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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Price of the Watchman.

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From the N. C. Standard. INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence, which we have been furnished for publication by Gov. Vance, is alike creditable to that functionary and to the soldier and his father. The soldier, influenced by his naturally strong yearning for home, absents himself from his regiment without leave, and makes his appearance, travel-worn and downcast, at his father's gate. The old man meets him with tears of joy, but those tears are charged to grief as soon as he learns that his son is absent without leave. He chides him for his conduct, and tells him to return and stand by his colors to the last. The son receives the reproof with meekness—repents of his offense, and writes to the Governor asking pardon and a passport to return to his regiment.

Pardon is granted and the passport furnished, and we have no doubt by this time this noble-hearted soldier is again with his regiment, strengthened in resolution by the ordeal through which he has passed, and prepared to do and suffer for his country to the last. The armies of Greece and Rome furnish no example of patriotism brighter or purer than that exhibited by the father of this soldier. And if all absentees and deserters were treated with the mingled firmness and kindness which led this soldier to report of his error, and which has returned to his regiment, desertions would be less frequent, and many who are now absent would go back to their regiments, better men, and more determined than ever to stand by their colors. We repeat what we have said often and to our soldiers, nothing can justify desertion. There are few desertions, it is true, from North Carolina regiments than from those of other States; but we are sorry to know that there are any. Soldiers, your State has pledged herself to this war. Her honor is at stake. When she says come home, come, but not before. She watches over you with the solicitude of a mother, and her heart bleeds when you suffer. When you are wounded, she labors through her Governor, who has been a soldier himself, to remedy your wrongs. The night may be long, and the prospect now and then gloomy, but the morning must come sooner or later. Desertion neither saves nor helps. Whatever your wrongs, whatever your motives, whatever your opinions about the war, desertion will only aggravate your situation. This is common sense. You are in the keeping of your State. She will be true to her allies to the last, but in the end, she will be true to herself. If the cause succeeds, as we hope it will, you will return with flying colors, and the shout of thousands will greet you as you place your feet once more on your native soil; but if the cause should fail, your State will know it in time, and will provide for you. Therefore, while she says stay, stay; when she says return, return, but not before, though a thousand batteries should pour along your path.

LINCOLN, Co., N. C., June 16, 1863.

His Excellency, Gov. Z. R. Vance:

Sir:—It is with sorrow I communicate to you, this morning, the contents of this letter, but I see no other alternative; it is the only way for me ever to gain the affection of my friends. Sir, I have brought on myself disgrace and contempt of my friends as long as I live, by absenting myself from my company without leave. I got home on the 12th of this month. My old gray-headed father met me at the gate with joy—happy to see me. After passing the usual compliments, he asked me if I was on furlough. I told him I was not. The old man broke into tears and told me I could not stay with him, that I must go and join my regiment. I replied to him, I intended to do so; I did not come home to stay. He then told me if I would go back he would not have me arrested, but if not he certainly would. I told him I wanted some clothes and a pair of shoes. He gave me a pair of shoes, and told me he intended to send me such things as I needed, and asked me why I didn't stay and wait for a furlough? I replied I hadn't been home in so long, I wanted to see them all once more. He replied, "I had much rather never to have seen you, than for you to come home in that way." He asked me if I had seen the Governor's proclamation? I told

him I had not. He then got the paper.—"See here—read this, my son; this teaches you what fruits desertion brings on." Now, says he, "you are ruined—undone forever. This sort of conduct will never do; you must return to your colors, or you will stand by your colors until you fall, or until your country is free." Governor, this is a lesson taught me I never can forget. I am actually sorry I done so. I will promise you I never will do so any more. I beg your pardon. I want to return to my regiment, if you please. Give me a pass or something to show, in order that I get back without being arrested. Pardon me for my transgression; I find the way of the transgressor is hard. I give you my word and honor as a man that I never do so any more. This is the first time, and it is the last. I will go and join my fellow-soldiers and remain with them until the war ends, let that be sooner or later if I live. If you will pardon me, I will be more than a thousand times obliged, and feel myself under innumerable obligations to you for so doing. If not, please send me a passport or something of the kind, so that I can get back to my regiment. I don't want to go under guard if I can help it; if I can't, I will go anyhow, and abide the consequences, be they what they may. I have served two years, and will serve as many more if necessary. I did not think of the evil; if I had have known once what I now do, I would have remained there until now. I hope, Governor, you will grant me this; forgive me for so doing. The God that rules Heaven and Earth knows my heart. I pray He may forgive me. I must close by saying, I remain your most obedient servant.

