honest people, nor the political cant about the Union so prevalent among dishonest ones."

That the South had established its independence, he boldly declared, saying:

"The war between the North and South for the past two years has made a revolution. It has substituted in the South another Government for the Union. This is the fact, and the fact in such a matter is the important thing technicality in a question of this kind cannot stand. The war has utterly dissolved the connection between the North and the South, and renders them separate and independent powers in the world."

Mr. Conway concludes by announcing that the true policy of the North is to terminate the war at once, and he urges both houses of Congress to adopt the following resolutions:

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That the Executive be and he is hereby requested to issue a general order to all commanders of forces in the several military departments of the United States to discontinue offensive operations against the enemy and to act for the future entirely on the defensive.

Resolved, That the Executive be and he is further requested to enter into negotiations with the authorities of the Confederate States with reference to a cessation of hostilities, based on the following propositions: 1. Recognition of the independence of the Confederate States. 2. A uniform system of duties upon imports. 3. Free trade between the two States. 4. Free navigation of the Mississippi River. 5. Mutual adoption of the Monroe doctrine.

The Distress Among the Cotton Operatives of France—The French correspondent of the Spectator gives a rather startling account of the distress among the cotton operatives of France, and the measures adopted for their relief. He says:

One may form an idea of the number of families doomed to starvation by reflecting that in the department of the Seine Inferieure alone, the cotton trade sets in motion more than the fourth part of the whole number of spindles that are worked all over France. Day after day, night after night, the country is scourged by bands of unfortunate people who creep along from door to door, asking for bread and shelter. Railway stations are besieged by poor half naked children, with emaciated faces, imploring the assistance of the traveler. All this misery is to be seen. How much more affecting still the unseen distress of those who had rather die than beg; and of those too, who having either to attend an aged parent or to nurse a baby, are as it were, imprisoned in their wretched dwellings. There are, in the Seine Inferieure, 2,200,000 spindles, 14,000 looms, 32 chintz manufacturers, and 64,000 hand looms. Well, in ordinary times, the manufacturers employ 50,000 working men.—Now a-days they employ scarcely 20,000.—Consequently, 30,000 are out of work.

Each hand loom must occupy a man and a woman or child; in all, 128,000 hands. Since the crisis, five weavers out of six are still for want of work; in other words, there are about 102,000 weavers in a state of starvation. Nor do those fare much better whose work is, either directly or indirectly, connected with the manufacture; so that the number of persons in utter destitution round Rouen is reckoned at 260,000. As the night comes on, all the bye streets begin to swarm with famished spectres. In the surrounding country, little boys wander up and down in quest of a few potatoes. Some times they are obliged to go so far in order to get them that they cannot come back home until the day after. In many a "commune," withered leaves are burnt in lieu of wood or coals. No bed, no linen, are to be found there. The children sleep on a bit of rotten straw, the parents on a plank. Subscriptions have been raised everywhere in aid of a general relief fund and the whole amount of the sums hitherto collected is 600,000f. (£24,000.)

IMPRESSMENTS.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill to regulate the impressment of private property for public use. The bill received a general support in the House, and we presume is such as the interests of the Government and people demand. But it hangs fire in the Senate. At least, we hear of no action being taken upon it in that body.

If Honorable Senators were aware of the universal and extreme dissatisfaction which the present arbitrary system excites throughout the country, they would hasten to act. The present system is the essence of tyranny. An officer in the Commissary or Quartermaster's Department took it upon himself, without any authority of law, to assess the value of every man's property, and he took care to fix the assessment at about half the market price. With this assessment in pocket, the Government agents have been scouring the country and seizing the property of individuals at this arbitrary valuation. We learn from a curt epistle of President Davis to the House of Representatives that no seizure and confiscation of the property of citizens has been made by his order. We might infer that, as the proceeding was had without his order it was also without his approbation; if we did not know the proceeding was every day taking place by persons claiming to be agents of the Government.

But the whole proceeding is illegal, iniquitous and oppressive. It assimilates our Government to the horrible Yankee despotism against which we are waging war. The system is as little justified by necessity, as law and by justice. It is a slander on the people of this State, and we believe of every other, to say that force is necessary to make them furnish supplies to the army. They are willing to sell at a fair price, in such money as the government has, all they can spare, for the use of our armies. What they complain of; what they have a right to complain of and have a right to resist by force, if they choose, is that a clerk in Richmond, should undertake to assess their property at half its worth, and authorize its seizure and confiscation at that rate. We have never heard of any of the assessors fixing the price of their own products at these depreciated values.

