

THE TITHE LAW.

In the Raleigh Standard of Friday last we find the following:

"Submission to Law.—We regret to observe that some of the meetings held in the State threaten resistance to the tithing law passed by the last Congress. That this law is unusual, oppressive, and unjust they can be no doubt; but, according to the forms of the Constitution, it is the law, and to resist it by force is to cause strife and bloodshed. Conservatism implies obedience to law. If one law can be properly resisted by force, so...

But this tithing law, in our judgment, ought to be repealed. Let those who are opposed to it urge its repeal, meanwhile submitting to it as the law of the land. Let them vote for no man for Congress who will not pledge himself to vote to repeal it. But resistance to it by force, we repeat, will occasion bloodshed—civil war among ourselves!

We beg our Conservative friends to bet with prudence and moderation. They have the power in the State—the power of overwhelming numbers—and they can, therefore, afford to be calm and firm. Let them sustain the constituted authorities in all just efforts to promote the common cause, and avoid every thing which may tend to anarchy and bloodshed.

We respectfully submit to the Standard that the proposed resistance to this law is the result of its own teachings. Not two months ago the Standard plainly told President Davis that unless Bradford was removed from the office of Chief-Tithingman the tax could not be collected in North Carolina. Its readers of course understood the Standard to mean that it would not be and ought not to be paid. We quote from memory, and think correctly. If otherwise, we will be happy to say so on information. We are glad to see in the Standard even so much of a restriction as the above. True, the injunction to respect the law is coupled with a denunciation of it as "unusual, oppressive and unjust," and we fear that many of the less thoughtful of its readers will look more to the denunciation than to the injunction; for can they, or any one indeed, see any difference (so far as obedience to law is concerned) between a refusal to pay the tax to Maj. Bradford and a refusal to pay it to Maj. anybody else?

But is the law "unusual, oppressive and unjust?" We propose to discuss that question with the Standard.

Unusual, in the present day, we admit it to be so. Oppressive, too, so far as all taxes are oppressive, and no farther. Unjust, we deny that it is, and have no fear but that the "power of overwhelming numbers"—if it be as the Standard claims—will be changed to the other side by a plain statement of the facts. We are not aware that the Standard has stated any grounds on which it contends that the law is oppressive and unjust. So that our work is, not to combat any arguments against the law, but to show its equality, as compared with other taxes.

But first a word as to the origin of this system of taxation. That which is now denounced by one of the Standard's favorite candidates for Congress as an "odious Jew law," and by the Standard itself as "oppressive and unjust," is but the same kind of tax as the first one of which we read either in sacred or profane history—the tax laid by God himself upon the Jews. It is true that before that, Abraham had given Melchizedek, King of Salem, a tithe of the spoils he had taken in battle; but that was a voluntary offering to "the priest of the most high God." The first tax, as we have said, was a tax in kind of a tithe (or tenth) of all the produce of the lands, of the trees, and of the flocks. See Leviticus, 27th chapter, 30th verse. May it not be one of the causes of the terrible vengeance now inflicted upon this land, that we have not only departed from the original ordinances of God, but accustomed ourselves to speak of them with irreverence, as odious and unjust?

But is the law unjust? How unjust? We suppose it is meant that it lays upon the farming interest a proportion of taxes larger than is laid upon other interests or pursuits. Let us see how that is, (and we refer our readers to the law itself, which we have published on the 4th page of the Semi-Weekly Observer for some months past.)

The tithing law does not reach the poor man or woman at all. Every one is entitled first to reserve for his or her own use 50 bushels of sweet potatoes, 50 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 100 bushels of corn (or 50 bushels of wheat) also 20 bushels of peas or beans. Here is, at present market rates, nearly a thousand dollars worth of produce of the farm upon which no tax whatever is levied. It is evidently more than many poor families make, and enough to bread a good sized family; and as for meats, the tax is one-tenth of all the bacon estimated at 60 lbs. of bacon to 100 lbs. of pork; whereas 100 lbs. of pork will make nearly 70 lbs. of bacon besides the parts not cured into bacon. So that out of every 100 lbs. of pork some 15 or 20 lbs. are untaxed. On cattle the tithing tax is not laid—it is 1 per cent only on the value.

