

J. J. BRUNER,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

LINCOLN'S MESSAGE.

As we are very sure that our readers would not thank us for encumbering our columns with Abe Lincoln's Message to the Yankee Congress, we shall content ourselves with publishing the following comments on it by the *Richmond Examiner* which will give the reader a fair idea of what the Message is:

"President of the United States have presented the Congress of that country with weak messages before to day; but certainly never until now with one so weak, so unaided, and so insufficient, even for the purpose of deception, as that which burdens our columns this morning. Mr. Lincoln's brain appears to have dwindled under the pressure of events. He cites a passage from his inaugural as one which he 'cannot improve,' and judging from the rest of his present performance, it appears his capacity is now no longer equal to the production even of that shallow composition at which the world wondered eighteen months ago."

"Remembering the prodigious events of the past year, and the tremendous interests of the present moment, no one will read this State paper without astonishment, that any man, however ignorant and imbecile, could attempt an account of the actual affairs and condition of the United States, and yet say so little that the people want to know, and so much that is foolish, paradoxical and fantastic."

"That which expectation demands, before all other things, is a statement of those great matters over which the President of United States exercises lawful control and supervision, is an account of the military events which have transpired during the interval of the year, an exposition of the present state of war, and something like a prospect of its future. But of the war, there is only a horrid sound of silence in the Message. That 'peace has not returned,' and that 'all they had to do was to press on,' and incidentally an allusion to 'certain reverses,' is the chief information on this absorbing subject, afforded by Lincoln to his Congress. Next to the war, what one most naturally seeks and hopes to find in this document, is a view of the finances. But on this all important topic, the Message is worse than barren, and less informing than even silence would be; for that portion of the paper is evidently intended, not as a source of intelligence, but as a blind to the truth. Not content with muddling the figures of the balance sheet of the United States so far as its receipts and expenditures are presented at all, the unpaid accounts of the country are left as completely out of view as if they did not exist, while the depreciation of the currency is not only ignored, but denied with stupid impudence. 'The public credit,' says Lincoln, 'has been fully maintained.' It is difficult to decide whether such a declaration, from an official chief to a public necessarily informed on the condition of the national credit by the daily employment of its promises to pay in the common affairs of life, should excite most of amazement or of indignation. In a country where gold and silver are the constitutional standards of value, the citizen who reads the message of the Chief Magistrate has only to turn his eye from the official page of the newspaper which contains it, to the columns presenting the daily report of the money market, and he finds that the promise of the United States to pay a hundred is only worth seventy dollars of real money. Such attempts at deception are worse than clumsy and dull. They are shameless and disgraceful. Yet their criminality is less remarkable than their folly."

"But while the message is empty of everything else, it is full of Abolition. Of the extraordinary proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln, in September, declaring all the slaves in the Southern Confederacy emancipated, by his individual authority, on the first of January, he says nothing; and his silence here is not less significant than on the military events of the year. Perhaps he himself has arrived at the idea that the said proclamation was simply the unmeaning utterance of idioecy. Perhaps even a Verbal Justification of that direct contradiction to the instrument which makes the sole distinction between himself and any other private blackguard in the State of Illinois, is too much for his brain in its present enfeebled condition, or the stomach of such auditors even as he has in the so-called Congress of the United States. However that may be, he says nothing at all of the great feature in that proclamation, or of its probable effect, or non-effect, on the first of January. But

he enters at large on the scheme of COMPENSATED EMANCIPATION, which he promised in the said proclamation to propound at the present time. Of this wonderful project, which reads like a chapter from the memoirs of Martinus Scriblerus, and which if nothing else would do it, will be the free passport of its author to the Paradise of Fools, we propose to say little. It is quite sufficient unto itself. Nor is it necessary to give more examination to the prodigy of logic by which the President of the United States satisfies his Yankees that it is easier to pay a large debt than a small one. They all spring from their two traditional brothers, east up naked from the sea, who swapped jack-knives till each gained a suit of clothes, a house, and a horse to boot; and they will no doubt understand, without difficulty, how COMPENSATED EMANCIPATION, will be not only cheap, but exceedingly profitable, both to the North and to the South. The process by which it is proven that the dissolution of the United States is 'physically impossible, because navigable rivers can be bridged, and geographical boundaries stepped over, need only be remarked as a marvel of ignorance and silliness. The force of folly can no farther go. Has the successor of Washington never seen a map of Europe? Or a chart of North America? Can he find any other boundaries than geographical lines, or rivers that can be bridged, or mountains full of passes, between Spain and Portugal, Austria and Prussia, France and Belgium, Canada and the United States? Yet the self-evident absurdity of his 'physical impossibilities' must be less gratifying to the representatives of New England and Pennsylvania than the revelation that his own North-west is the true and only United States of America, while the other sections are only 'maritime.'"

