

Northern Daily Times. W. I. VESTAL, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1866.

THE SENTINEL ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

The Sentinel, in its issue of Thursday morning, has a long and labored article on the Constitutional Amendments, presented by the Congressional Committee of Fifteen, as the basis of reconstruction, and as presenting the ultimate conditions upon which Congress proposes to receive the Southern States back into the Union.

Whether they are and have been out of right, because secession is a legal remedy for national evils, is not the question;—but they have been and are yet out, so far as all the practical operations and interest of Government are concerned.

We have no representation in any department of the General Government, or in either branch of the National Congress. Whether this is right or legal is not the question, it is the fact in regard to our relation to the General Government.

We know they are painful, unpleasant, disagreeable, and rather humiliating facts, but they are facts notwithstanding. How are these facts to be changed?

The provisions of this Constitutional Amendment, present the conditions, lay down the terms and place within our reach the means of reconstruction, restoration and political reconciliation.

It is the ultimatum of Congress, and the result of a compromise between the radical and conservative branches of the republican party. The President would help us, but he is powerless, and the republican party will be supported if they go before the Northern people, on this platform and basis of reconstruction and restoration.

Some will say be firm and remain out. But what will we gain by this? What are we asked to do by these amendments, as the conditions of going in that we will not have to do if we remain out?

our rights in the Union and under the constitution, than to remain out and give up our whole representation and all our rights besides?

The Sentinel says it will change the government. Suppose it does. Is not the government changed any way? Will our representatives, by having a voice in the national legislature, make the changes worse? Could not the representatives of the South, with the democrats of the North, at least, lock the wheels of legislation and prevent change?

But we will disfranchise some of our best men. Suppose it does. Had not a part better be disfranchised than all? Are not a part of our best men already disfranchised? Had not the constitution of the United States, as well as the old politicians, as for the constitution of North Carolina to disfranchise all ministers of the gospel?

But we should not permit Congress to dictate to us who we shall elect. Had we not better do that than live under military government?

But, says the Sentinel, "it is an ex-post facto law, and fixes a punishment after the crime is committed." It is not in the form of a punishment at all, but only a provision for protection, as is evident from the fact that it applies to the Northern as well as the Southern States.

THE THREE PLANS. As the clouds which have enveloped the deliberations of Congress for the last six months begin to blow away, the difficulties which have stood in the way of speedy action begin to show themselves, and the three plans of reconstruction, or rather of securing the country against future internal feuds, are brought to light.

It seems there are three prongs to the Republican fork in Congress. One prong headed by Mr. RAYMOND, favored the JOHNSON-SEWARD policy, which is to recognize the revolted States as members of the Union, and permit their loyal men to participate in the affairs of Government, excluding the disloyal. Another prong with SUMNER-STEVENS as its leader, held that the only future safety to the country, consisted in declaring the States conquered provinces, destitute of all State organization, whose citizens must all be disfranchised except the negroes, and only be allowed to reorganize as territories, upon what amounted to about simply the negro vote, while the third prong, with HORACE GREELY at its head, went for universal amnesty with universal suffrage.

The first mentioned prong must have been very weak; for it has been unable to accomplish anything more than merely to act as a break-water upon the rest, even with the President, and the Democratic handle in Congress to help it. The middle, or SUMNER-STEVENS' prong, seems to have been both the biggest and the longest prong, but not quite strong enough to do the work without assistance from the other two. The third, or GREELY-KELLY prong, has been playing the part of a log-roller, jumping in and out and flying round generally, lifting a little here and scotching a little there—in a word, doing anything that would save the party from going to pieces, by the weight of its own rottenness and corruption.

The work of Congress is before us and if it proves anything more conclusively than another, it is that Congress is determined never to submit or agree to the JOHNSON policy, or to recognize the work which he has done towards reconstruction as valid. Congress, to this day denies, in toto, the existence of any legitimate State governments in the seceded States, notwithstanding they have all reorganized under instructions from the President, and some of them have been running now nearly or quite a year.

The ultimatum which has finally been presented through the Constitutional Amendment is, we are told by Mr. RAYMOND, a compromise measure, agreed upon by all the different prongs, and is the very best that could be secured for the South.

