

# The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

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## THE SENTINEL.

W. E. PHELPS, PROPRIETOR.

### THE CONGRESS.

The telegraphic proceedings, already received from the Congress, show a disposition at once to supplement the Reconstruction Acts, by conferring upon the District Commanders the powers which they have already exercised, and to grant them all that they can possibly claim, as necessary for the object of their appointment. Unfortunately, most of the members who are absent are the most cool and considerate; hence, there is danger that the extremists will go further than will be found best in the future, even to the success of Radical principles.

It does seem to us, that Congress cannot, with any show of consistency, do more than explain what it meant by the Reconstruction Acts, and, if it approve of the action of the Commanders, simply confirm their past acts and make their future course so plain that no one can doubt or question. We can hardly bring ourselves to believe that the Congress, whatever may be its feelings, can, out of sheer spite, because of the differences of the President and his Cabinet with the practice of the Commanders, wreak its vengeance upon the Southern people, by more stringent measures.

Our people have given no just cause for this. The civil authorities of this State, so far from throwing obstacles in the way of reconstruction, have rendered promptly all the aid which the District Commander has required. As between the military and civil authorities here, there has been nothing but kind and cordial feelings. However the civil authorities may have differed in opinion, they have thrown no obstacle in the way of military authority. Differing as our people do, largely and on principle, with the Congress, as to the character of the Military bill, they have, nevertheless, quietly submitted to its requirements, and the large body of the people, viewing the necessity of reconstruction as imperative to their present interest and future recuperation, have settled down in the purpose either to promote reconstruction on the terms of Congress, or, if their consciences will not allow co-operation, at least to be silent and in no way obstruct it.

That the Congressional policy, as embodied in the Reconstruction Acts, will be carried out in North Carolina, we have never had a doubt. Whether one or ten thousand oppose, or be indifferent, the great body of the people have determined upon it, and the press of the State has furnished all the facilities in its power to have it fairly and properly carried out to the letter. If the Congress, therefore, should determine to oppress the Southern people still more by rigorous enactments, it will find neither reason nor excuse for so doing, either in the conduct or temper of the people of North Carolina or in the conduct of her civil authorities.

### THE WAR.

Thaddeus Stevens, and his peculiar followers, are, this day, as decided enemies to the Union, as any Confederate soldier be fore the fall of Richmond. They are, by far, worse foes to its integrity, now, than any man, woman or child in the States of the South. They refuse to admit that the Union is restored and thereby to acknowledge the success of the Federal arms. Even after the South has laid down its arms, accepted all the legitimate issues of defeat, and made a full capitulation, the parties on the other side, ignoring the solemn terms of surrender, are reviving and continuing the war with an indiscriminate violence and ferocity. We will qualify the expression, "the parties on the other side." Gen. Grant and Sherman, who received the stacked arms and lowered banners of the Confederate armies, and guaranteed to those who gave them up all the assurances of peace and of protection to persons and property, are disposed, we believe, with the greater portion of those who made up their victorious columns, to observe the sacred pledges of solidarity and national faith. It is the unscrupulous and venal leaders of party, who never see, much less feel, a squadron in the field, who are for persecution, blood and war, when the former foe is prostrate, disarmed and powerless. The indications of the temper of these men, in and out of Congress, are, that the war is not to be allowed to stop until life is extinct, and then, like Falstaff at Shrewsbury, these valiant heroes will claim that it was they who overcame and slew the gallant Percy.

The bad faith of these men makes the perfidy a national stigma. Napoleon's duplicity towards the hapless Maximilian, though different in form, was no less cowardly and infamous in degree. Punic faith, in Cathaginian annals, has descended to modern times as a synonym for all that is treacherous. It will henceforth pass through the vocabulary of nations,—to be supplanted by a term equally degrading and expressive: ultra-Radical faith.