"But this monstrous mass of nonsense, of which the chief of Hayti, or the President of Liberia, would be ashamed, is too dull for further examination without weariness. One point, however, it contains, which will produce some sensation and may furnish some amusement. It is the comparative view which it affords of the great Confederate *ignis fatuus*, Foreign Intervention. It appears, then, from Lincoln's Message, that while the Government at Richmond has been hopefully negotiating in Europe the recognition of the Confederacy as a sovereign power, calculating on foreign intervention in its behalf, predicting it from time to time, confident that it would come at the end of sixty days, waiting always, and wondering in itself at the delay, and speculating on the causes of the strange procrastination, the Government at Washington has been negotiating for something, too, in the self-same quarter. Lincoln and his Cabinet have been equally certain of their success, equally confident that it would come in a stated time, and not less astonished at the non-coming of their hope. What is that something? Nothing less than a 'Withdrawal,' by the maritime powers, of that recognition as a 'belligerent,' which they 'unwisely and unnecessarily' accorded to the Southern Confederacy in the beginning of our domestic difficulties." Abraham, Seward and Chase were quite confident, in last June, that Europe would forthwith cease to recognize the South as a fighting power, and that on the loss of that important distinction and privilege, she would at once lay down her arms in despair, and so end the war. 'But the temporary reverses,' quoth Abe, 'which afterwards befel the national arms, and which were exaggerated by our own disloyal citizens abroad, have hitherto delayed that act of simple justice.'

The Spirit of Southern Women.—A friend, says the *Columbia South Carolinian*, on a committee to collect the names of non-combatants in Charleston; in anticipation of their removal, informs us that many of the women positively refuse to leave the city under any circumstances declaring that they can carry powder, water, &c., to the troops, and are determined to remain during a bombardment. One venerable lady of sixty said she would prefer that General Beauregard should send her a musket instead of an order to leave as she could use it, and would not then be a non-combatant."

Why McClellan Did not Advance after the battle of Sharpsburg, or Antietam, as it is called in the Northern journals, is fully explained by a Washington correspondent of the *Chicago Times*, who states that, that battle had so crippled General McClellan that he could not move for the want of troops. And this battle was the one that was claimed as a great Federal victory!

The preparations of the United States to subjugate the South are now truly gigantic. In the East, and the West, and the North, on land and water, everywhere and on all sides afar, the movements of the Federal armies and fleets indicate a zeal, a hope, a fanaticism, a desperate avidity, that should banish from every Southerner's mind all thought of an early peace, and nerve every loyal Southern hand for a battle in which there will be no quarter."

Northern Virginia is again overrun; Richmond, Peter-burg, Weidon, Charleston and Mobile are once more threatened; the coast of Texas, unguarded, lies helpless and bleeding, at the mercy and in the power of the enemy; the States being prepared in Missouri and Kansas for the invasion of Arkansas; the communication between the West and Richmond is menaced at Chattanooga and Knoxville; and the Mississippi and its tributaries are bristling with gunboats, for operations as soon as the floods come."

Of these movements, actual or threatened, which have we most to fear? Richmond is menaced first of all; it is a vital point; but it will be defended with as much energy by the Confederacy as it can be attacked by the United States. Charleston, it is hoped, is now impregnable, and the other points on the coast are in any event of secondary importance. Knoxville and Chattanooga are not in danger. The destruction of the railroad at these points would be a heavy blow to the Confederacy; but their possession would be a disaster almost as great to the enemy, who could not sustain an army at either place. West of the Mississippi, General Holmes, and the swamps, forests, and bayous of Arkansas, will hold the invader at bay. There will be no general engagement in Middle Tennessee. Nashville might have been taken at any time after Gen. Bragg's retreat, or rather flight, from Kentucky. It is the opinion of intelligent gentlemen, who were in the city, that a peremptory demand for its surrender, within that time, would have been obeyed by the Federal General commanding. Since almost the whole of the army lately commanded by General Boell, and before which General Bragg abandoned Kentucky, is in Nashville or its vicinity, it is not probable that our generals have thought of an attack. Expectations of an engagement near Murfreesboro' are based upon the idea entertained of Rosecrans' enterprise, and the belief that public sentiment in the North will force him, even if reluctant, to give us battle at whatever point we may wait for him. But he knows we cannot attack him, and he does not intend to engage our forces. He could accomplish nothing by it. If he were to engage our army at Tullahoma, the chances of victory would be against him, and at the most he could only drive the Southern troops back into the mountain passes that guard the railroad, where they could defy him, check his progress, and rob him of all the fruits of the campaign. His strategy does not look to the Southeast, but to the Southwest—not to Tullahoma and Chattanooga, but to Vicksburg and the Mississippi."

