

# WESTERN SENTINEL.

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## Subjugation What may be Expected.

"Oppressed nationality" shall never, by God's blessings, be a designation for the States of this Confederacy; and while we stand in armed and defiant resistance, it may even be thought gratuitously offensive to enter upon an account of that interesting class of communities, as if it could have any possible relation to us and our destinies. Yet in order that we may all, with one heart and mind, continue to resist to the triumphant end; in order that none of the very cowards amongst us may ever dream of laying down those arms in the delusive hope of peace, until a glorious independence has been achieved, it may be well to keep before our eyes the miserable, shameful, but too sure alternative.—Nothing can be more certain than that we have before us either a complete military success in this war, or else the full measure of Poland's and Ireland's grinding oppression and emaciating humiliation.

Some weak-minded persons, we are sorry to learn, still soothe themselves with the idea that if the worst should come, we should but be reduced to the present condition of Kentucky or Missouri; in which there has been as yet no sweeping confiscation of estates nor absolute extermination of people; and they fondly imagine that, even if the country should fall entirely under the power of the Yankee nation, still the property and the rights of them (the weak-minded persons) might still be, some how, saved harmlessly by some sort of base oaths, and pledges of "loyalty" to the new masters. So dreamed many of the Irish before the capitulation of Limerick and disbandment or exile of the national forces. It was not till after that event, when the island lay really in the condition of a conquered country, that the code of "penal laws" began to be enacted.—There was then no army in the field to which men, goaded by oppression, could fly for refuge and for vengeance. The war was over, and only its fruits remained to be gathered.

Now the Yankee enemy has hitherto forborne from applying the law of conquest to Kentucky and other border States simply because he knows that those States are not yet conquered. The war (thank God!) is not over. Our Confederate armies are still on foot, and on the banks of the Rapid Ann, and in the gap of Chickamauga, not only guard Virginia and Georgia, but also postpone indefinitely the fate of Kentucky and Maryland. If the enemy should now prematurely put in force the policy of confiscation and proscription in those States, the effect would be only to send their young men trooping to General Lee and General Johnston. It must be only after the submission of the whole land—if our eyes should ever see that evil day—that the Yankee nation can begin to parcel it out as reward for the soldiers.—No matter what might be the guaranties, treaties, amnesties, capitulations under which we should have laid down our arms, pretexts would be instantly found for evading them all, as in the case of the Vienna and Limerick treaties. No treaty between victor and vanquished ever binds the former; and unless we are to suppose in the Yankee nation some superhuman virtue, some angelic purity and benignity, some grandeur of soul heretofore unexamined, we may be sure that they would proceed generally as the Russians and the English did; with perhaps some ingenious additions; for our neighbors are an inventive people.

They would need all their ingenuity, however, if they wished to improve much upon the methods elsewhere tried with such success. The grand object to be at-

tained in such cases is always uniform; it is to appropriate the lands and goods of the subject people, and to make their industry subservient to the profit of their masters. The means, therefore, are tolerably uniform also; the means are to invent ever new and more and more humiliating tests and oaths, such as cannot fail to excite local insurrections and conspiracies—then to crush these with brutal rigour, and afterwards reap the harvest in plunder. To carry out this process with safety, it is needful to take the pluck out of the subject people by disarming them carefully, and thus killing in them the spirit of men. Also to take into the hands of "government" the whole education of the young in order that the school books given them to read may carefully conceal the fact that they once had a country, and how it was lost; here, in the case supposed, our school books and teachers would come all from Massachusetts and Connecticut, and they would teach our children that they ought to be proud of living under the glorious Stars and Stripes; if the "rebellion" were ever mentioned at all in their historical readings, it would be with execration upon the unhappy miscreants, who, in those years, criminally sought to destroy the best government in the world. Under the Irish system of penal laws, in the reign of George I, Irish children were forbidden to be educated at all, except by English Protestant schoolmasters; and as the Catholic gentry of the country then adopted the practice of sending their children to be educated in France and Spain, another act was speedily passed: "That if any Catholic child were sent abroad without license, it was presumed by law that he was sent to be educated in a foreign seminary, by which a forfeiture of his personal, and the income of his real estate was incurred." The personal and the real estate was the main point; but, in order to clutch it, all education had to be controlled, all history to be perverted, and the spirit of the rising generation denationalized in its very spring.