It is manifest from this statement, (for the accuracy of which see the law itself,) that the tithing law does not reach the poorer class of farmers; though from the manner in which the matter is handled by some, it might be supposed that it was to protect this class from oppression and injustice that the law is denounced and its repeal demanded. The law operates only upon the larger farmers; who make a surplus to sell, and who are not taxed in any other way by the law; that is, neither their lands nor their negroes, nor their incomes from the sale of the surplus productions of their farms, are taxed. This tithing law is therefore the only way in which these well-to-do farmers are called upon to contribute to the support of the government and the war; and it is the only way in which their lands and negroes can be taxed. The constitution forbids the taking of lands and negroes till a census is taken—a census cannot be taken during the war. Consequently, but for this tithing law, land and negroes, the great wealth of the South, would escape taxation at all. Is this the object of the Standard? We cannot believe it, however much it may be the ob-

ject of some influential persons who are endeavoring to excite public prejudice against the law.

It is contended that the amount of the tax is unjust by comparison with the taxes upon other property and business. Hardly. Let our readers examine the law and see how heavily every other business, and all descriptions of property are taxed, and we think they will come to the same conclusion with ourselves, that the tithing tax on farmers is less than the average of other taxes on property, productions and income. And be it observed, that these small farmers are the only class altogether exempted from taxation, except those who would be taxed on each acre, 500 dollars. Everything else, every body else, is taxed.

The tithing tax is just to the soldier in the army, because it does not tax his land which is lying idle at home, but only taxes the surplus productions of these at home. It is just to him also, because it will furnish a certain and it is hoped adequate supply of food for his support in the army. Instead of the inadequate rations he has heretofore been often obliged to submit to. And only think of it, people at home are raising a clamor against a law which is enacted expressly to provide food for the soldiers in the army!

This law is a wise and a just one for the reason also, that it is part of a system intended to put an end to speculation in provisions. It is well known that men have accumulated princely fortunes by going over the country and buying up things which they knew the government was compelled to have, and after getting a monopoly making the government pay enormous prices. This will now be stopped, and along with it, in a measure, the progressive inflation of the currency and of prices, and the temptation which so many otherwise good men give way to, to hoard up their supplies under the heretofore certain expectation of a rise in prices. Neither the speculator nor the producer will hereafter be sure of a great customer who will be compelled to buy them at any price, however extravagant.

Again, the government will be saved by this tithing law, from the necessity of issuing one or two hundred millions more of treasury notes. Those notes, coming upon an already redundant currency, would necessarily still further depreciate Confederate money; and thus add to present evils and entail a still heavier debt upon posterity. It is the interest of every man to keep down that debt and to put a stop to further depreciation. Therefore is it the interest of every man to sustain this tithing law, which we have shown is not unequal or unjust. Especially is it the interest of the producer, whose remaining nine-tenths will be worth more to him than the whole would be if further issues should further depreciate the currency in which he is paid, and those issues would be necessary if the Government paid for provisions. After all, conceding, as doubtless the Standard will, that the expense of carrying on the war must be paid, and that a portion at least of it ought to be paid by taxation, we would like to know what advantage the farmers would derive from paying in money the value of the produce which they are required by the tithing law to pay? Since no unequal proportion of the general tax is required of them, it seems to us, as Congress undoubtedly thought, that it would be more agreeable to pay in produce itself rather than to take the trouble to sell the produce, and then pay over the cash realized from it.