Gen. Negley held Nashville for months for the Yankees with less than six thousand men; and Rosecrans will not probably leave a large garrison for its defense subsequent to his departure for Mississippi, seeing that our forces will necessarily follow him, unless they shall anticipate his movements and thwart them, or precede him. The probability is, that in less than thirty days the warm rains lately falling in that quarter will give water for their gunboats in every navigable stream in the West; and with these he hopes to hold Nashville."

On the Mississippi the mightiest energies of the Abolition power in the West are to be concentrated for a final struggle. All other movements, except that against Richmond, are but feints, or secondary to this. And Rosecrans, assuming the Confederates with heavy skirmishing in front, and demonstrations on their flank, and threatening Knoxville with General G. W. Morgan from Louisville, is only massing his men in a proper position to enable him, when the hour comes, to move past Franklin and Columbus to the Tennessee River at or below Florence, crossing which on bridges prepared by General Grant, the forces of the two Abolition commanders will be united, when they hope to overwhelm Pemberton and Price, capture Vicksburg and every fortified point on the river, which will be covered with their gunboats, and from this base-line direct their course Westward and Southward."

Matters out West look dark enough; but one redeeming feature and encouraging fact is certainly to be found in a view

of the field. General Johnston is in command of the army; and in him the country has confidence—confidence in his integrity, in his capacity, in his firmness and decision of character, in his generalship, in fortune; and however gloomy the period at which he enters on duty, his name will carry faith and hope to all.—*Richmond Examiner.*

HOMESPUN.

In Virginia and in other parts of the South it is becoming fashionable for people to have some part, if not all of their garb, of home-made stuff. It is the kind of independence we like to observe, and hail it as the best omen of a true Southerner to see him buying and wearing the cloth woven on our own looms by our own fair and industrious women. This war has demonstrated one thing, and that is that our women can weave just as good cloth as a lover of the South would wish to wear."

In a recent visit through the interior of Virginia, the writer had frequent occasion to admire the industry of the ladies in manufacturing home spun, the taste with which they were made up, and the grace with which they were worn by some of the most charming daughters of the Old Dominion. In some parts of the State there is quite an emulation among the ladies in the manufacture of domestic cloths. The writer had the pleasure of seeing some specimens of home spun made by a most patriotic and accomplished lady of Albemarle—Mrs. Elson of Howardsville—which he thinks might take the premium for taste, as well as patriotic enterprise over all the silks and satins of the Richmond speculators."

It is said that during the embargo under the administration of Mr. Madison, the richest and finest ladies in the country vied with each other who could produce the handsomest homespun dresses. Old pieces of silk were picked, carded, spun, woven and made into dresses. Many of them equalled the finest silks and cambrics. Fourth of July celebration were held where both ladies and gentlemen were all dressed in homespun. May we not hope that these happy days of purity and virtue have not past?"

We notice that many papers in the South have entered the lists in favour of homespun and other industrial enterprises of our ladies."

The *Southern (St. Louis, Louisiana) Banner* says that nearly every family in the parish are spinning and weaving their own winter clothing. Families who, twelve months ago, bought all their kerseys and jeans, are turning out a prettier and more substantial article at home."

Nearly every parlour in the country is graced with a "Georgia piano," and its merry notes can be heard from early dawn till dusk: If the blockade prevents the ladies from donning silks, they can manufacture their own cotton stripes, and do not blush to be seen wearing them."

The *Clarksville Chronicle* says: "We saw a happy illustration a night or two since of the patriotism of some of our young ladies in dressing in homespun, and discarding those expensive appendages—hoops. They were shown off to decided advantage in their republican garb." The editor advises all his lady friends (unless they are rather emaciated) to adopt it."

