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THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER AGAINST BLOCKADE RUNNERS.

We have received the following communication in regard to the President's order of arrest and banishment of blockade runners:

To the Editor of The Herald of the Union.

It is not more than just that every order and law should be subject to discussion, providing, however, it is discussed with propriety and a view to general good order and an amicable love of country. In applying the blockade running order to this section of the United States, or any place lately captured from the insurgents, are you not placing a wrong construction upon the order? The first paragraph of the order, we think, upon careful reading, will show distinctly that it does not apply to citizens of this place, Charleston or Savannah.

Whatever may be the opinions of individuals, the inhabitants of a state in insurrection are regarded as insurgents or enemies. Now insurgents or enemies who have belligerent rights violate no laws of war and commit no crime in running a blockade, and under no government are subject to punishment except the confiscation of the vessels and goods captured.

Foreigners engaged in running a blockade of a friendly nation, are only liable to punishment by their own government for violating the laws of neutrality. Citizens of a government engaged in running a blockade of their own government are liable to indictment for giving aid and comfort to enemies. But the very idea of a blockade conveys also the idea of a right by the citizens of the state blockaded to run that blockade, they taking one risk only, that is, the capture and confiscation of their vessels and goods. If blockade runners a year or ever were punished in any different way, you can easily show by the papers and books when and where.

As you apply the order it would come in contact with the amnesty proclamation of the President, and partially annul its good effects. Mr. Editor, the publication of the order and the remarks made in the first instance which led to its publication, we think were totally uncalled for. It is not an order in this city until officially published by Gen. Hawley or Abbott. In my opinion it is neither expedient, prudent nor wise, to excite the fears of women who have no counsel and whose husbands are away, that have been engaged in the trade. As for persons present who have been connected with blockade running, your remarks do not or ought not to disturb them in the least. They have too much of the common reasoning power about them to be in the least un- asy or engaged in the cowardly profession of quaking in their shoes. BERIAN.

In regard to this communication we have one or two remarks to make. In the first place, has not everybody who has been engaged in blockade running been, by so doing, aiding and abetting the enemies of the United States? And, therefore, whether subject to the pains and penalties of this particular order or not, are they not guilty of an offense against the United States?

We have placed no construction on the order whatever, simply referring to the fact of its issuance. Who it affects and who it does not affect we do not pretend to say.

The writer of the above communication betrays a remarkable ignorance of executive authority. The President directs provost marshals, and marshals of the United States to execute the order. The order therefore comes direct to those officials, requiring no departmental, district or other subordinate or intermediate promulgation to give it efficacy.

"A guilty conscience needs no accuser." Our correspondent undertakes to say that nobody is affected by the order; but he makes very great haste to get in a defence of the conduct of a large class of people, and a special plea of innocence for them. If they need a defence is not that prima facie evidence, at least of suspicion?

That there is "quaking" because of the order is apparent from Berian's letter. Berian himself seems to present a very marked specimen of the quaking produced.

Our correspondent talks like a judge of the laws of nations and belligerent rights. On these points we shall enter into no discussion with him; but would simply ask when has the United States gov-

ernment recognized the insurgents as belligerents? How does he arrive at the conclusion, so satisfactory to himself, that insurgents have belligerent rights? It might be well for him to bear in mind that the United States claims the allegiance of every citizen of the insurgent territory, and therefore, by his own showing, those of them who have had any hand in this blockade running business are liable to indictment for giving aid and comfort to the enemy. Whether it is the policy of the government or its purpose to punish all such is a matter that we do not undertake to decide.

JEFF DAVIS' SPECIAL MESSAGE.

A special message from Jeff. Davis was submitted to the rebel congress on Monday the 13th inst. which we shall print hereafter. As a candid confession of the desperate condition of rebel affairs generally, it is important. He says "the capital of the Confederate States is now threatened, and it is in greater danger than it has heretofore been during the war." He also admits the want of resources of the present rebel financial system, the inefficiency of the military organization and the derangement of affairs generally in the confederacy. As measures of extrication from surrounding difficulties, he recommends more rigorous laws for the impressment of supplies, a more remorseless conscription and a suspension of the habeas corpus act. After the failure of the Hampton Roads peace conference, Jeff. informs us he made efforts to initiate negotiations for a settlement of difficulties by a conference between Generals Grant and General Lee, and the latter wrote to the former on the subject; but General Grant's reply was that he had no authority to act in such a capacity.

