

W. H. Perry

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From the New York Times, Aug. 12th.

The Rebels and their Leader.

The popularity of Jeff. Davis is just now at a very low ebb in Dixie. The rebels generally have a notion that he is somehow responsible for the great reverses that have overtaken them; and, without scruple, they are casting at him the sharpest reproaches. He is stigmatized both for incapacity and for neglect—for lack of brain and for lack of heart. The prevailing criticism upon him is all adverse; and his former lieges now make him out a man very much to be despised.

Now, we don't feel ourselves called upon to say one word in behalf of Jeff. Davis. There is not a man on the foot stool whom we so utterly abhor. In our deliberate judgement, there has never lived a human being—certainly not in modern civilization—who attempted so enormous a crime, or wrought such terrible calamity. Nothing is more certain than that one or two centuries hence, when the last remnant of slavery has died out of the world, and history makes up its calm, irreversible verdict upon these times, the name of Jeff. Davis, the slavery champion, the conspirator, the traitor, will be put on the scroll as, beyond all comparison, infamous.

We say we have no plea to make for Jeff. Davis. Yet we protest that it does not look well for his fellows in guilt to turn upon him because he is not successful. There is something in this act exquisitely pathetic. We were going to say devilish, but about this we are not sure. If Milton is any authority, the devils don't do such things; for among all the speeches he reports from the terrors of Paudemum, not one of them—whether from Moloch or Mammon, Beelzebub or Baelzebub—contained a syllable of reproach against the rebel leader for the "sad overthrow and foul defeat." The whole crew recognized that there had been equal hope and hazard in the glorious enterprise, and were content to take without complaint the "equal ruin." The disposition of our American rebels to make their chief responsible for their hard fate belongs only to the meanest elements of the human soul. It is very like the blind spite of the bafiled reptile.

Bad as Jeff Davis is, he has served the rebels well, and they have no right to complain of him. He was made their President by a unanimous vote. They had known him long and thoroughly, and could not be mistaken either about his faculties, or his devotion to their principles. It is the judgement of the whole world that they were not mistaken. They could have found no man within their border so consummately qualified for their leadership. Cold, reserved, imperious, he could be the tool of no man. Ever audacious, yet never rash; inflexible in his purpose, yet versatile in the use of means; of every clear comprehension in general matters, and yet of the most bigoted attachment of the great rebel idea; of a temper of soul incapable alike of undue elation or despondency; of tireless industry, and of first rate executive ability; he was precisely fitted to be the chief of this tremendous enterprise. The wonder ever will be not that he at last sinks exhausted, but that he was ever able to stand against our Government at all. History may be searched in vain for another instance of so prodigious a power organized from such limited materials, and holding out so long against such terrible trials. The ability and energy with which he has consolidated and sustained the rebellion have extorted the admiration not only of Europe, but of even the loyal North; for the qualities are in themselves, none the less admirable, though employed in the most wicked cause.

Of course it cannot be pretended that Jeff. Davis has made no mistakes. Were this so, it would prove him more than human. There never was human energy yet which did not sometimes miscalculate. Our point is not that the rebel leader was perfect in his management, but that he was as nearly so as any living man in similar circumstances could have been; and

that, therefore, he cannot justly be reproached in any measure, for the failure of the rebel enterprise. He has surpassed all the expectations his Confederates in treason could have reasonably formed; and he is just as much entitled to the confidence of his fellow traitors now, in this their day of disaster, as he was a year ago, when in the flush of victory, they shouted his name to the stars.

The simple truth is, that this rebellion falls, because it was not possible for it to cope successfully for any long period, with the mightier power arrayed against it, especially when that power had right on its side. It was certain, from the outset, that if the North should once really gather and put forth its vastly superior strength, the Confederacy would have to yield sooner or later, unless it should receive help from abroad. The desperate efforts which have been made by its envoys to secure such help have all the while betokened a lurking consciousness that this was its only chance. In the earlier stage of the rebellion, before the first great uprising of the North, the Southern people would have sooner brooked the infernal devil to have set up a cotinuous empire, than have endured Napoleon III. in Mexico. But, ever since, they have hailed every step of the French Emperor there, and at the present time would even be glad to accept not only his close neighborhood but his direct protection.

We have no belief that Jeff. Davis himself, with all his traitorous spirit, would have ever entered into open rebellion had he not counted upon either a divided and paralyzed North, or speedy foreign intervention against the National Government. Bold as he is, he otherwise never would have committed himself to an enterprise with such terrible odds against it.—Once in, of course he could not go back; and it is marvellous with what potent and dauntless energy he has ever since been fighting his fate.—Accursed as he is for all the ruin he has plotted and the sea of blood he has caused to be shed, we do not hesitate to testify that he has been as true to his work as his fellow traitors have to theirs. Having together sown the wind, they must together reap the whirlwind. They deliberately challenged their fate. Though it comes in a different shape than they expected, let them meet it like men. This cursing of their leader is pitiful.