There is no dress more becoming our young ladies in these war times than the above. They may prefer silks and satins, delaines and merinoes, and rig themselves off in jewelry, like an Indian squaw—but give us the girl in the calico dress, or, what is better, homespun. All honor and praise to the fair Southern women! May the future historian, when he comes to write of this war, fail not to award them their due share of praise for their noble efforts in helping us to achieve Southern freedom and Southern Independence."

Richmond Examiner.

There are no times for "sells" or practical jokes on matters affecting the best interests of the country, and the parties indulging in them ought to be exposed, and if not otherwise punished, at least they ought to be held up to public reprobation. A case in point is the alleged discovery of an inexhaustible supply of salt at Opelika, Alabama. Who started that miserable, witless and contemptible humbug! Who was Governor Pickens' telegraphic correspondent, promising to supply the whole State of South Carolina with salt from this source, at five dollars a bushel, delivered at Augusta? These things ought to be found out. Again, we say, there are no times for indulgence in such things, nor are such things matters to be trifled with at any time.—*Daily Journal.*

LO! THE POOR NEGRO.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Chicago Journal*, an Abolition paper, thus declares the deplorable condition of about one thousand negroes that have either runaway or been stolen by the abolition army and sent to that place. He says:

The fugitives are placed in the empty barrack buildings more open than many Northern barns, with no place for fire, and with no wood to make a fire of. Half-naked and bare-footed women and children may be seen a half mile a way picking up bits of bark, chips, or stry bits of wood, to cook their rations with or to keep warmth in their shivering frames. Some have carried dirt into their shanties, forming rude hearths, on which a few embers can be placed, the smoke escaping into the building, and almost blinding in its destiny. Water is carried from the river—distant from a half to three quarters of a mile.—Of course, there are no facilities for washing, or other household work. Many of them are sick and others have died from exposure. Mothers, from five to eight children, sit from day to day in these dreary, cold buildings, trying to hold on to warmth and life by means of personal contact and the few rags they brought from the land of their captivity. How they pass these cold nights, God only knows, as they have no bedding worthy the name. They are dragging along in utter wretchedness, and suffering more than pen can express."

Such is Northern sympathy for the negro. It should be the duty of masters in exposed situations, who can not better provide for the safety of their servants, at least to warn them of the consequences of falling into the hands of the Yankees."

AN AFFAIR WITH THE ENEMY NEAR SNICKERSVILLE.

We learn, that on last Saturday evening, an affair of some interest took place with the enemy in the neighborhood of Snickersville. It appears that on that portion of our lines the pickets of the Maryland cavalry, under Major White, were driven in by a force of the enemy, moving from the direction of Aldie, being a portion of the brigade commanded by the somewhat notorious Perry Wyndham.—The enemy followed into our camp, and were plundering it, when they were charged by the Twelfth Virginia. A sharp fight ensued, in which we lost some seven or eight killed and fifteen or twenty prisoners. The loss of the enemy is said to have been equivalent to our own. General Jones having come up with reinforcements the enemy was driven across the Shenandoah and the Blue Ridge through the gap by which he had entered."

General Jones is in command in the lower portion of the Valley, to the great satisfaction of the people in that section. We are glad to know that of the recent appointments in General Jackson's army, one at least gives testimony of well deserved promotion and future usefulness."

Rich. Examiner.

Tired of the War.—A special correspondent of the *Chicago Times*, writing from Holiver, Tennessee, states that the Federal troops received the news of Democratic victories with the highest gratification. The joy was not confined to Democrats, but the Republican soldiers largely participated in it. The truth is, says the writer, that nine tenths of the army want peace. Were peace declared to-day their shouts would fairly rend the heavens, and those shouts would warm the pulses of tens of thousands of loved ones at home."

The same writer says that another thing is creating much dissatisfaction among the troops is that "they receive no pay."

Promotion in the Army.—The President can never do justice to the army or the cause in his military promotions and appointments, until he acts upon the Napoleonic idea of making merit as displayed by actual deeds the basis of both. It is a bad sign when men rub their eyes with wonder and ask themselves what in the name of Mars has this man done to deserve to be made a Brigadier or a Major General. President Davis has provoked this question frequently of late, and we hear of some prospective promotions which will increase the wonder and reiterate the query.—*Mobile Register.*

Way Side Hospital.—We are glad to learn that Dr. Warren, aided by the ladies of Raleigh, has put the Way Side Hospital near the Central Depot in operation.—The sick, wounded and hungry soldier, will henceforth, we hope, find comfortable quarters near at hand on his arrival here.
N. C. Standard.