State of North Carolina, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Raleigh, June 28, 1863.

Private. With N. C. T. Cottage Home, N. C.

Sir:—Your letter asking for a pardon and a pass to return to your regiment, has been received. Enclosed I send you a pass, and will give you, when you report to me in this City, a letter to Gen. Pender, which I have no doubt will secure you exemption from punishment. I am sure that there is nothing that a brave officer would not grant to a son of such a noble father. I desire you to present him my regards, and say to him that I would feel honored to shake his hand. I feel interested in the contemplation of such unqualified patriotism and such Roman virtue; and I thank God that such men can be found in North Carolina. And while they are, I feel it impossible to despair of our ultimate success. Would to God that every father in the land would see in his own son in this manner, the same noble soldier, who have been induced by hardships and disappointments to take this fatal step, would be redeemed from unavailing regret and sorrow and disgrace, which the remembrance of all their glorious fights cannot extinguish. How glad would be the hearts of our Generals, and how despairing those of our foes, could it be known that even the ties of nature were as nothing, and the strong bonds of filial affection but as dust in the balance, to a people who have dedicated their sons to slaughter and their homes to desolation for their country's independence.

Take your father's advice. You could not follow the counsel of one more glorious and patriotic, and return to your brave comrades, as gallant a regiment as ever stepped upon a field of battle, and show by your good conduct that you desire your error to be forgotten, and that you are worthy of your lineage.

Very truly yours, Z. B. VANCE.

A Danish Wedding Superstition.—When a rustic couple have screwed up courage to take each other "for better, or for worse," they present themselves before the altar, and their feet occupy a traditional mat that has accommodated generation after generation. The pair walk demurely side by side from door to sanctuary, and if the bridegroom's foot touch the carpet before the bride's, he will be master thereafter in his own guard or house. Scidm, however, does it so happen. The bride's delicate sole gets the pas, and the home of Lars, or Anders, or Peter, owes a woman as its master. St. Keyne's Well, in the West of England, and the Zealand Church mat thus excite early emulation among new married couples, Danish and English, and yet they are far from being unpopular.

Religious Toleration in Smyrna.—Ahmed Pacha, the new Governor General of Smyrna, has just issued an important proclamation to the inhabitants of that district. In this document a paragraph relative to toleration and liberty is especially remarkable. It runs: "Whoever shall dare to utter offensive language against a religion, whether it may be, or to insult any person on account of his religious faith, shall be condemned to the humiliation of walking through the streets of the town with a placard suspended from his neck, and shall also undergo all the punishment which the law inflicts."

Virginia Lemons.—A quantity of lemons raised in Lexington, Rockbridge county, Va., are on sale in Lynchburg. The Republican says they are large and fine, and will compare most favorably with any of the imported ones.

[From the Charleston Courier.] Astounding Revelation—Reputation.

It is with pain and mortification that we record the disclosure of a fact, the consequences of which will be felt by the whole South. A war of unparalleled magnitude and ferocity, for admission into the family of nations, is already stated with breach of faith and partial repudiation. In order to obtain the means and show of war, the Confederate Government issued a currency by law, and on its face, fundable in eight per cent stocks or bonds of the Confederate States, at the option of the holder, without limitation of time. In faith of this fundability these notes obtained a wide circulation. In flagrant breach of the public faith, the Secretary of the Treasury repudiated, the Confederate Congress enacted, and the President of the Confederacy approved, a law, limiting the fundability of these notes, to Confederate eight per cent, to the 22d April last, and even limiting their fundability in Confederate seven per cent, to the 1st August next. This is a plain breach of pledged faith, a violation of the sacred obligation of the contract, and a downright repudiation, to a limited extent.