[From the Fayetteville Observer.]

Yankee Response to the Peace Propositions and meetings.—The last mail has brought extracts from the New York World of the 18th inst, received by the Petersburg Express, from which we copy the following most important paragraphs:

"WASHINGTON, August 17.—According to a private letter received here, the article in the Raleigh Standard of the 31st of July, throwing the entire responsibility of the present war upon the secessionists, denouncing the treachery of the Confederate government, and asking for peace, etc., was written by the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Commons and the President of the Governor's Council. It is further stated by the same correspondent that Governor Vance approved of the publication of the article, copies of which have been furnished the President and members of the cabinet."

[We stop here to say, that all this about the Speaker of the House of Commons (Mr. Donnell) and the President of the Governor's council (Mr. Satterthwaite) and Gov. Vance himself, is notoriously false. A citizen of Davidson county is the writer for the Standard.—But the next extract is the one to which we particularly call the attention of our readers:]

"Great Union Meeting in N. C.—NEWBERN, N. C., Aug. 13.—A meeting of citizens of North Carolina, representing every county in the First and Second congressional districts, and a portion of the Third, was held at Washington, N. C., on the 11th inst. The first North Carolina Union Regiment, stationed at that point, participated in the meeting.

Addresses were made resolutions adopted expressing sympathy with the great conservative party of North Carolina, declaring an energetic prosecution of the war in this department to be the only means by which the Union sentiment in the interior of the State can be made particular useful in restoring her to the national jurisdiction, asking the Government for reinforcements for this purpose, accusing the Confederate Government of perfidy and cruelty toward North Carolina, declaring that her people are therefore absolved from any further obligation to sustain it, placing the responsibility for the destruction of slavery upon Jeff Davis and his conspirators against the Union, expressing the belief that North Carolina will notwithstanding, find ample compensation in the blessings of free labor for the present inconvenience of emancipation, rejoicing in the recent Union victory at the Kentucky election denouncing copperheadism at the North, and commending the ability and patriotism of the

administration in the conduct of the war, especially the sound national currency originated by the Secretary of the Treasury."

"Washington New Era, of the 10th inst., republishes from the Raleigh Standard of July 31 an able article, four columns in length, denouncing the treachery of the Confederate leaders, showing the falsity of their efforts, stating that portions only of but five of the original thirteen States remain in the hands of the Confederacy, and proposing that North Carolina, in her sovereign capacity, make immediate overtures to the North for peace.

To this, in the spirit of remonstrance and entreaty in which we appealed to the Standard a week ago, we would now call the attention of that paper, and of those who have participated in the so-called 'peace meetings.' Supposing them to have been influenced by every proper motive, of loyalty to the Confederacy, and of a desire to secure our independence as well as to bring this war to a close, we ask them to look at the effect of their movement. It is precisely what we told them would occur. They proposed negotiations for peace. The yankees in Newbern respond by a meeting evidently composed of Yankee soldiers and negroes, (the First N. C. Union Regt.) "representing [that is, stolen from] every county in the 1st and 2d and part of the 3d Congressional districts," and welcome their proposition for negotiation by a call for more troops to overrun the State of North Carolina! That is the sort of negotiation for peace, and the only sort that they recognize. Instead of turning their thoughts to peace, the yankees have only been encouraged to wage war with more energy. And under the persuasion—false though it be—that they will meet with Union friends by penetrating to the interior of the State, we shall no doubt soon find them advancing with the reinforcements they call for, towards Weldon, or Raleigh, or Fayetteville, one or all, burning and laying waste and robbing wherever they go. "An energetic prosecution of the war"—that is, according to the invariable Yankee fashion, laying waste as they go, and killing and maiming our sons and brothers—"is the only means by which the Union sentiment can be made practically useful." Useful to whom?—to Lincoln and his plans of subjugation and spoliation!—Separate yourselves we beg of you—we beg of the Standard and of the participants in the so-called peace meetings—from the remotest idea of being willing to have any association or sympathy with the black and white scoundrels who meet your propositions for peace with propositions to lay waste your property and that of your neighbors and friends and kindred, and who denounce copperheadism at the North, that is, denounce the peace men at the North to whom you look for assistance in securing peace, but whose political destruction at home you ensure by the peace meetings here.

Is any true man of North Carolina willing deliberately to continue a course which thus encourages the malignant enemy to make more energetic war upon our State? God forbid! Then let every patriotic citizen who has been for a moment misled by the natural and universal desire for peace, come forward and repudiate this most unfortunate movement that has so encouraged the enemy. If any man shall refuse thus to repudiate it, now that its fatal tendency is exposed by the yankees themselves, North Carolina will assuredly repudiate him.