Are these strictures not justified by the facts? Can any apologist or defender of Mr. Stevens' point to a single declaration, in his speeches, conversations, or writings, wherein he has fixed any conditions, upon the fulfillment of which he would consent to the re-admission of the Southern States? In a recent interview with the Editor of the Union Springs (Ala.) Times,—the details of which have been generally published and in no particular desired,—the enquiry was propounded: "If the Southern States should reconstruct in the most Radical sense of the reconstruction programme,—should establish schools to which whites and

blacks should be indiscriminately admitted, &c., &c., would you then vote to admit their representatives, who can take the iron clad oath, into Congress?" The answer of the old reprobate was an indignant negative.

Again, we ask, when will this one-sided war stop?

### NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD.

We are glad that Mr. Webb, the President of the N. C. Railroad, has so promptly responded to the article of "A Stockholder," reprinted in these columns a day or two ago, from the Charlotte Times. If we had supposed that the officers of the Road were not fully prepared to meet the charge of "A Stockholder," we should not have published his article, but sent it directly to them, expecting a suitable reply. Believing that whatever they had done, they could furnish a reason for, we did not hesitate to publish it, feeling as indignant, as Mr. Webb appears to be, at the imputation of "A Stockholder," that the Railroad would cloak a wrong in the North Carolina Railroad, or anywhere else, from mercenary or trivial motives. Nor did we fail to remind him that his course towards the officers of the Road was unjustifiable, in failing, first, to call their attention to any delinquency or evil that might exist, before publishing it.

We presume Mr. Webb's reply will be entirely satisfactory to all, yet no one can be blamed for supposing an error or fault to exist somewhere, when there was no such discrepancy in the fact at each end of a line of travel. Mr. Webb explains it.

We have no pecuniary interest in any of the Railroads, but, regarding them as the right arm of the State in the work of recuperation and prosperity, we confess to a deep anxiety that they shall be managed so as to promote, in the highest degree, that end. We are highly pleased to learn that, although the receipts of the North Carolina Railroad fell off greatly the past year, compared with the receipts of the previous year, yet the past year's administration of the enterprise has been so judicious as not to have involved the Road seriously.

Our suggestion about way freight and travel was made from an anxiety to promote the interests of the Road, after having heard of the falling off in its receipts. We had little or no knowledge of the present rates, and supposed they were not greater than any other Road, yet we had heard, rendered, as an excuse for not travelling or sending freight short distances on the Road, that the high fares and rates would not justify it. We believe it is a mistaken policy of all our Roads to put way freight or travel at such rates as to compel travellers and producers to keep themselves or their produce at home. The true policy is to encourage, in every way, the use of the Road in preference to all other means of conveyance, both for travel and freight short distances. In this way, the Road will become wonderful properties to enterprise and the production of every thing which commands a market.

We have to leave to our friend, Mr. Webb, in regard to the prices of newspapers. The dollar a year was the uniform price for Daily newspapers before the war in the State, and \$3 for Semi-weeklies, and advertisement rates are really lower, altogether, than before the war. There were exceptions to the rule, but we speak of the general rule. The reason is obvious. The comparatively small subscription, which any Daily or Semi-weekly or Weekly, of good size and conducted with energy, has in this State, obliges the proprietors of our newspapers to charge somewhat higher than they desire to do. If the press in North Carolina received the encouragement which it does in States North of us, it would be far more profitable to issue at \$6, than to require \$10 under present circumstances. Or, if by reducing our prices, there was any reasonable ground to hope for large increase of readers, our plain policy would be to reduce the price.

Let us now turn to the subject of the Radical Press. A late number of the New York Tribune, discussing the race question, says: "Black women are ignorant of the meaning of social responsibility; black men at least those of the sea islands are not sufficiently humanized to discriminate between justice and injustice." This is almost as bad as Harper's "Nobisique."