But perhaps the strongest consideration of all is, that the securing of so much food will put it in the power of the government to feed its armies and prosecute this righteous war into which the Editor of the Standard, with the hearty approval of the whole State, voted us on the 20th of May, 1861.—Fayetteville Observer.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

We have nothing additional from Chattanooga. The train that left there yesterday morning, due here in the evening, did not arrive until morning, and the train due to-day has not yet arrived.

From Knoxville we hear stirring news. On Thursday, it became known that Burnside was advancing on the city in such force that it was deemed prudent to make some removals of stores, etc. The report was that his advance was only eight miles distant. The telegraph and post offices were closed and moved toward Dalton, and the Express Company moved its office Eastward. A fight was expected without much delay. We can learn nothing of the probable force of the enemy, or by which route his advance was made.

To meet the movements of the Federals we are aware some movements are going on, and we earnestly hope they will be pushed expeditiously, so that we shall not be called upon to record the announcement—too late; the mountain fastnesses are lost!—Allan's Appeal.

The Fighting Strength of the Confederacy.—Mr. DeBow, Editor of DeBow's Review, has made a calculation of the fighting population of our country. He makes a very fair distinction for our losses in consequence of the position of Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri and portions of Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Arkansas. He then shows that our male population, between the ages of 18 and 45 amounts to 1,181,500. Deducting one-fourth for exemptions (a very large allowance,) we have 880,100 men. We have lost many men in the war, but the natural flow of our population has gone far to replace them. During the two years of hostilities not less than 120,000 males have passed from under to over 18 years of age. Mr. DeBow estimates, from these figures, that "in no event during a long war can the Confederate strength be reduced under 700,000 men if the people are in earnest." This is an army ample for all our possible necessities.

State Government of Mississippi.—We learn that the officers of the State of Mississippi have determined to remove the government of the State to Macon, Noxubee Co., Miss.

CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

SALISBURY, N. C.

MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 7, 1863.

We again give notice that we do not publish marriages or deaths, unless accompanied by a responsible name.

What means the calls made on Gov. Graham and his fellow Southern States, by distinguished and true fellow Southern States, that he should have suspicion thrown on him? Has he not whenever duty called him to act, shown himself true to North Carolina and the South? What more is wanted? Must he, as was said of Gen. Scott in the beginning of the war, be subjected to the odious part of taking the oath of allegiance every day? Must he degrade himself by answering and arguing with those who insult him with impudence, and openly expressed, doubts of his devotion? Wm. A. Graham is a man who would die for the faith that is in him, (because he never settles down on a question without first thoroughly examining it,) scornful, in the hour of extremity, any personal degradation. Let him alone, and in due time he will prove the absurdity of that malice, or needless fear, as it may be, which now assails him with groundless slanderous suspicions.

We have just seen a letter from a private member of Company K, 4th N. C., in which he lays it on right and left on those who desert their colors. He says—

"The men should watch for them every chance they have, and if need be shoot them."

This is the way soldiers in the true sense of the word talk, and it is an honor to the writer. He is a member of the "Rowan Rifle Guards," that every man, woman and child in Rowan may well be proud of—it has been in almost every battle in Northern Virginia, and we have not up to this moment heard that a single man has deserted. Let all our Rowan boys imitate the noble example.

Killed in Battery Wagner a few days ago, GILBERT IVY WYATT, a member of Company K, Capt. Kennerly, 8th N. C. T. He was said to be a good Soldier and obedient to the commands of his Officers. He was shot in the eye by a minnie ball. He died bravely defending his native soil against the invasion of the Northern barbarian.

It will be seen on reference to advertisement the Gas Company have advanced the price of Gas; yet it is not advanced in proportion to other articles. The price is increased but 400 per cent, while every thing else has gone from 600 to 1,000 per cent, and all material used in the manufacture of Gas has gone up over 800 per cent.

It will be seen that our troops, who have borne the heat and burden of the struggle for independence, have no sympathy with the movement in portions of the State, instigated by the Standard and Progress, at Raleigh, believing that their hands will protect the war, increase their hardships, and diminish the chances for "an honorable peace."—Salisbury Watchman.