Upon the occasion of the expulsion of General Banks from the Valley by Jackson, in the summer of 1862, and the capture of Winchester, a frightened Dutchman ran all the distance from Winchester to Martinsburg, twenty two miles.—The following is the Dutchman's description of the capture of the town, and his flight:

"I hear von great noise, and somebody say, Stonewall Shackson's come to town. I looks out de door, and I see von great big rebel, mit a horn coming down de bike, and he blay, 'Whose been here since I been gone? Sheneral Banks, mit a blue coat on.' Then I rushes back into mine house, Mr. Daily, and I grab my monish—I have mine monish here, Mr. Daily, (slaps his pockets) and I shumps over the stockade fence, and I run, till I can't run any more. But I got my monish, Mr. Daily, and I am tam dry."

PAY YOUR TAX IN KIND PROMPTLY.—It is well known to all that our Congress, at its last session, levied a tax in kind on the products of the earth. It is the duty of our planters to pay this tithe, upon such crops as have been gathered in, at the very earliest opportunity. Our armies are now needing the provisions which these tithes will furnish, and ought not to be deprived of them a moment longer than is sufficient to get them to some depot where they can be shipped to the order of the government. Besides, a prompt compliance with the provisions of the law will save the Government much expense and trouble. We say to all who have a "tax in kind" to pay, do your duty patriotically at once, with the least possible delay.—Do not wait to be called upon and forced to do it.—Savannah Republican.

THE TAX IN KIND.—The Hon. James L. Pugh, of Alabama, has recently written a concise elucidation of the tax law of the last Congress. Mr. Pugh is one of the ablest men in the Confederate House of Representatives, and his views will be read with peculiar interest throughout the country at this time:

BRUNNIDGE, July 11, 1863.

Mr. Editor:—You will please publish the following propositions on taxation and subsistence:

1. No direct tax on land and slaves can be laid by Congress without an apportionment. Representation and direct taxes are inseparable. No direct tax can be laid constitutionally without a census—no census can be taken during the war. Hence, those who favor a tax on property, and not on productions, incomes and profits, are for violating the Constitution.

2. A tax on property instead of productions would necessarily oppress the citizen and soldier, because the tax, in order to be uniform must be laid on the land of the soldier as well as the citizen who has been driven from his home by the enemy and making nothing; then property must sell under the hammer to pay taxes.

3. The provision tax, or in kind, can oppress no one; as no person pays anything if he makes nothing; whereas, the tax on property must be the same on every one, and paid in money, whether the land makes provisions or grass and weeds. The provision tax will stop the increase of the war debt and the further issue of Confederate money sustain credit abroad and confidence at home, and above all feed the army abundantly. A tax on property will accomplish neither of these results. Hence, I am in favor of the tax in kind, and the money tax on incomes and profits, instead of a money tax on property.

4. Whether you lay a tax on property or a tax in kind, it must be the same on every body, because if the property or crops of any one, whether citizen or soldier, is exempted, uniformity is destroyed and the tax is unconstitutional.

5. The provision tax of one tenth is all the planter pays while incomes from speculation &c., are taxed as high as fifteen per cent.

6. Potatoes, peas and ground peas, left in the field for stock, are not counted, because the tax law requires an account only of such portions of the crop usually gathered as "have been sold or consumed prior to making the estimate. This was intended to guard against fraud and evasion of the tax law, but cannot embrace potatoes, peas, &c., usually left in the field as these have not been sold or consumed prior to estimate, which will be made as soon as the crop is gathered. The Government will need grain, &c., at once, to supply the Confederate army. Your obedient servant.

J. L. PUGH.

The Fighting Strength of the Confederacy.

Mr. DeBow, Editor of DeBow's Review, has made a calculation of the fighting population of our country. He makes a very fair deduction for our losses in consequence of the position of Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri and portions of Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana and Arkansas.—He then shows that our male population between the ages of 17 and 45 amounts to 1,181,500. Deducting one fourth for exempt (a very large allowance,) we have 880,000 men. We have lost many men in the war; but the natural flow of our population has gone far to replace them. During the two years of hostilities not less than 120,000 males have passed from under to over 18 years of age. Mr. DeBow estimates from these figures, that in no event during a long war can the Confederate strength be reduced under 700,000 if the people are in earnest. This is an army ample for all our possible necessities.

CONDITION OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

A correspondent of the Atlanta Intelligencer gives the following account of the thrifty condition of the Post Office Department, under the management of Postmaster General Reagan. The intention of the Government in making the department self-sustaining will ultimately be realized:

Revenue for the quarter ending September 30, 1862, \$717,274.99. For the quarter ending December 31st, 1862, \$772,820.88. For the quarter ending March 31st, 1863, \$907,808.63. Total \$2,897,904.39.

It is estimated that the number of soldiers now in the Confederate army and rapidly forming for the field is 515,000. This hardly reaches one-half of our fighting population. If poor struggling Poland possessed such an army, it would extort its liberation from the Czar at the gates of St. Petersburg, and is there any craven among us who will say that with such an army we can be whipped?