It may be imagined that the cases of Poland and Ireland are scarcely applicable to any possible state of affairs amongst us, inasmuch as in both those countries much of the persecution was occasioned by religious intolerance. The Irish and the Poles were Catholics; and Great Britain and Russia were resolved to crush out that religion, and establish, in the one country, Anglican Protestantism; in the other the Greek church. Yes, but in both cases religion was only the pretext, and any other pretext would have done as well. The grand object was the real and personal estate. If the people had really become converted, under that sort of severe proselytism, why, some other pretext would have had to be invented, that is all. In these States one could easily contrive cunning tests and oaths quite as hard to swallow, and quite as sure to yield a crop of confiscation, as any subscription to a religious creed. Besides, are we sure that the Yankees are not provided with the very same religious machinery of plunder? Is it forgotten that all the Churches in America (save one) are irreconcilably divided upon a great moral question—that the Northern branch of each communion holds it abominable to teach that Christianity countenances slavery, while the Southern branch renounced all connection with Yankee Christianity upon that very question? The Churches are divided upon the very question upon which the States succeeded. Conquest of the Southern States would be conquest of the Southern churches; they would instantly become schismatic, heretical, accused; and: the zeal and *odium theologium* of Yankee Christians—not without an eye to the "real and personal"—would soon not only cover them and their pastors and communicants with evil repute, but also provide penal laws against the "negro drivers' church," the "church of the blood mongers," &c., which, if it did not produce conversions, would at least, produce confiscations; and that would be quite as good, or much better.

Col. Czymra, whose work on the religious policy of Russia in Poland is of high authority, has given an account of

the measures taken by the Emperor Nicholas to force the United Greeks or Bosilians—about three millions of people—into the regular Greek Church.

"In most of the parishes," says Czymra, "a strong opposition was offered by the clergy, but all in vain; the recusant priests were expelled their parishes and deprived of their livings. Many were sent off to schismatic monasteries, and there incarcerated, with no food but bread and water; some had even that denied them, but remained in cold, dark dungeons," &c.

As for the method of dealing with the laity take two extracts from the same writer. After a forced recantation, relapse was thus provided against:

"As to apostates, an ukase of the 21st of March, 1840, declares, besides the punishment already provided by law, that their *real and all other property* shall be confiscated; they cannot employ any orthodox peasantry, nor sojourn where orthodox people live. Their children shall be taken from them and brought up in the orthodox church," &c.

Again—

"Up to the 6th January, one hundred and seventy of the clergy had fallen victims of inhuman treatment. The younger portion, who would not turn schismatics, had their heads shaved, and were sent as recruits to the Caucasian army."

The nature of the penal code in Ireland is, perhaps sufficiently well known. A Catholic turning Protestant was to take the fee-simple of his father's estate, avoiding all settlements made by his father, and turning his father into a tenant for life. Catholics were prohibited from taking land by lease for a longer period than thirty-one years; prohibited from purchasing any of the forfeited estates; prohibited from exercising the office of mayor, sheriff, baliff, alderman, burges, town clerk or common councilman in any corporate town. A Catholic could not legally own a horse of five pounds value; and if any Protestant discovered a Catholic possessing such a quadruped, he had nothing to do but get a constable, break open the stable door, bring the horse before a magistrate, and then and there paying down five pounds five shillings, take and keep such horse, 'as if bought in market overt.' All Catholic clergymen, of every rank, were ordered to depart the kingdom before the 1st of May, 1698; and those who should return were to be hanged without benefit of clergy. It would be tedious to varrate the long curiously elaborate code which was in force in Ireland for nearly a century. The point to be remarked is that the atrocity of this code only made the people of Ireland more attached to their church and clergy; and this had been foreseen and intended; for thereby the real and personal estate of that kingdom came by degrees into the hands of orthodox believers. The very obstinacy of the Catholics was the profitable circumstance; and if they had allowed themselves to become converted, that would have defeated the whole scheme, and another scheme would have become necessary.