Again, the Confederate Government issued another currency, fundable by law, and on its face, in stocks and bonds of the Confederate States, at a time, when there were none but Confederate eight per cent stocks and bonds in existence. In faith of its fundability in such stocks and bonds, that currency also obtained a wide circulation, supplying largely the coffee of the Confederacy. But the Confederate Government, in violation of pledged faith, and in flagrant breach of the obligation of the contract, refused to receive this currency for Confederate eight per cent. That they were bound to do so, in both honor and good faith, is plain and palpable. If the Government has a right to deny the fundability of these notes, it may reduce its fundability to any assignable per cent, and while it does so, it is in flagrant breach of the obligation of the contract.

This faithless freak of finance the Secretary of the Treasury attempted to justify on two grounds, viz:

1st. The financial necessity of the case. 2d. By analogy to the Statute of Limitations.

1. We utterly deny the necessity of the case. Our resources and the resources of the Confederate Government are ample and all-sufficient to save us from the shame and dishonor of repudiation. In the Revolution of 1776, there was a partial repudiation of a greatly depreciated Continental currency. State and Federal, under circumstances of some excuse, but far from justification. Fiat justus, et cælum, should be the maxim and practical policy of States. Both good morals and economy demand the jealous preservation of the public faith.

We have said, however, that our revolutionary fathers had some shadow of excuse for their departure from good faith. It was found in their want of resources, and in the absence of the power of taxation, in the General Government or Federal head of that day. They were almost destitute of agricultural wealth, and the Congress could not tax the citizen, but could only make requisitions on the States for money, and those requisitions were often "more honored in the breach than in the observance." The case and the circumstances are now entirely different. Our young Confederacy abounds in agricultural wealth and resources—cotton, tobacco, and rice furnish an ample basis for a sound currency, and ample security for the redemption of any debt, however large, the Confederacy may contract, in order to win the glorious boon of independence.

The Confederate Congress, too, has full power to tax the citizen, burdened in subjects and amount. Away, then, with the flimsy pretext of State or financial necessity—it is a figment of the fancy, and ought to be shamed from all weight, in the financial argument of issue.

2. The Statute of Limitations furnishes no analogy at all. That statute is no part of the lex contractus—it belongs only to the lex fori. It denies the aid of Courts and the agency of law suits to enforce stale demands. Its purpose is to protect the honest debtor, who may have lost his receipt or acquittance, from paying the same debt a second time. It never was designed to protect one from paying a just debt, however stale or antiquated. When so applied it is a gross perversion and abuse of law. To plead the Statute of Limitations, in bar of a just debt, is, as we once heard a great jury lawyer say, to place a lie upon a record. The Statute, therefore, neither dissolves nor disturbs the obligation of the contract, but leaves it binding in honor and good conscience, and even in law, to this extent, that a promise to pay a debt, barred by the Statute, is a good legal consideration, on which a recovery of the old debt may be had at law.

As the unwise policy we are condemning has assumed the shape of law, we might have remained silent on the subject, had we not learned that a still more flagrant violation of good faith is contemplated, in high and influential quarters—no less than a reduction of interest on Confederate eight and seven per cent to six per cent per annum!! It is time then to speak in advance, and in no mincing terms, of the contemplated fraud. If we have neither excuse nor justification, as we have already shown, either in lack of resources, or in want of the taxing power. We heard one, lofty in intellect, pure in morals, and high in station, under a strange hallucination, recently justify such repudiation and disgraceful policy, on the ground that it would be necessary to prevent Confederate bankruptcy. The facility of such a notion we have demonstrated; and another distinguished citizen and statesman justly replied to and refuted it, by saying—"two per cent will never bankrupt a nation. If eight per cent or seven per cent will bankrupt the Confederacy, six per cent, or a reduction of one, or two per cent, will not save off the catastrophe." A strong minded citizen, of practical good sense, also replied—"Sooner than repudiate and reduce 8 and 7 to 6, let the Confederacy borrow at ten per cent, and thus fill her coffers and secure her independence—tax the citizen to the full extent necessary, promptly and fully, to pay the interest of the public

debt—and, by thus sustaining her credit, to the end of the war, at its stupitious close, with independence won and faith untarnished, she would be able to borrow money on Europe, at 2 1/2 per cent, and pay off all her war debts with indifference.

