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FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERIAN ACHAN'S TRESPASS AND ISRAEL'S DEFEAT.

Our late reverses in arms have reminded us of that portion of Scripture found in the 7th chapter of Joshua. God had brought the Israelites over Jordan, on dry ground, and overthrown Jericho, without loss of life to them, and they became elated—expecting the Lord to do all for them; yet, even Joshua seems to have formed his plans for taking Ai, without asking counsel of the Lord. But they were defeated and fled. The news comes to Joshua and the elders of Israel; then what do we see, and what an example for us now to follow—not only for our President and rulers, but one and all, from highest to the lowest. "The commander-in-chief of the armies of the living God; the successor of Moses; the conqueror of Jericho; surrounded by all the elders of Israel, prostrate in the dust, and with their faces to the ground before the ark of the Lord; and with dust upon their heads and clothes all rent, from morn until evening!" But fasting, humiliation and prayer, though absolutely necessary and highly proper in themselves, are still not enough. We must not only confess our sin, but we must forsake it; bring forth fruits meet for repentance; show by our forsaking sin and putting away the accursed thing, that our repentance is real and our confession genuine. Hence God "does not say to Joshua, be still and mourn; but 'Get thee up; Israel hath sinned.' The sin must be found out and redressed, and then you may fall down and plead for pardon. It is to no purpose, whatever, to pray against punishment, while the sin continues."

As God said to Joshua, so he might say to us now: "Up, sanctify the people and say, sanctify yourselves against tomorrow; for thus saith the Lord God of Israel: there is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel; thus can't stand before thine enemies; until ye take away the accursed thing from among you; neither will I be with you any more except ye destroy the accursed from among you." Then God proceeded to tell them how and what to do, which they did by casting lots till it fell upon Achan, when with his family (perhaps as accessory) and goods, his own and stolen, they destroyed. Then God's anger was appeased, and he returned to favor Israel, and "said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou discouraged." Thus they went in full force (as commanded) and took Ai, and God continued to prosper them while they sought his counsel and followed his precepts.

Now all Scripture is written for our instruction and profit, and this part perhaps especially for us now. God has prepared our arms till lately; and why not still; may we not also have "committed a trespass in the accursed thing" and stored away our silver and gold in our houses, and our hearts with it? Up to this year we trusted in God and kept our powder dry, but since have neglected both to a great degree.—Like Joshua is regard to Ai, we have not wholly sought the Lord or made full and vigorous efforts, thinking those in the field were a more detachment of them, sufficient. But we may find, as Joshua did, that we need not only to have full reliance in God, but use our every effort, one and all, united and all together, ere we succeed.

But our reliance upon an arm of flesh, and withholding men and means, may not be our only and chief trespass. Not to mention Sabbath desecration, profanity, &c., prevalent at home and more so in the army, our chief offense and heinous sin seems to be in the making and drinking of liquor—the source of nearly all the other evils.—Now this, we think, is "the accursed thing" for which the Lord is afflicting us, and we need not expect better times till we put it away. Our fasting and prayer, like that of Joshua and those with him, will be unavailing, till we do as they did. From Joshua's prayer it seems he considered the trivial check in the defeat at Ai, as the forerunner of total ruin, notwithstanding God's promises and past success; so many now from late reverses likely are beginning to fear lest our cause is going to be ruined. Joshua cried, and so may such. Yet, as he do as Joshua did, we may well fear. The hoped, in answer to our individual and united applications, God will grant grace and wisdom to devise such wholesome measures as will redress the evil or evil in our midst, and that God may be with us again—with us as He was the past year, and as we find He was with the people of Israel after they put away the evil—the accursed thing from among them. Thus,

instead of standing still and waiting for God's help, as Moses exhorted the people of Israel at the Red Sea; or, in other words, being simply on the defensive, as we have been, we may, while trusting in God and in answer to prayer, hear God speaking unto us as He did to Moses, to bid the people "go forward."

But we conclude in the language of Scott, the commentator: "Times of public danger and calamity, therefore, with nations professing Christianity, peculiarly require zeal for reformation; notorious criminals ought then to be searched out and brought to condign punishment; especially such as have enriched themselves by avarice, perjury, murder, oppression and iniquitous traffic. While such criminals are suffered to escape with impunity; nay, (if) something essentially has been done towards expiating national guilt, by the execution of public justice, on those whose daring crimes have brought the wrath of God on a guilty land; there is little cause to wonder, and little hope that God will be with them any more, notwithstanding their fastings and prayers." S. T. R.

A COUPLE OF SECRETS.