MAN WANTED.

[From the N. Y. Tribune.]

Panic always rushes to poloitronery, and poloitronery to a pitiable reliance upon other than its own right arm. The carter whose wheels stuck in the mud bawled plaintively to Jupiter, and was informed that the god helped those that helped themselves. The Rebels, who do not shake in their shoes, simply because they have no shoes to shake in, fancy that they need a Dictator. We do not blame them for being sick of their President, and heartily tired of their Congress; but why they should suppose that by surrendering themselves, body, soul and spirit, to Gen. Lee, they will all become victorious braves, we do not clearly comprehend. Lee may be an extraordinary warrior, but he cannot create those things which the Confederacy most sorely lacks, viz: beef, bread and battalions. "Robert E. Lee," says the Richmond Enquirer, "by and with the consent of the army and the people, will grasp the scepter they may wrench from the hands of Mr. Davis, and wield it for the safety and security of his country's liberty and independence." "Scepter" is an ugly word, and the thing itself is an uncommon utensil to be used in the management of a republic. A monarch seems to be taken for granted. There is only to be a change of dynasty. The sceptre is to be transferred from King Jeff to King Robt. That is all!

Now let us note, following the intimations of The Enquirer, what Robert the First is expected to do when he is snug in the purple! "The Congress has utterly failed"—and so he is to legislate. The treasury is empty—and so he is to coin money. The army ranks are miserably thin—Gen. Lee is to thicken them! The Commissary Department is not only out of joint, but out of everything else—and the Dictator is to replenish it. Having supreme power, he is to tax and to take, to confiscate and to conscribe, to make the President his errand boy, the Secretaries his servants, the people his pliant and unquestioning instruments. The whole scheme has a smack of plantation morality about it which is truly edifying. In spite of their straight and silky hair, their fine Roman noses, their strawberry and cream complexions, and their unexceptionable shin-bones, the proud people of the Confederacy are to hew Gen. Lee's wood, and to draw water for the Dictator. This logically involves a most astonishing complication of principles. The white men are the superior race, but in order to keep the black men in an inferior position, the former must, so to speak, abdicate, and take upon themselves the ban of inferiority, there being no first class A No. 1 human being left in the Confederacy except Robert E. Lee, who will reign a kind of moral Robinson Crusoe, surrounded and served by several millions of Man-Fridays, white, black and yellow!

All this may be delightful in theory, but unless Lee is a much greater man than we think he is, the plan will lamentably break down in practice. There is no one living who can extract blood from a turnip. King Robert will not be Cadmus, he cannot extemporize crops of armed soldiers, nor even crops of corn, and potatoes. He may be a good commander of armies, but he must first have armies to command. He may take up arms against a sea of troubles, but like King Canute, he will find the advancing ocean too strong for his regal authority. He may "grasp the scepter," but he will stand in much greater need of a life-preserver. He is excellent at fighting shy—if wise, he will fight very shy indeed of the indignity of a coronation.

The Crop Prospects for 1865. [From the Cincinnati Gazette, March 9.] How green, luxuriant and bountiful are the wheat and barley fields of this valley. Last season it was long after this before it was certain that there was a single wheat plant with life enough left to spring up under a warmer sun. But there is a chance for cold weather yet, though it is in no respect probable that any considerable damage will be done to the crops. As late as the 31st of March, 1864, we

copied from a Toledo paper a notice of the "great injury" done to the wheat by "the last cold storm in localities where it had escaped the severe winter." On the 4th of last April the Indianapolis Journal, having previously described the dismal prospect for wheat, said that "the unusually favorable weather of spring has brought out enough life to give some hopes that in well protected situations a fair crop will be made, and that more than half an average will be received through the State generally."

On the 15th of April, or about that date, the Keokuk (Iowa) Gate City said that "we understand, and are sorry to learn, from parties in various parts of the county, that the winter wheat was materially injured by the cold, dry, windy weather a few weeks since."

About the same time the Warren (Ohio) Chronicle said that "the wheat looks bad in this section. It looks as though it had been scorched by fire—the effect of the severe frosts in January."

