

# WESTERN SENTINEL.

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## THE WESTERN SENTINEL.

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## THE NATIONAL JOHNSON CLUB.

### ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

The National Johnson Club recently organized in the City of Washington, has just issued, through its Chairman, the following address to the people of the United States:

One year ago the bloody civil war that threatened the ruin of our happy Government closed. The generals and soldiers on both sides met on the field of battle and gave the world the highest example of magnanimous feeling, when the blood had ceased to flow, that was ever exhibited. There was not a look of hostility interchanged. The victors who were well supplied, gave to the vanquished whatever was necessary to their comfort; and both, with a just appreciation of the noble courage and sense of patriotism which had animated each army through the four years' struggle were justly proud that they were a kindred race, and the offspring of the free institutions which had made them heroes. They knew, what all the world now knows that it was a dark, long brooded over conspiracy, through which wicked, ambitious politicians had secured control of the powers of Government in two remote sections of the country, North and South, madly excited by the slave question that, producing collision, had brought the men on each part to the rescue of the homes and the Governments that were dearest and nearest to them.

Ought not such a close of war, under such leaders as Grant and Sherman—tendering friendship, peace, and honorable terms to their rivals of the same school, Lee and Johnston, for themselves, their armies and the country, confirmed by pledges that the result was accepted by the vanquished as deciding forever against them the issued on which the battle was joined—be considered conclusive that nothing should be demanded but what had been staked on the event and has since been fully surrendered?

Has not the right of secession been repudiated? Has not the institution of slavery been renounced, and the freedom of the slaves confirmed by the constitutional amendment, State and National? Has not the Confederate debt been annulled, and the obligations of both sections to pay the national debt had been admitted? Have not the newly acquired rights of the freedmen been provided for by State legislations as promptly as possible in the section lately in war and anarchy? Have not the whole people, with the exception of a few outcasts, robbers, and cut-throats—the shirks thrown off by the embodied hosts that represented the principle of the contest on either side, as unworthy of the cause—followed the example of their leaders, and consented that all aims of the war, as proclaimed by the National Legislature and Executive, during its continuance, should be accomplished? And now what hinders the consummation of the main object—the communion of the States in the happy harmony which made the new continent the glory of the world for almost a century.

There is a fragment of a party in the Northeast, which like the junto created by Calhoun, the Cataline of the South, were never contented with the Constitution of the United States. The Essex junto of Boston dominated in New England, as the Calhoun junto of Charleston dominated over the slave oligarchy of the South.—Both these factions were imbued with the British principle at war with the spirit of Democracy inherent in our Constitution—and how invariable the instinct of aristocracy works to the same end will be seen by a glance at the conduct of these juntos of Boston and Charleston in producing the severe ordeals to which they have subjected the constitution of our country. The war of 1812 was the war brought on by the Essex juntos—the Henry Hartford convention conspiracy, brought to a head by the Charleston secession ordinance. The British Government made the difficulties with our Government in sympathy with the malcontents of New England whom the triumphs of the Democracy under Jefferson and Madison had banished from power. They became a British faction bent on severing the Union with the United States—uniting with Canada and prosecuting their unembargoed free trade under the British flag, the British having compelled the embargo restriction on our Government to produce the state of feeling in New England to enable the conspirators to drive the people to separation.

The Hartford Convention was the development of this scheme. Maine was taken possession of by a British force.—Its power was recognized throughout New England. The Government of the United States was interdicted from levying forces in New England to meet the enemy. The British soldiers in Canada, and all along our frontiers to the far West, were supplied with everything from New England, while the American soldiers were perishing for want of food and clothing amid the snow storms along the Canada line. At such moment the commissioners of the Hartford Convention appeared at Washington to proclaim their purpose of secession to President Madison, to use the phrase of one of them, “peaceably if we can, forcibly, if we must!” Mr. Forsythe and his brother-commissioners from the South followed this precedent when they came to Washington, spent a month in negotiation with Messrs. Seward, Holt and Stanton; asking “audience to adjust (to use their own words) in a spirit of amity and peace—the new relations springing from a manifest and accomplished revolution in the Government of the Union,” and as an earnest, acknowledging the fact, the surrender of Fort Sumter was demanded, and it was acceded to by Mr. Seward, who gave Judge Campbell assurances authorizing him to say to the commissioners, “I feel entire confidence that Fort Sumter will be evacuated in the next five days.” Fortunately, in the days of the Hartford Convention there was a General Jackson, as there is now a General Grant. The British had felt his power throughout the war in the Southwest, as well as the vigor of the navy on the seas, and when the Essex junto commissioners arrived in Washington to renounce the Government, the victory of New Orleans met them.—They lost the voice which they came to utter when they found the roar of the British iron husband on the ocean and on the plains of New Orleans. They went home; but they were not proscribed.—The Governments of New England had sympathized with the foreign enemy, but the mass of the people had not as yet been forced into the ranks of the enemy. Their means had been largely contributed to support the British power under the awe its presence inspired and the influence the traitors among them exerted. But none of these men were punished. Maine which was in fact under the paw of its ensign as a conquered country, was not considered out of the Union. Its officials, although they obeyed the orders emanating from British authority, and rendered important service to that Government, and were in fact guilty of treason, if the power of compulsion, though not exerted, had not justified it, were not questioned by our Government further than to draw from our

courts decisions that submission to a Power that could not be resisted rendered treasonable acts justifiable.