We beg the Senate to take early action on this bill. More may be lost to the common cause by a system of illegality and injustice, than can be gained by saving a few dollars in Confederate notes.

Rich. Whig.

A NOBLE SENTIMENT.—The late great speech of C. L. Vallandigham contains the following passage worthy of commemoration and imitation.

"These were my convictions on the 14th of April. Had I changed them on the 15th when I read the President's proclamation and known that I had been wrong all my life and that all history was a fable and all human

nature false in its development from the beginning of time, I would have changed my public conduct also. But my convictions did not change. I thought that if it was disunion on the 14th of April it was equally disunion on the 15th and at all times. Believing this, I could not as an honest man, a Union man and a patriot lend an active support to the war and I did not. I had rather my right arm were struck from its socket and cast into eternal renderings than with my convictions to have thus defiled my soul with the guilt of moral perjury. Sir I was not taught in that school which proclaims that "all is fair in politics." I loathe, abhor and detest the execrable maxim. I stamp upon it. No States can endure a single generation whose public men practice it. Whoever teaches it is a corruptor of youth. What we most want in these times and at all times is honest and independent public men. That man who is dishonest in politics is not honest at heart in anything, and sometimes moral cowardice is dishonesty. Do right and trust to God and truth and the people. Perish office perish life itself but do the thing that is right and do it like a man. I did it. Certainly sir I could not doubt what he must suffer who dare defy the opinions and the passions, not to say the madness of twenty millions of people. Had I not read history? Did I not know human nature? But I appealed to time and right nobly hath the avenger answered me.

I did not support the war and to-day I bless God that not the smell of so much as one drop of its blood is upon my garments. Sir, I ensure no brave man who rushed patriotically into this war, neither will I quarrel with any one here or elsewhere who gave it his honest support. Had their convictions been mine, I, too, would doubtless have done as they did. With my convictions I could not.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?—The New York Caucasian comments on this query, as often heard at the North, in the following manner.

"Where does the money go?" asks the honest working man, as he sees the huge amounts ordered by the Committee of the Senate and House to be disbursed by the War Department. My fellow laborer have you ever heard of one Mr. French an iron-clad, high pressure Abolitionist whose good lady, one Mrs. French, a year ago embraced at Port Royal, a score or two of black greasy wenches in the street in broad noon day and hailed them 'her dear sisters?' Well, Mr. and Mrs. French have been since the eventful date when Mrs. French landed at the negro department, teaching the little niggers to sing "glory hallelujah." The exact number of diminutive ebionies which have compassed the task is officially set down at 100 and the little item of a bill against Uncle Sam who is very liberal now, as he grinds out his money by steam, is \$200,000 for teaching the little Dinahs.

Think of it tax-payers! \$200,000 for teaching little niggers, and the little white children of the poor soldiers starving because the Secretary of the Treasury cannot pay their fathers for the past eight months' service in fighting for the nigger. 'Ah ha, about the black zymphs of Beaufort, nigger sumfin now a days bless de Lor white gal no whar yah! yah! yah! But here is where the money goes my white friend to pay for a negro war. Bend to your task, put your shoulder to the wheel work till your heart sweats blood. Water the earth like dew with big drops which roll from your toil wrinkled brow; your fate is, to be taxed enormously for a nigger war; and pay besides thousands of millions for nigger freedom.—Who allotted this task, my honest working man? Abraham Lincoln takes the responsibility. Taxation is slavery. Abraham Lincoln enslaves the white man for the purpose of imposing so called freedom upon the negro. Abraham Lincoln degrades his own race by lifting up the negro to its level and yokes not only the present generation but the future into a more galling servitude than ever cursed the Caucasian race since Adam's time.

The Lowest Stage of Human Degradation and Dishonor.

One at least of the yankee papers has a just appreciation of the infamy of the law to enlist 150,000 negroes into Lincoln's army. Hear the Boston Courier:

We say the project is a degrading one—which will make our latest posterity blush for us—that we had so little manhood in us as to call to our aid on the field of mortal strife, for the defense of "the land of the free and the home of the brave," a race of inferiors to do for us what we, confessedly, by adopting such a measure, have not the spirit, energy and wisdom to effect for ourselves. Truly, the man who concocted and voted for such a bill can only be said to have reached the lowest stage of human degradation and dishonor."