

CORRESPONDENTS.

A Defence of the Revenue.

To the Editor of the Era:—

I was surprised at the editorial upon the revenue service in your paper of the 30th ult. The statements therein made are unqualified, very sweeping, and similar in character to those often seen in the columns of those unscrupulous papers who hate not only the officers of our government but the government itself. Had the article appeared in any one of the opposition organs it would have excited neither surprise or comment, and would not have been worthy any attention.

The general scope of your article seems to be opposition to the entire system of Internal Revenue. We shall not dispute over that point, as there is much to be said in the line of legitimate argument on both sides of that question; but when you include under opprobrious adjectives and epithets the Revenue officers generally and the entire system, you are misrepresenting and abusing as pure and patriotic citizens and as faithful officers as our country can boast in any branch of either the national or any of the State governments. Not that I claim that Revenue officials are without fault. Into any system which necessitates the employment of so many men and the custody of so much money there are sure to creep designing, bad men, who produce more or less of fraud, bribery and corruption, and I should be the last to defend any such, or because of a few stigmatize all as belonging to that class. Notwithstanding some abuses, and the very untoward circumstances under which it has been adopted by the country, I look with pride upon the Internal Revenue System; and I challenge comparison with any other branch of service, either public or private, which employs a similar number of men, is responsible for a similar amount of property, or is charged with the execution of an equal portion of delicate trust. Why not assail and berate as scoundrels and defaulters the entire class of banking officials because here and there directors fail to do their duty, and book keepers, cashiers, and even presidents abscond with the property of others! Notwithstanding that banking is managed by private citizens and not by government officials, yet I challenge successful refutation of the statement, that, compared with the amounts involved and persons employed there has been several times the amount of fraud, defalcation and corruption in connection with the banks that there has been among the Internal Revenue officials.

You argue that the poor are punished and the rich go free. I grant you that this is too often true; but I defy you to show that the general rule is any more true of the executions of the Revenue laws than it is of the laws against robbery or murder. Show me a great official bank robber who was ever punished. How many people prophesied truly that Stokes would not be hung because he had too much money? Not two days ago a lawyer of considerable experience at the bar volunteered the information that no man with money had ever been convicted of murder in this State no matter what the evidence. The world at large, outside the Revenue system, has not yet arrived at perfection, and when it does you will not be quite so ready to condemn everything connected with the Revenue laws.

The tax gatherer can never be popular and a certain amount and quality of approbation and applause can always be manufactured by wholesale denunciation of that much abused class, especially among those violators of law who have felt its power, or who are trembling for fear of detection. It is easy to raise the cry of spies and informers, and in a general way to charge outrages against citizens and the suborning of witnesses, but when these charges against revenue officers are brought into court and submitted to a careful investigation the cases will far more often than otherwise result as did that against Wm. H. Deaver, of whom Judge Dick said from the bench, at the conclusion of the evidence; "I never saw a more complete vindication of any officer."

You say that the Hon. W. A. Smith has pledged the abolition of the entire Internal Revenue system. Well, if he runs the United States government let him pay its expenses; but when he undertakes the abolition of this system he will find many facts in its favor which have much weight with thinking men, among which is this: The total cost of assessing and collecting the Internal Revenue has thus far been a smaller per cent. than that of collecting the import duties, and less than is paid by any State in the Union for the collection of State taxes—a fact which

speaks volumes for the efficiency and honesty of Internal Revenue officers as a class.

Letter from a Colored Man.

To the Editor of the Era:—

I beg leave for a small space in your paper to say a few words to the colored people as to the manner in which they have been treated, in regard to holding office. I will ask one question, what man can be elected on the Republican ticket in North Carolina, without the vote of the colored men? And if this be so, ought not the colored people be entitled to hold some of the offices that will pay them? I think it is rather hard that wherever any office is to be filled, that it is given to the white man, when it is known that he cannot be elected without the votes of the colored people. When our sheriffs election comes on he will tell us, "well my good fellows do all you can for me, and I will make some of you my Deputies" but after he is elected he makes white men his deputies although it is the lowest office in the State. As for me I will say I am done fattening frogs for snakes. I say that the colored people are entitled to some of the offices where they can get pay for their labor. I have done as much for the Republican Party as any man in my part of the country, but for the time to come, I shall not say what I shall do. I want you to think over what I have said, and if you will look at it right, you will agree with me.

Whenever any vacancy occurs for congress, some white man will be nominated and he will say "well John, or Bill, or Henry, as the case may be," I am out for Congress, do all you can for me, and if I am elected, I will not forget you, there is some appointments to be filled and I will see that some of you get them, but when the election is over what does he do? Why he gives it to a white man, and gives as a reason that the bond was too heavy for a colored man to give.

I for one intend to drop such men as I would hot bricks. You will hear some men say that it is too soon for colored men to hold office, I say it is never too soon to do good, nor too late to begin.

If something more is not done for the colored men, you will find that when the white men wish to be elected, they will be elected to stay at home. Look out for next Summer, I say what I have because I don't want the Republican Party to go down, but if you don't treat the colored people with more respect, you may look for that time to come. I have spent my time and done all that I could to have the party kept up, but I find that the leaders don't do anything for the colored people, who lose time and money for them. I hope the matter will be looked into and something more done for those who bear the heat and burden of the day.

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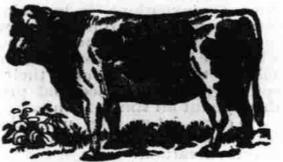
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TERMS MODERATE. 16-2t

THE REPUBLIC.

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Assuming that the legitimate object of good government is provision for the welfare and happiness of the citizen, his physical comfort, educational growth, and moral development, *The Republic* will bring to this test all economic questions, political action, and governmental measures.

Holding firmly that in a republic, constituted as ours is, political parties are essential, and that they furnish the best, not to say the only means of that constant and severe scrutiny to which power should be always subjected, *The Republic* will insist that the country is not only safe, but safest with its destiny in the keeping of the Republican party; that measures of reform and progress must be carried forward through its instrumentality, and that its permanent ascendancy should be maintained so long as it responds to the demands of enlightened and progressive public opinion.

The Republic will avoid unwarranted censure of opponents as well as indiscriminate praise of friends—aiming at that degree of independence and candor which concede justice to both. It will not waste words, influence, or power by purely negative criticisms, but will endeavor to promote correct action by affirmatively and plainly showing the better way. True, this line of criticism involves thought, care, investigation—with the exercise of an impartial judgment; but history has conclusively demonstrated that by these means the cause of truth and good government can be best advanced.

The Republic will furnish a brief and accurate record of events of political and general interest, as—

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The writers for *The Republic* have been selected from among those whose sagacity, judgment, and energy were thoroughly tested in the recent political contest; and their names are withheld now, as then, for the sole reason that they prefer success through reason, argument, and the merit of their productions.

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TERMS.

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The Republic Publishing Company, Washington, D. C.

Rooms Union Rep. Cong. Committee, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 4, 1873. The undersigned is well acquainted with the gentlemen who have undertaken the publication of *The Republic*, and has entire confidence in their devotion to Republican principles and in their ability to successfully accomplish the important work they have undertaken.

The enterprise is earnestly recommended as worthy of the active and liberal support of Republicans throughout the country.

J. M. EDMUNDS, Secretary.

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