We are strongly of opinion too, that all repudiating laws of the Confederacy are unconstitutional. Although the Confederate Constitution contains no clause, forbidding Congress to violate the obligation of contracts, it does contain a clause, prohibiting the several and sovereign States from passing any such laws, and it may well be assumed that what a State, in her plenary sovereignty, cannot constitutionally do, the mere agency of the Confederate States, destitute of even a particle of sovereignty, is wholly incompetent to accomplish—the power of the agent must be subordinate to that of the sovereign principal. We may here add that one of our citizens has it in contemplation to test this question of constitutionality, on a mandamus, before Judge Magrath, requiring the Assistant Treasurer to deliver eight per cent bonds, on a tender of eight per cent fundables.

Be the constitutional question, however, as it may, it is clear to our mind that it should be the pride and glory of a young Confederacy, seeking admission into the family of nations, to enter into the august association with a bright escutcheon and untarnished faith.

To reduce eight and seven per cents to six per cents, we may add, in conclusion, would prove an unequal as well as faithless oppression to those who have sustained the Confederacy in its hour of need; and would be downright spoliation and robbery. The number of those who have invested their funds in these securities is few, compared with the great mass of citizens, and to eat down the interest of their investments would be a most unequal tax, a grievous oppression, visited on those who deserve it least. The statesmen or politicians, who shall be unwise enough to sustain such a dishonest and dishonorable policy, alike in morals and false to economy, should be hurled from the high places of the Confederacy and consigned to ignominious obscurity. It is false in morals, because nations are as much bound as individuals to keep faith with their debtors; and immorality in the Government tends to demoralize the people. It is false in economy, because if the Government breaks faith financially, it must necessarily lose credit in the market of the world, and the disastrous result would be the loss of millions in the sale of new bonds, in the dishonest, pitiful and abortive effort to save a few thousands, in the diminution of interest on old ones.

THE SURRENDER OF THE ATLANTA.

The Savannah Republican of Saturday says it is permitted to copy the following letter from a member of the crew of the Atlanta to a friend in that city:

PORT ROYAL, JUNE 18.

DEAR FRIEND: Contrary to our expectations, our vessel was necessarily and unavoidably surrendered to Capt. Rogers, commanding the Monitor, Weehawken and Nahant, after a thirty-two minutes fight. We steamed up to within fifty yards at one time, but we fought at two hundred yards. We opened with our 8-inch gun. Two of their 15 inch balls came crashing through the port side, disabling the marine gun's crew and No. 3 division crew. Another shot knocked the pilot house all to pieces, seriously wounding both Austin and Hernandez, the pilots. Being thus disabled, the ship ran aground. Our guns could not be brought to bear upon any object, and humanity and instinct prompted a surrender, as in less than fifteen minutes the rotten thing would not have had a human being aboard. We all deeply sympathize with our noble and gallant Captain, who is suffering and exercising with mental anguish. Every man stood nobly at his post from the first to last. Our loss is one killed, eight severely and ten slightly wounded. They are receiving the best care from our captors, who are doing all they can to render them and us comfortable. To-morrow we are to be sent North, and it may be some time before you see or hear from me again. Yours truly, W. B. M.

The following from an officer on board has also been handed to us, with the liberty of making it public:

U. S. SHIP VERMONT,

Port Royal, S. C., June 18, 1863.

DEAR:—I am a prisoner of war on board this vessel. We were captured yesterday morning by the U. S. steamer Weehawken. All the officers are safe. We lost 1 killed (Barrett) and seven or eight wounded. Of the officers wounded, there is Wragg (Master), slightly; Austin (Pilot), dangerously; Hernandez (Pilot), slightly; Thurston (Marine Officer), slightly.

A letter from Master Wragg says he is slightly wounded over the left eye and in the ankle. Doing well.

A Hint on Melon Culture.—I have always been much troubled with the melon bug, and resorted to lime, ashes, pepper, &c., to destroy them, when, calling on a friend of mine, I found his vines in a most flourishing condition, and asking how he got rid of the insects, he answered:—"Doesn't these those radishes covered with bugs?"

I said "Yes." He continued:—"Melon bugs like radish tops better than melon vines."

I therefore always plant a few near the cantelope hills, and hence the fine condition of my vines.

The steamer Gibraltar, formerly the privateer Saunter, is loading at Liverpool for Callao.

FROM THE NORTH.

THE WORK OF THE PRIVATEERS.