Friend Evans of the Milton Chronicle, having been obliged to suspend for three weeks for the want of paper, which his friends here had sent him by "express," but which, he says instead of being left at Hillsboro' was sent to Charlotte or to Texas, lets off his pen up with handsomely. The following, however, is rather more than that witty:

"We want to tell the people of the South a couple of secrets, and briefly narrated, they are these: You will never achieve Southern Independence, so long as one half if not two-thirds of our Southern men fit for the field hold back from it and wait for a draft; and, when a draft comes, dodge, squirm and try to get off. If we get liberty and independence, every man able to kill a Yankee must manifest an anxiety to pitch into the fight, and his cry should be, 'let us at the enemy,' instead of trying to avoid the field. The other secret is equally important to our success. This desire of one half of our people to make fortunes out of the war by eating the other half up, must be stopped. Men having the necessities of life to sell, must let them go at moderate prices, and be willing to give them away to the poor and needy unable to buy. The rich man must himself pitch into battle, if he is physically able, and generously throw open his pocket book, corn crib and meat house to his poor neighbors, instead of skulking the battle field, looking up his money and throwing the key away, and demanding the most exorbitant prices (in cash) for every thing he has to sell. We have too many Shylocks—too many Southern Yankees ever dared to be. They must be put down—crushed out—or all our struggles for independence will be vain. The farmer who has corn and meat to sell, and who studies how to make people pay him three prices for them, thinks that is helping along to whip the Yankees. He is a fool, and is doing more to defeat the cause of the South than a whole Yankee regiment can do. The same may be said of the merchant, whose patriotism consists in asking enormous prices on his goods. To get independence we must study how to make sacrifices—how to help each other along—and not how big a pile of money we can make by extortion, gouging, padding, robbing or stealing from each other. You must throw open your corn cribs and meat houses to the poor, you must open your pocket books and generously shell out your dollars to the families of poor men fighting for you. You must not promise to do great things for a poor man's family to get him to do that which you are afraid to do for yourselves, and when he has gone to the battle field refuse to half fulfill your solemn promises. We speak as unto wise men, judge ye what we say."

Yankee Expectation and Hope.—The evacuation of Manassas has so much elated the Yankees that they think the rebellion will "crash." The news imparted a buoyant feeling in Wall Street, and stocks took a sudden rise. The New York Herald has a long article on the Federal occupation of Manassas. With the prospect of our subjugation before its eyes, the Political Opinion Press is discussing how the rebels are to be treated. This South Republican oracle gives little comfort to the press, as we well told, in the event of their victory, what we may expect of our Yankee taskmaster in the following paragraph: "It is suggested that, as our armies advance into the South, all the rebel journals shall be immediately suppressed, and the types, machinery and paper used to publish Union newspapers. Nashville, Memphis, Richmond, Charleston, Mobile and Savannah will be the best for such enterprises as these. Our troops would liberally purchase all such papers."

From the British Standard.
LINES
On the passage of the Bill by the Convention
prohibiting sailing after 15th April.

A cloud hangs o'er our nation's sky
Of dark'ning hours of deepest dye,
And more have we from it to dread
Than Bernadotte's fleet or Vendôme's tread.
This mark is set for us to seek I true,
If such the South will ever be true,
Till by the foe who spreads this cloud
Our hopes—our dearest hopes be shrouded!

For months a cry has through this land
Rung out for us to take a stand
Against this Bill;—and every heart
Which has a spark—the smallest part
Of patriotism or pride,
For help has loudly, valiantly cried.

Fathers have seen their sons go down,
Within his awful letters bound;
Mothers have wept their "joy and pride"
Prostrated 'neath his fearful stride;
And yet the ministers of hell,
As if from one or falling well,
Do send out from their throned altars
The points which cement and kills.

This cry which now is giant strength,
An august body reached at length,
That body which are sworn to feel
To legislate shall for well—
That body whose first duty lies
Against all enemies to rise,
And who upon the watch-towers stand
With watchful eyes to guard the land

"This must be stopped," they wisely bow—
"But when and where—of rather how?"
And on the question long they sit,
And drink at times to help their wit.
Not all, I know, for some there be
Who'd spill their blood the land to free
From this dark spot—but 't who've seen
This body of, will tell I ween
If they could bear such shame to tell,
That many lives lie for the well.

They talked, I say, and spoke and gazed,
And then this wondrous law they passed,
This law which children yet unborn,
Will read to laugh or weep to scorn;
They'll hush to think men in their day
Could find us with such weak, child's play,
And when our freedom was at stake,
Could stop such childish laws to make.