And yet to-day, the 4th of March, we can enjoy the luxury of gazing upon fields as green as young vegetable life can make them, and the ground is so entirely covered as to be visible anywhere inside the fences. How great the contrast with the opening of the spring of last year. About the 10th of April, Colonel S. D. Harris returned from an extensive tour through eastern and central Ohio and western Pennsylvania, and reported that many fields did not yet exhibit any life, but that "two or three weeks of sunshine will tell whether these fields are to go under entirely, or whether they will come to life again."

And what adds greatly to the enjoyment of the auspicious opening of the spring of 1865 is the wide contrast with 1864 presented by our national situation as well as by nature. A year ago all was in doubt—doubtful as to the issue of the contest with rebellion, and doubtful whether the earth would produce a fair supply of the staff of life. Now there is a certainty that the old flag will soon wave in triumph throughout all our dominions, and there is also the brightest prospect for an exuberant harvest. On the 27th ult. we published a paragraph to the effect that all indications pointed to a large yield of wheat throughout the country the coming season, and from the fact that the press generally has adopted the views of that paragraph as their own, we conclude that the prospect is most encouraging everywhere.

The Peoria (Ill.) Transcript of the 2d says: Through the southern part of the State the wheat crop never looked more promising at this season of the year than it does at the present time. The breadth of wheat sown in that region of country is greater than it has been in former years.

A splendid service of plate, prepared for the Emperor Maximilian, is now exhibiting in Paris. A more complete and sumptuous set of plates and dishes, it is said, was scarcely ever seen, and the spectacle is calculated to give a grand idea, not only of the hospitable thoughts upon which the new Emperor of Mexico is intent, but also of the extent of his pecuniary resources.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The legless men admitted to the Geer Hospital in this city, are suffering greatly for the want of bandages and rags. We appeal to the citizens of Wilmington in their behalf.

Respectfully yours,

J. J. GEER, Chaplain, In charge of Geer Hospital.

March 24th, 1865.

HEADQUARTERS DEPT. OF NORTH CAROLINA, ARMY OF THE OHIO, NEW BERN, N. C., March 17th, 1865. SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 30.

IX. In addition to his duties as Depot Commissary, Capt. T. G. Hentig, C. S., is assigned to duty as Chief Commissary of Subsistence District of Wilmington, and Post Commissary at Wilmington. He will report to the commanding General, District of Wilmington.

By command of Maj. Gen. SCOTFIELD: J. A. CAMPBELL, Lieut. Col. and A. A. General.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS THEATRE.

Stage Manager, Mr. JOHN DAVIS.

Saturday Evening, March 25th, will be presented

THE CHARMING WIDOW;

OR, NOTHING STOPS HER.

Francine Regal, Mrs. H. Watkins.

Barquis Richeville, Mrs. H. Watkins.

To conclude with the laughable Farce of

WHERE'S MY WIFE?

Mr. Simon Skeptic, Mr. H. Watkins.

Admission.—Dress Circle, \$1.00; Parquette, 50 cents; Centre Gallery, \$1.00.

Doors open at 7. Curtain rise at 7 1/2 o'clock.

TO RENT.

A VALUABLE RICE PLANTATION, on the Cape Fear River, about six miles above Wilmington, with a good Threshing Machine and Corn Mill. Attached to the Rice Plantation is a Corn Farm, containing about sixty-five or seventy acres of land, enclosed by an excellent fence. On the premises is a comfortable Dwelling House, with six rooms, and all other necessary buildings. Payment will be received in a portion of the products. D. B. BAKER, March 18th, 1865.

FOR RENT.

A FINE large Grocery and Commission House, suitable for a Suttler's Store, on Water Street, till 1st October next. Apply at the HERALD OFFICE, 22-24.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

ABANDONED LANDS AND PLANTATIONS.