Our privateers have done much work among the Yankee shipping. The New York Herald has the following notice of the recent damage inflicted by the privateer bark Tacony:

The ship Isaac Webb from Liverpool was captured on Saturday by the privateer bark Tacony, whose Captain has recently, in that vessel and in that which he previously commanded, inflicted such extensive damage upon our merchant marine. She was captured not more than 75 miles from the New Jersey shore. She was bonded for forty thousand dollars. Nor is this all. The Isaac Webb brought the captain and crew of the brig Umper, from Sagua for Boston, captured and burned by the Tacony four days previously, in latitude 37 37, longitude from Greenwich 69 57—which is about two hundred miles further south, opposite the Delaware Capes. The Tacony has thus moved northward, and when last seen was off the coast here, just in the course of our ships between Liverpool and New York.

The Herald complains that the Chamber of Commerce has appealed in vain to the government at Washington for protection against these raids and says:

The Navy Department have had abundant warning in the depredations of the Tacony. For some time she has been operating almost in sight of Fortress Monroe. Every day the privateers are becoming bolder and doing greater damage to our commercial interests. The impunity they have enjoyed has so encouraged them that they venture now to make their hunting ground right off our Northern harbors, and especially the great port of the city of New York, the centre of the commerce of the United States.

The Federal administration having thus neglected to protect our commerce, we think the Governor of the State ought to take the matter in hand at once and before any further mischief is done. He has sent our militia to defend the property of Pennsylvania, who ought to have been prepared to take care of themselves. There is as much necessity for the protection of the shipping and cargoes of the merchants of this great commercial metropolis as there is for the protection of the horses and other live stock of the farmers of Pennsylvania; and, then, charity begins at home.

SUPPRESSION OF NEWSPAPERS—MILITARY DICTATORSHIP OVER THE PRESS.

We mentioned yesterday that the Provost Marshal at Baltimore had issued his order prohibiting the Baltimore papers from making extracts from certain New York and Western papers supposed to be of secession properties.—The New York Herald denounces this act of military tyranny, and, in a long editorial on the subject, says:

If extracts from New York journals ought to be prohibited from being published in the Baltimore papers, a fortiori the New York papers themselves ought to be prohibited from being sold and circulated in the same locality. Of course the prohibition against extracts is because the papers are poisonous; but the entire sheets are admissible. The inference would thus seem to be that the poison in small doses is dangerous, if not fatal; whereas in large doses it may be swallowed with impunity. General Schreck says "no extract" will be permitted. But the order which we publish to-day, prohibiting extracts, but declaring that it was "a mistake," and "perhaps a misapprehension," to suppress the papers themselves, is ridiculous on the face of it. Though it was published in the official organ, the Washington Republican, of Saturday evening, and in a telegraphic dispatch to the New York papers yesterday, with the official signature of his Lieutenant Colonel and Provost Marshal, William S. Fish, it is now declared that "no such order as thus published has been issued." That may do to tell to horse man's ears. But it is pretty certain that the order had something to do with the approaching Maryland elections. We have heard an explanation of its revocation that is far more likely to be true than that which is assigned. It is stated that one of the prohibited journals applied to Governor Seymour for protection, and that he made such remonstrances as induced a direction to rescind the order. Had not this been promptly done, it is believed that he would have ordered back to this State the militia regiments which he has just sent forward to assist in remedying the neglect and mismanagement of Schreck and the War Department.

The Herald continues:

Instead of watching the movements of the enemy in Maryland and on the borders of Pennsylvania, General Schreck, fit only for falling into a trap of Vienna, in which his command was slaughtered by the rebels, and his raid against a newspaper of Philadelphia, has now again entered the field against the newspapers of New York—a seemingly and grateful return for the promptitude with which New York troops have hastened to the assistance of Maryland, which General Schreck has now permitted to be overrun, as he has done before, involving the destruction of the Baltimore and Ottawa presses and the loss of millions of property. We had hoped that the blunder of Burnside in suppressing the Chicago Times had been sufficiently rebuked by public opinion and by the President directing him to revoke his order to prevent other generals from imitating his example. But there is a class of men who no signs of the times seem to instruct. The gods seem to have doomed them to the same kind of blindness and insanity which characterized the actions of the rulers of France before the first French Revolution, and afterwards in 1830 and 1848.

The Pension Office at Washington has lately recorded the nineteen thousandth application of wives made widows by this war.—Boston Transcript.