"Decreed that when the winter's o'er,
And with success they can no more
Bill liquid death—they who do fill,
No more their colors dark shall fill.
With gold that should have gone for bread,
Death and destruction wild to spread,"
In other words, (they plaintive grow),
"They'll put an end to all this woe,
After the time they ALWAYS stop."

Oh! sure they must have deeply drank
From that same numbing, deadly tank,
E'er such a law they dare to make,
E'er such a step presume to take.
Ye men! go home to your retreats,
Let feeble women take your seats,
Weak as they are, they'd better do,
And to their country be more true.

The drunkenness that blights our land,
The drunkenness we must withstand,
Oh! for there be a general rout—
Where o'er it turns, rise, turn it out,
Be it blindest bright opiate,
Or like a weaker merely frets,
In Cabinet or Congress hall,
In private ranks or higher call

Our leaders must be sober men,
Then may we hope, and only then,
To beat the foe on every plain,
And peace and liberty to gain!

The sinking of a splendid frigate in fifteen minutes settles one point; henceforth, wooden war-ships are obsolete, and iron will rule the sea. The Yankees have at once grasped this great lesson, and will act upon it with all the energy which their longing desire to gain the mastery of our harbors can inspire. Probably before these words reach the eyes of our readers, the timbers for a score of Merrimacs are being hewn in Northern Navy Yards, and a thousand anvil are shaping iron plates, which the shot and shell of our batteries can never penetrate. Iron-clad vessels cannot be built in a day or a week; but it would be madness to disguise the fact that our enemies will have about a large number of such vessels in as short a time as the nature of their construction will allow. Unless we mean to give up our sea-coast to the invader, we must be ready to meet iron with iron. We must build Merrimacs for every Southern harbor, and build them at once. We have everything that is required for the work. We have the live oak, the tar, pitch and turpentine, the copper, the iron, and the men, who, from these materials, can build the boats. If we find it difficult to obtain the iron plating in sufficient quantities, we should send to Europe without a moment's delay, for the plates ready-made. We are telling nothing new to the enemy, when we say that the blockade is a farce. With proper energy we might have all this plating we require delivered in the Confederate States within seventy days; and before it arrives, the new steamers might be ready to receive it.

They get Credit.—It makes no difference what Company a man volunteers in, the county from which he comes gets credit for it on the Adjutant General's books. For instance, if a man from Union county joins a company in Mecklenburg, he is not put down to the credit of Mecklenburg but to Union. If a Company goes direct from Mecklenburg to Raleigh, and some of the members are from the adjoining counties, Mecklenburg does not get credit for all the members. The question is not where is the Company from, but where is each individual from. Is this way every county gets due credit for each man sent into the field. We make this statement because many persons labor under the erroneous impression that when a man leaves his own county and joins a company in another county, his county loses the proper credit. *Western Democrat.*

We are only blame ourselves if, months hence, when the Yankees bring against us their mailed hosts, they find us still unprepared.—*Charleston Mercury.*

Parody of the North—Message from President Davis in Secret Session of Congress.

The Richmond Examiner says:

We learn that yesterday a message from the President was sent into Congress in secret session, recommending that all our prisoners who had been put on parole by the Yankee Government be released from the obligation of the parole, so as to bear arms in our struggle for independence.

The recommendation was urged as a retaliation for the infamous and reckless breach of good faith on the part of the Northern Government with regard to the exchange of prisoners, and was accompanied by the exposure of this great parody in a lengthy correspondence conducted by War Department. We have been enabled to extract the points of this interesting correspondence.

It appears from the correspondence that at the time permission was asked by the Northern Government for Messrs. Fish and Ames to visit their prisoners within the jurisdiction of the South, our Government, while denying this permission, sought to improve the opportunity by concealing a settled plan for the exchange of prisoners. For the execution of this purpose Messrs. Conrad and Seddon were deputed by our Government as commissioners to meet those of the Northern Government under a flag of truce at Norfolk.

Subsequently a letter from Gen. Wool was addressed to Gen. Hager, informing him that he, Gen. Wool, had full authority to settle any terms for the exchange of prisoners, and asking an interview on the subject. Gen. Howell Cobb was then appointed by the Government to mediate with Gen. Wool, and to settle a permanent plan for the exchange of prisoners during the war. The adjustment was considered to have been satisfactorily made.

It was agreed that the prisoners of war in the hands of each Government should be exchanged, man for man, the officers being assimilated as to rank, &c.; that our private-amen should be exchanged on the footing of prisoners of war; that any surplus remaining on hand after these exchanges should be released, and that hereafter during the continuance of the war, prisoners taken on either side should be paroled.