These indications are significant. The Radical Press have no more real regard for the rights of the colored people than the African slave. We do not anticipate that Harper's plan of exportation will be immediately taken up by his party, for the reason that the negroes would not know as a voter. It is curious, however, that those who, under a semblance of philanthropy, freed the slaves, were not instructed in their future dependence on them by any considerations of humanity.

FRANKLIN D. BURNETT.—*Let's talk, with no ill intentions.* The action of the House of Representatives in the case of the medals elect from Kentucky.

On the fourth day of the present month, the Government, called the "Foundation of a nation," went into operation.

### For the Sentinel.

Messrs. Editors.—I am an interested reader of the *Daily Sentinel*, and derive from it much profit and pleasure. Your clipping on "Turnips" from "A. B." in the *Hillsboro' Recorder* would, of itself, pay me for a year's subscription. That article on the cultivation, use and preservation of the turnip, was evidently furnished by a practical man who, though understood his subject.

Equally refreshing was it to me to read your editorial in the same issue, headed "The White Man's Party." That article on the clipping on "Turnips" from "A. B." in the *Hillsboro' Recorder* would, of itself, pay me for a year's subscription. That article on the cultivation, use and preservation of the turnip, was evidently furnished by a practical man who, though understood his subject.

I am glad that you are enabled to say as you do, that you are a stranger to such a fact as that the negroes in this State arrayed against the whites. I am sorry that there are those who differ with you. Gov. Vance, in his letter to the Edgemoor and Nash Committee of colored men, intimated as much. Nor are there wanting writers, who are charging that the object of the Republicans of North Carolina is to array the blacks, in solid body, against the whites. It is even predicted that a war of races will certainly result in consequence.

If any do try to array the whites against the blacks, it is not an intelligent friend of the black man. The latter, four millions in number, and out-numbered two to one in this State, would surely be overcome and crushed in any collision of races—political or physical.

I appeal to you, Messrs. Editors, as publishers of truth and as patriots, to say if you know of any man or set of men, who are trying to array blacks against whites, or slaves against former masters. I have had much to do with the black man—both as a slave and as a freeman. By the law I have been his master, before the law, to-day, he is my equal. I have neither seen nor heard of the attempt of any man to array black against white, or former slave against former master.

A correspondent seems to labor under the impression that we admitted that we knew of no case in which efforts had been made to array the black against the white. This is a mistake. Our position was, that we did not know, or had not sufficient evidence to believe, that the blacks of the South had arrayed themselves, in a body, against the whites. That efforts have been made, and are making to effect this object, we have no doubt, and that bad feeling has been engendered among some of the blacks by these efforts, especially towards their old masters and towards men of strong Southern feelings, cannot be questioned. The speeches of almost every white Northern man or foreigner, and the private conversations held with the blacks by them, are calculated to do this. Nor have Southern Radicals been backward in endeavoring to stir up strife, not so much perhaps by a direct effort to alienate the races, as by false and insulting attacks upon those Southern whites who differ with them. Mr. E. W. Fox, of Johnston, and Jas. H. Harris, of Wake, are exceptions, so far as we know.

The anxiety of the blacks to hear Radical speakers, their disposition to go miles and neglect their work to hear them, and the tone of their conversations, indicate that the blacks have been persuaded to believe that the Republicans are their only friends, and that the Conservative men are their enemies, and are fact creating the opinion that the blacks are arraying themselves against the whites. The diabolical numbers recently occurring in Lenoir and Jones Counties, in the latter case where even infant children were killed, are the legitimate results of Radical teaching and feeling, and will go far to confirm many in this opinion. Gov. Vance, in his letter to the blacks of Edgemoor and Nash, simply expressed his fears, that these efforts had produced a more general influence upon the colored people, than we believed had been the case.