There appears to exist a most urgent demand for immediate action in relation to the abandoned Plantations and Lands in this vicinity. Until some authorized Agent, appointed under the recent act of Congress, relating to abandoned lands, appears for the purpose of assuming control, it seems an urgent military necessity that they should be occupied as far as possible, and put in process of cultivation. After full consultation with the military authorities, the plan of leasing to active and reliable persons, white and colored, will for the present be adopted. Leases will be given to such parties as such an amount of land as they can give assurance of their ability to cultivate; also for Turpentine and far privileges. It will be required of all parties leasing that every reasonable effort will be made to give immediate employment not only to freedmen and their families residing and remaining on said lands, but to white and colored refugees who have recently come within the federal lines. For the purpose of giving relief as far as possible to those in actual need, it is understood that the Commanding General has determined to take possession, as far as may seem necessary, of the present crops of rice and other articles of food on said abandoned lands.

For the purpose of expediting this matter it is hoped that truly loyal parties will bring and send in reliable statements of abandoned lands, their situation, extent and locality.

The Local Treasury Agent for Wilmington, Urtas H. RITEN, Esq., will receive and act upon applications for leasing the lands in question. His office, for the present, will be at the Court House. In a few days he will probably move to a room in the City Hall building. Every effort will be made by him to co-operate with the military authorities in promoting the objects alluded to.

D. HEATON, Sup. Sp'l Ag't Tr. Dept. Wilmington, N. C., March 20th, 1865.

HEAD Q'RS DISTRICT OF WILMINGTON, Wilmington, N. C., March 20th, 1865. GENERAL ORDERS, No. 6.

No sale or transfer of cotton, rosin or turpentine, or of naval or military stores, or of captured or abandoned personal property of any description, referred to in the various acts of Congress and orders of the War Department on these subjects, can be carried into effect in this District, unless the whole transaction is submitted to the District Commander and the Treasury Agent. Until the proper authorities can be advised of the recent legislation of Congress and receive instructions under it, or receive orders from the department commander, all sales, transfers, removal, or transactions of whatever description concerning said property, except such as are necessary to save it, are positively forbidden, no matter what may be the assumed authority brought here from other parties.

Any person violating this order will be immediately put in close confinement, or summarily ejected from the District.

By order of Brig. Gen. Hawley: E. LEWIS MOORE, Capt. and A. A. G.

HEAD Q'RS DISTRICT OF WILMINGTON, Wilmington, N. C., March 21st, 1865.

Notice is hereby given, that all Joiners' and Carpenters', and Mechanics' Tools not now actually used by the Government, must be turned in immediately to Capt. Blackman, Assistant Quartermaster, just above the Custom House.

All Axes above the number absolutely necessary for household purposes, must also be turned in. Good Mechanics who bring Tools, will find immediate employment. Receipts will be given for property taken.

Rewards will be paid for information as to where Tools can be found.

By order of Brig. Gen. HAWLEY: E. LEWIS MOORE, Capt. and A. A. G.

HEAD Q'RS DIST. OF WILMINGTON, Wilmington, N. C., March 16th, 1865. SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 13.

[EXTRACT.]

1V. Mr. Thomas H. Howey, at the old stand of Hedrick & Ryan, Market Street, Wilmington, is authorized to open an Intelligence Office.

Persons wishing employment, a house or farm, servants or mechanics, and those wishing to hire, will make application to him.

By order of Brig. Gen. J. R. HAWLEY: E. LEWIS MOORE, Capt. & A. A. Gen'l.

A CARD.

New York, 505 Broadway, March 1st, 1865.

To my former friends and patrons of Wilmington, N. C., and surrounding Country:

Having located myself in this City, I am prepared to offer at our house, (Scott & Baldwin,) next building below "St. Nicholas," Gents' Shirts, Drawers, Collars, Cravats, Ties, &c., &c., a full assortment of Furnishing Goods.

Ladies' Linen Under Garments of all kinds, beautifully made, accurately cut and of the best material—Linen, Cotton, Silk and Flannel. Also a complete assortment for Misses and Boys.

One hundred Girls work on the premises, and all garments made under the immediate supervision of the proprietors. Mrs. Wintle's Card appears in another column to which the attention of Ladies is directed. Respectfully,

March 1. O. S. BALDWIN, 24-w-i.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.

Will be paid to any one who will furnish such evidence as will convict of the offense the person who set the fire near Chadbourne's Steam Mill, on Saturday afternoon, the 18th inst.

JOSEPH C. ABBOTT, Brev. Brig. Gen. Com'g Post, March 20-31]