In carrying out this agreement, our Government has released some three hundred prisoners above those exchanged by the North, the balance in the competing numbers of prisoners in the hands of the two Governments being so much in our favor. At the time, however, offending North the hostages we had retained for our private-amen, Gen. Cobb had reason to suspect the good faith of the Northern Government, and telegraphed in time to intercept the release of a portion of these hostages (among them Col. Corcoran) who were en route from points further South than Richmond to go North under flag of truce at Norfolk. A number of these hostages, however, had already been discharged.

It now appears, that in contravention of the solemn agreement of the Northern Government, not one of our private-amen have been released, and the Fort Donelson prisoners, instead of being paroled, have been taken into the interior, where they are still confined.

As a judgment upon this open and shameless parody of the North, it is proposed that our prisoners, who have been paroled by the Yankees, shall be released from their obligations. There is no little doubt of the honor of such a proposition as there is of its justice and meriteness as a retaliatory measure for an act of flagrant perfidy.

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We learn from good authority that the Treasurer has arranged with parties in Richmond for the payment of our Confederate tax, and the sale of the necessary amount of bonds for that purpose. This arrangement seems to us to be a very desirable one for the State. It will, of course be reported in full to our Convention, which meets on the 31st Monday of next month.—*Raleigh Register.*

The action of the State Convention in ordering North Carolina's quota of the Confederate war tax to be paid from the State Treasury, is unfortunate and much to be regretted. This is the opinion of all whom we have heard express an opinion about the matter. The people would have paid the tax cheerfully, and had prepared to do so. It may be said that it was impossible to collect it from a number of counties because they are in possession of the enemy. That is true; but the State might have paid the tax for those counties and collected it from them hereafter. The people of the counties not occupied by the enemy are better prepared to pay the tax now than they will be hereafter when the interest of an increased State debt will have to be provided for by taxation, and when part of the debt itself must be liquidated. We ought to pay as we go as much as possible, and not leave everything to be settled at the end of the war. Individuals who are now postponing the payment of their debts till the war closes, until the operation of the stay law ceases, will have cause for regret as long as they live. Money will not and cannot be so plenty after the war as it is now. This assertion is as true as truth can be, and everybody living at the end of the war will find it so. Mark that. The State, by refusing to collect the war tax now, only increases the difficulty and expense which will take place hereafter. Therefore, we say, people should have been allowed to pay the tax now, and also encouraged to pay every other debt they could, instead of being invited to postpone payment by the action of the Legislature and Convention. We are entirely willing to wait for time, which tries all things, to show that we are correct in these matters. *Western Democrat.*

We are requested, and we cheerfully comply with the request, to call the attention of the town authorities, the Safety Committee or the Provost Marshall, to the necessity of requiring that all persons entering, and certainly all persons departing from town by railroad, shall be either identified as trustworthy citizens, or produce a pass from some known authority. This is done in Charleston, Savannah and elsewhere. It easily is no less necessary here. We are at war with a powerful and populous and unscrupulous nation, talking the same language with the people of the Confederate States, perfectly acquainted, many of them at least, with their manners and habits. How easy then is it for them to pass along undetected—because untruly known to them. Let that very fact be a cause for investigation. Let all Southern men traveling be prepared to give an account of themselves, and no true man will object to a precaution that is called for by a regard to the safety of the country.—Persons who struggle through the South now, and cannot or will not give a satisfactory account of themselves, ought to be brought up standing.—*Wilmington Journal.*

APP. We copy, on our outside, two short articles from the Salisbury Watchman and the Irwell Express on the gubernatorial question. We are gratified that these papers, and the Concord Flag, have expressed their opposition to a State canvass. And we hope others will speak out in opposition to a political canvass by candidates while the people are engaged in a war for life and liberty. Let those who want to give vent to their malice and hatred for certain public men, stay at home and spit it out in some other way than by traveling through the State arraying the people against each other.

The Asheville News suggests the name of Gen. Hill as a candidate, the Concord Flag that of N. W. Woodfin, and a meeting in Rutherford county that of S. B. Vance. However many candidates there may be, we hope there will be no canvass.—Let them remain at home and let the people vote for whoever they prefer. That man who cannot now fight and banish old party feelings and prejudices has but a small heart for his country, and will not do to trust.—*Western Democrat.*

HEARD BY EAR.—We are informed upon good authority that the Confederate steamer *Northstar* has left Beaufort, N. C., and is on its way to a Confederate port.—*Rail Standard.*