We do not do our very ingenious neighbors at the North the injustice of supposing that they can be at any loss for an efficient system of appropriating real and personal estate with such plain examples before them. Indeed it seems almost certain that the religious machinery we have suggested would be worked with the most decisive effect; because a murderous fanaticism is more easily excited in that direction than in any other. The Southern schismatic churches could be easily designated as the enemies, and indeed, calumniators of God himself; men who falsify the Bible and pretend that the Saviour of the world was a slave driver. Out of this controversy could not fail to come much real and personal estate. Dr. Minnegerode and Dr. Hoge, with other schismatics might have their heads shaved; and be sent to work on the Pacific railroad; while their parishioners, who should sympathise with them, or hear them preach, or refuse to renounce their heresies—or should relapse, or refuse to teach their children the Yankee catechism—would be simply stripped of all they have and turned out to beg.

This is the principle, and this is the method. If any reader do really believe that the Yankees are invading us with any other motive than that of entering in to the land to possess the land—or imagine that they will be more delicate or forbearing than other nations in the like exigency—than the innocence of such reader is admirable, but we cannot compliment him on his understanding.

Other details remain to complete the picture of a subjugated people. It is still to be shown how the dominant nation proceed in the matter of education and of arms; both of which subjects always need to be strictly regulated by methods most offensively inquisitorial, but quite indispensable to the main design. The more revolting all these details may be, so much the better; we shall not spare one hideous feature of them; because all Confederates ought to know them, and to think of them and ponder on them, until

—the thought thereof  
Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw their inward.

## Ancient Speech.

The following extract from Livy of a speech delivered in a full assembly of the Roman people by the Consul *Emilius Paullus*, at his departure for the Macedonian war, is so applicable to a large class of our citizens at the present time that it may be well to publish it:

"ROMANS:—In every circle, and truly at every table, there are people who lead armies into Macedonia; who know where the camp ought to be placed, what post ought to be occupied by troops; when and through what pass Macedonia should be entered; where magazines should be formed; how provisions should be secured; how provisions should be conveyed by land and sea; and when it is proper to engage the enemy; when to lie quiet. And they not only determine what is best to be done, but if anything is done in any other manner than what they have pointed out, they arraign the consul as if he was on trial before them. These are great impediments to those who have the management of affairs; for every one cannot encounter injurious reports with the same constancy and firmness of mind as Fabius did, who chose to let his own authority be diminished though the folly of the people rather than to mismanage the public business with a high reputation.

I am not one of those who think that commanders ought not to receive advice; on the contrary, I should deem that man more proud than wise who regulated every proceeding by the standard of his own simple judgement. What then is my opinion? That commanders ought to be advised chiefly by persons of knowledge; by those who have made the art of war their particular study, and have derived instruction from experience; from those who are present at the scene of action; whose see the country, who see the enemy; who see the advantages that occasions offer, and who like people embarked in the same ship are sharers of the danger. If, therefore, any person thinks himself qualified to give me advice respecting the war which I am to conduct—which may prove advantageous to the public—let him not refuse his assistance to the State, but let him come with me into Macedonia. He shall be furnished with a ship, a horse, a tent—even his travelling charges shall be defrayed.

But if he thinks this too much trouble, and prefers the repose of a city life to the toils of war, let him not on land assume the office of a pilot. The city itself furnishes abundance of topics for conversation; let it confine its passion for talking within its own precincts, and rest assured that we shall pay no attention to any counsils but such as shall be framed within our camp."

*Captures by the Alabama.*—Yankee press dispatches contain the following: The New York steamers *Olympus* and *Mary*, for New York, and the *Amanda*, for Falmouth, were burned by the *Alabama* on the 16th of November, off Java.