But now the tables are turned, and there is no such allowance for the people of the South, who are under duress while the conspirators were establishing an absolute usurpation over them by military force, and the leading men in the administration going out and that coming in, at Washington, were both united in a negotiation with that usurpation to acknowledge “peace and amity” with it, as the result of “a manifest and accomplished revolution in the Government of the Union,” and this confirmed by the promise of the Premier that the strongholds of the United States in the harbor of Charleston should be surrendered to that usurping government.—The men who stood by the Union in the South until the whole region was given over by the Government bound to protect them, but which, instead of interfering in their behalf, was capitulating for their surrender, had no alternative when thus permitted to be environed within the military lines of the foe, which expelled every thing Union beyond their border, but submission. What right has the National Government now to hold these men subject to penalties for acquiescing in their enforced condition, and yielding to the will of the State governments and the military power thus established, and going into the war, more than the United States had to hold the men of Maine liable to punishment for giving aid and comfort to the British army there in the war of 1812. The districts there found no difficulty, after the war was over, in getting a representation in Congress. There were no test oaths imposed to exclude them. Why should the conspiracy of the Calhoun junto bring greater punishment on its innocent victims than did that of the Essex junto and its Hartford Convention? The scheme of each was equally criminal—a dissolution of the Union—but the means of the latter were much more invidious, for a foreign force was introduced into the heart of the country hostile to all the essential principles of our Republican system.

And is there no atonement in the calamities with which the unfortunate masses of the South have been visited from the despotism of the usurpation which would never have been put over them had not the treachery and the collusion of our National Government assisted?—nothing in the utter ruin which succeeded from the invasion of our army, which necessity made destroyers, to plead for justice and generosity to the victims of a war guiltless of its provocation? The whole South has been a field of battle—all its agriculture has been, to a great extent, prostrate for four years. Towns and homesteads innumerable have been swept away in flames. Half a million of its most vigorous youth have perished in battle—countless millions of money, invested in the means of production, have been lost, and its proudest cities are ruins. Charleston remains, like the ruins of Carthage of old, an appropriate monument of the perfidy which has sunk the sunny South in darkness and desolation. Meantime the North has risen in increasing grandeur and wealth throughout the progress of the war. What hearts those men must have who, standing aloof from the war and enjoying the glory and blessings of the victories won by our gallant armies without sharing their toils and perils, now, instead of imitating the soldiers' magnanimity in lifting up a fallen brother, would strike down again the helpless; and who demand spoil, confiscation, more blood, and would have it shed on a scaffold, where they could enjoy the tragedy at ease as in a theatre.

Here follows an historical account of the rebellion and the efforts of the Government to suppress it, showing from the proclamations of President Lincoln, that neither the Congress of the United States nor that of the usurping Confederacy, could alter the status of the several States of the Union, or affect their reserved rights under the Constitution. The address strongly deprecates the attempt of Congress to put up the blacks and degrade the white race in the proscribed States. The

civil rights bill is denounced as an agrarian law to plant the black race, and supplant the white, and make a new government, with an army to enforce it, over the prostrate States of the South.]

The following are the concluding paragraphs of the address.

It is obvious from the course of Congress, as already manifested, that it means to maintain its powers now held over the National Government, and tyranny over the South, by the new use to which the African population is to be converted.—Mr. Seward made this evident when he asserts in his speech that giving them the franchise would defeat the weight of the South in the Government. It is clearly the design of the measures already broached to subordinate the South to the North, as Ireland is subordinate to England, by the distractions and hostilities that inevitably arise between two distinct nations, brought to confront each other in the same state and government, asserting an association on terms of an equality which the nature, habits, prejudices, the very forms, complexion, as well as the education and status of the races in the Government, from its origin to this hour, render incompatible. England has her Orangemen and Irishmen in eternal strife, and arbitrates between them with the sword. It is the policy of our rump Parliament to produce the same reactions between the two sections of our country, instead of the happy Union which Lincoln and Johnson have labored to renew.

The Congress is now a revolutionary convention. The President's comment on the scheme it proposes is as just as that in which he rebuked Davis and his followers when they abandoned the Senate to broach the extinct rebellion. He raised his warning voice then against their designs in the speech which he made in the presence of the conspirators. He characterized their crime by the name with which the whole world now brands it. The Johnson Club, now inaugurated, predicated its political action on the principles and policy avowed in his messages, and on his views of the schemes of enemies of the Government disclosed in his speech of the 22d of February, from which we quote the passages which may be considered prophecy. He says:

The rebellion is put down by the strong arm of the Government, but we are hardly out of the rebellion before we are almost in the midst of another rebellion. There is an attempt to concentrate the power of the Government in the hands of a few, and thereby bring about a consolidation which is equally dangerous and objectionable with a separation. We find that in effect, by an irresponsible central directory, nearly all powers of Government are assumed, without ever consulting the legislative or executive departments of the Government, by resolutions reported by the committee upon whom all the legislative power of the Government has been conferred. That principle in the Constitution which authorizes and empowers each branch of the legislative department to be judged of the election and qualification of its own members has been virtually taken away from those departments and conferred upon a committee, who must report before they can act under the Constitution and allow members, duly elected, to take their seats. By this rule they assume that there must be laws passed; that there must be recognition in respect to the State in the Union with all its practical relations restored, before its representatives are admitted. \* \*

I stand to day prepared, so far as I can, to resist these encroachments upon the Constitution and Government.

MONTGOMERY BLAIR,

President.

CHAS. MASON, Corresponding Secretary.

About forty-five barrels of new crop rosin, classing as No. 1, was received in Charleston, on Thursday, April 5th from Society Hill, by the Northern railroad. It is the first shipment of the sea-