Whether he or we were right, time only can prove. As yet, we cannot believe, because we are unwilling to do so, that any general feeling of this sort prevails among the colored people. Certainly, if they know their true interests, they never would abandon their old and long tried friends, until they had the very best evidence that they had become hostile. Their freedom has brought with it care and anxiety and a struggle to live. The delays of the government to reconstruct, and taxation bear as hard upon them as upon the whites. But who is it that employs them, who cares for their condition and enables them to struggle with these hard times, but the very men whom they are taught to despise as their enemies?

The Boston Post recently disposed of Sheridan in this way: "General Sheridan's letter to General Grant in reply to an order to extend the time for registration in Louisiana, is as cool a specimen of self-assurance as has come under our observation for many a year. He regrets to differ with the President, but says he shall be governed by his own judgment in the administration of the law until positively directed to the contrary. Attorney General Stanbery, General Sheridan virtually decides, is hardly capable of comprehending the effect of his opinion, or else he is reckless of the public welfare. In short, little Phil, runs his sword right through instructions and suggestions from his superiors, at Washington, and seems resolved to follow to the front and give commands without regard to any other authority."—By command of P. H. SHERIDAN, Major-General.

Go. L. Hartuff, Asst. Adjutant General.

A bridal dress in Paris cost 12,000 francs. It was white silk acroplered, bordered, satined, damasked, lacod, studded with pearls, and adorned with a peplum.

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

JULY 4th, 1776.

THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE THIRTIETH UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem best, for the promotion of the general happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former system of government. The history of the present contest with Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct and plain purpose the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of moderate and temporary importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature—a right inalienable to them, and formable to themselves.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the repository of their public records, in order to embarrass them in their discharges, and to exhaust them by long and unprofitable sessions.

He has dissolved representative bodies repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such denials, to assent to laws which he had by the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise—the State remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and civil dissensions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States, by obstructing the law of naturalization of foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of naturalization of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing to assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has affected to tender the military, independent of and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; granting commissions to men to take up arms against their fellow citizens.

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us.

For imposing taxes on us without our consent.

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of the trial by jury.

A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of the attempts by their legislature, to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred, to disown these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence.

They are now, however, too remote from us to be reclaimed. They have therefore, by their own acts, declared that they have abandoned the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and that they have assumed the position of enemies to our peace and safety, and that they have excited the passions of the people to a state of insurrection.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connections between them and the State of Great Britain are, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may lawfully do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

### HELPER'S BOOK.

The New York Tribune, in a notice of Helper's new book in which the negro race is brutally abused, refers to the volume which Harper published in 1857 under the title of "The Impending Crisis." That volume, the Tribune says, "secured a very large sale" in the North, on account of the "sensational" character of its contents.

It is a bitter satire on the slaveholders, and in that way, very accessible to the abolitionists. But this is not all. "He took no pains," says the Tribune, "to conceal in his 'Crisis' his scornful hate of the blacks." We are bound to suppose that this, too, was very grateful to the multitudes who bought his book, and hated alike of the slaveholder and the African, was the actuating sentiment of its circulation.

In proof of the favor with which Helper's besetting assaults on both white and black in the South were received, we refer to the numerous Northern citizens in high places, who endorsed it at the time. Subscribers were taken up for distributing a hundred thousand copies of it, gratuitously.

It is a book, in fact, which has done more to stir up the passions of the North, since 1857, than any other work of great length, yet accurate in statistical information and logical analysis. Sixty-eight abolition members of Congress testified that they "strongly endorsed" the scheme of scattering Helper's book, and abolishing it, in 1857, and, "I have read it with deep attention. It seems to me a work of great merit, rich, yet accurate in statistical information and logical analysis." Sixty-eight abolition members of Congress testified that they "strongly endorsed" the scheme of scattering Helper's book, and abolishing it, in 1857, and, "I have read it with deep attention. It seems to me a work of great merit, rich, yet accurate in statistical information and logical analysis." Sixty-eight abolition members of Congress testified that they "strongly endorsed" the scheme of scattering Helper's book, and abolishing it, in 1857, and, "I have read it with deep attention. 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