The whole thing is more or less theoretical and speculative, so far as Congress is concerned, but with us it is intensely practical. We have no choice at all in fixing the terms. We, however, have no voice in the matter, and are not allowed to speak. All we can do, therefore, is to

be quiet—stand still, and see the salvation of the Republican party, by accepting or rejecting the terms they offer; for it matters not which we do, the glory is to be theirs. If we accept and go in, we, with the democrats of the North, may lock the wheels of destruction and prevent much devilment from being done which is in contemplation by TRADES, but still, nothing could be done except what we permitted them to do, and thus they would wear off the palms. But if we assume a pouting mood and stay out, they don't care a darn, for then they'd have it all their own way with a deal less trouble, so that in any event, they have the return on us—the inside track—and the best way for us to do is to keep cool and do the best we can.

If we had our choice, we would much prefer JOHNSON'S plan, for four reasons. First, it is the most practicable; secondly, it denies the right or possibility of the heresy of secession, by declaring that the States have never been, in fact, out of the Union; thirdly, it avoids tampering with, or in any way changing the organic law of the nation, and fourthly, it prevents the original movers, leaders, and hence, most guilty parties in the late rebellion, from again holding the prominent offices in the government.

The GREELY-KELLY plan of universal amnesty and universal suffrage, is the most objectionable one, for two reasons. First, it invites thousands of men to the ballot box who know little more about the responsibilities of an elector, than the beasts of burthen that draw the vehicles, in which the members of Congress ride from the capitol to their meals, and care quite as little about the particular form of government under which they live; and secondly, because its adoption would, as certainly, place JEFF. DAVIS, BRECKINRIDGE, and the whole clan of original bolters and secessionists in the prominent offices of the country, as that the sun will rise or set on the day of its adoption.

The question, however, with us, is not what will we do, but what can we do; and our opinion is now as it has ever been, that we should accept the best terms we can get, place our representatives in Congress at the earliest moment possible, and thus be in a condition to prevent mischief, if not to do actual good.

COST OF EXPATRIATION.—That class of Rebels who emigrated to Mexico in order to save themselves from the humiliation of living under "the Yankee Government," are having a rather rough experience. When they first arrived in Mexico they found that the country was anything but a delightful place of residence, and every day since that time has confirmed their first impression. In addition to the many discomforts experienced by them, as hitherto noticed, we yesterday published an account of the capture of a large number of them by the Liberals. Nor is that the extent of their misfortune. The Liberals, appreciating the fighting qualities of the ex-Rebels, determined to impress them into the army of Juarez, and by this time they are probably carrying muskets in company with greasy and half-civilized Mexican guerrillas. It seems, therefore, that the Rebels who went to Mexico have paid dearly for their whistle. They have absented themselves from their kindred and friends; they have lost about everything, that they are now compulsory soldiers in a mongrel army, and the thing for them to do is to return to the United States as quickly as they can, settle down quietly to useful occupations, and teach their children to love and reverence the flag of their country.—N. Y. Sun.

This is good advice on the part of the Sun, which it will be well for those who didn't go to Mexico, to heed at least so far as reverencing the flag is concerned. We never can be happy and prosperous, while we continue to hate the Government, and teach our children so to do.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.—Despite hard times and the scarcity of the where-withal to support a wife, there seems, during this season of love and flowers, to be as many brides led to the hymeneal altar as in the palmiest days of the Old Commonwealth. Not a day passes but that a candidate for the blessed state applies to Mr. Andrew Jenkens, the clerk of the Hastings Court, and with the look of a man about receiving a death warrant, asks for his—ah!—marriage license. Thus far, twenty-six have been issued for this month.—Rich. Dispatch.

The mania for wedded bliss is not confined to Richmond, for, though we do not know how many licenses have been issued from the Clerk's office here, still we venture to say that there have been quite as many, if not more in proportion to population, than at Richmond.

We say, let 'em go it; they are only carrying out "Bill Arp's" programme, set forth before the Congressional Committee, which is to raise cotton and buy babies.

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