

The Daily Sentinel.

RALEIGH, N. C., MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1868.

VOL. III.

DAILY SENTINEL.

WM. E. PELL, Proprietor.

From the N. Y. World.
THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR
PRESIDENT.

A black wooden man should insist on using an ax to cut his crop of grain, instead of a sickle, because the axe had rendered good service in felling the forest that stood upon the same ground the preceding year, nobody would be apt to think well of his judgment in the selection of a stonewall. As we are to have a war, there is less fitness in the selection of a general, than of a statesman, a candidate for President. General Grant has been nominated solely in consequence of his military reputation. Waiting, for the present, the fundamental question that is involved is not adapted to the proposed use, and that the tendency, during the next term, will afford no scope for the exertion of military talents; we challenge inquiry into the grounds of General Grant's fitness as a soldier. We suppose however his friends will seriously maintain that he is entitled to be called a great general surely because he has commanded great armies, much less because he has exposed and lost in battle great multitudes of men. His reputation rests upon the fact that all his campaigns have been successful. But success against such adversaries as Pillow or Pemberton in the West is not very signal proof of abilities, unless they commanded greater forces, which did not. General Lee was a more worthy antagonist; but General Lee was not conquered by fighting him, but by exhausting his resources. He stood on the defensive for nearly a year after Grant assumed command in the East, though the confederacy was even then, when Grant crossed the Rapidan, tottering and well-nigh spent by three years' exertion in a strenuous and unequal struggle. It is certainly just to credit Grant with the capture of Lee, but there is a debt as well as a credit due to the account. What General Scott called "the economy of life by means of hard-work," will be sought for in vain in the campaigns of General Grant. His successes have been won by a prodigal expenditure of his soldiers. In his last and greatest campaign he pitted an enormous army against a small one, and sacrificed twice as many men as General Lee had under his command. It is not justice but adulation, to praise him as if he had conquered an army as large as his own. It is not justice but an affront to humanity to give him as much credit as if he had achieved the same result without such wholesale sacrifice of men. The following is an authentic statement of the respected forces and losses of Generals Grant and Lee between the Rapidan and the James.

Grant, on assuming command May 4, 1864, had 60,000 men available for service, when he crossed the Rapidan, 125,000.

Lee, at the same date, had an effective force of 55,000.

Grant's reinforcements, up to the battle of Cold Harbor, June 4, were 25,000.

Lee's reinforcements, up to the same date, were 18,000.

Grant's total force, including reinforcements, was 223,000.

Lee's total force, including reinforcements, was 70,000.

Returns to their respective Governments showed that when both armies had reached the James, June 10, the number of Grant's army that had been put hors du combat was 117,000.

Up to the same date, the number of Lee's men who had been put hors du combat was 19,000.

The two armies then met in front of Petersburg.

We have been at some pains to ascertain and verify these figures, and we vouch for their substantial accuracy. We shall take good care that they do not escape the notice, nor slip the recollection of the country. We cheerfully concede to General Grant the merit of success; but it is right that the country should know the terrible cost at which that success was purchased.

The true test of military genius is the accomplishment of great results with slender means. We can recall no instance (unless Grant be an instance) of a general who established his title to be called great, otherwise than by succeeding against great disadvantages, either superior numbers, or consummate abilities in the commander opposed to him, or formidable physical obstacles. A man does not prove that he possesses a giant's strength by overmastering an invalid or a cripple. A general does not establish his title to be considered great by subduing an army one-third as large as his own, and by the fires of his own men for every one thousand fatalities of the enemy.

We have had some experience before of running successful General as candidates for the Presidency; but their achievements were, in this particular, a great contrast to those of General Grant. General Jackson won his brilliant victory at New Orleans with 7,000 men against a British army of 12,000. General Taylor had but about 6,000 men at Buena Vista, and the Mexicans twice or thrice the number. General Scott had 6,500 at Cerro Gordo, the Mexicans 12,000. The splendid victory of Contreras was achieved by Scott, with 4,500, against 10,000 Mexicans. General Scott, in his report to the Secretary of War, speaking of the battle of Cerro Gordo, said, "And I assert, upon my honor, that in not one of these conflicts was this army, composed of fewer than four and a half miles, so numerously inferior to several of them, as a very greater excess." It is to be said that Scott had this advantage of ground and position to encounter in advancing through an enemy's country, the same as is equally true of Scott, who nevertheless with greatly inferior numbers advanced rapidly from triumph to triumph, while Grant, operating with superior numbers against a nearly exhausted foe, required a whole year to capture Richmond, which finally succumbed to exhaustion rather than to military genius.

From the Richmond Whig.

THE BACK TRACK.

The republican party seems to be taking the back track. It wanted Wade, but was forced to take Grant; it wanted an extreme platform, brimful of brimstone and negroism, but was forced to content itself with a milk-and-water thing that has not the words negro, colored man, freedom, or confession or conquest in it. It merely hints at the negro where it speaks of "Loyal men at the South." They possess power by trickery, then attempted violence, and that failing, they resort again to bribery and evasion. This means something, and the only thing it can mean is—fear. They see that they have gone too far. They followed Stevens and Sumner, and Wendell Phillips, until

they found themselves just on the verge of ruin. Affrighted by the result of repeated defeat, and by the numerous evidences of their loss of public confidence, they have called a halt.

Will Stevens, who would rather "rule hell than serve in Heaven," and busily, who fears nothing so much as a reconstruction that will send any Southerner white man to Congress, and those Radicals who control, by contest, with the same crowd that it is found necessary to pursue! They have been snubbed and thrown off before, but by persevering have managed to bring Congress up to their mark. May they not do it again? Will they not call it quits? Like the old Camerounians of Scotland, their policy is expressed in that word used by Sumner to Stanton—Stick. We hope they will not abandon it. A regimen of such men as Stevens and Sumner (not, however, as soldiers) would do more to break up the Radical party and save the country than a host of timid, halting, time-serving moderates.

—Nick. Whigs.

Benjamin F. Rice, one of the bogus Arkansas United States Senators elect, has had a document resuscitated before him which does not place the *veritas* of this carpet-bag statesman much above the level of the Hon. S. C. Pomeroy. This document is in the shape of a letter and as follows:

IRVINE, December 23, 1867.

DEAR SIR:—I received your letter inquiring if I was dead or not, away, or not, neither. I settled all your business in business and got the money, and intended to take it at your court and pay it, but before the time arrived I got on a spree, gambled o' over \$5,000, and hence could not pay you the money at this time, but will make every effort to raise it as soon as possible.

Yours, &c., —J. F. RICE.

Henry Hopperd.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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THE TRUST TEST OF MILITARY GENIUS IS THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GREAT RESULTS WITH SLENDER MEANS.

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