The Watchman does us gross injustice. It has picked up the prejudices of a few gold-faced blackguards against us and assails us without the slightest provocation. We have written more, talked more and worked more to put men in the field than the editor of the Watchman ever has, and we know we have made more sacrifices for the cause.—Progress.

Under ordinary circumstances it would concern us much to be accused by the Progress, or any other journal, of doing a brother editor "gross injustice," or of slandered him. But this is no ordinary case. Our assertion in the extract on which the Progress comments, does not refer to any particular word or act published or done by either of the papers named; but to the tendency and natural effect of their course, running through weeks and months—a course, and the spirit of that course, which has elicited widespread attention, and produced a deep feeling of uneasiness from one end of the Confederacy to the other;—a course which excited and alarmed our troops in the field, breaking in upon the usual monotony of their camps and stirring them up to hold meetings and a Convention to denounce it. We therefore, do not feel called upon to show words and define nations in vindication of our opinion that the Standard and Progress have done much mischief. Their course has been in the light of the sap, and we have gained our impression and come to our belief as others have done—by reading these papers, the spirit of which, more than any thing else, excite the apprehension of opposition to the cause of the Confederacy. It is true, no doubt, that the editor has "written more, talked more and worked more to put men in the field than the editor of the Watchman ever has;" but that is no evidence that he has done more good or less harm. He has always been busy, wordy and swaggering, qualities that are not generally very highly commended by any respectable writer that we can think of at present.

But says the Progress—"Will the editor excuse us for telling him that he has abandoned his friends and joined a faction that have done and are doing more to keep up the war than any other faction?" Will the Editor allow us to reply that this is decidedly un-Pennsylvanian. It smacks of partyism, a hideous monster the Progress has spent his editorial strength in denouncing. Who are the "friends" we have abandoned? and the "faction" we have joined? Thereby hangs a tail. The Progress has turned a partisan; and, it would seem, considered us as belonging to his party. We have abandoned no true friends of the Country, and will join no enemy to our cause.

Extract from a letter, dated Camp near Orange C. H., Va., August 19, 1863, to G. A. Heilig, from Otho Hobbouse, of the Rowan Rifle Guards.

up on the ground that any body else would be liable to do so.

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Using in Salisbury this Saturday, the Editor of the Watchman said to us, in the presence of another gentleman, that he wanted to redress the people. It was not so much what the Standard and Progress had said, but they—speaking of the meeting held that day—wanted to restrain the people. The Watchman is a friend of the people and hence wants them stirred. We believe the people to be loyal, patriotic and honest, and if they want to hold war or peace meetings we say, in the name of God, as they have the constitutional right, let them do so. The people are sovereign; they make governments, laws and appoint rulers, and they have a right to change, modify and remove them at pleasure.

"This is a free country and the people have a right to do as they please," is a popular sentiment which demagogues very often use, and the foregoing extract is only a very slight modification of it. We advise our readers always to suspect the man who flourishes this speech in their faces. It leads inevitably to the grossest licentiousness, and uproots laws and governments. It is nothing more nor less than the law of force. It is the very principle which led to the destruction of the old Union, and brought on the present terrible war. The black republicans having come into power, openly declared what they had ten thousand times threatened, to wit: their determined purpose of liberating the slaves of the South. Slavery was guaranteed by Constitution and laws, so that their scheme was in direct violation of them. But they had the power, and were resolved to use it. The right of the people to make and change governments and laws and appoint rulers, was just what they claimed. They turned a deaf ear to the minority of the South when they spoke of the injury they would sustain, and went on with their preparations for enforcing the right of the people to have their own way—that is, the right of the majority. The Constitution and laws, designed as a restraint, was of no effect; and so, unrestrained, the people plunged into this war. There is no government where there is no restraint, and no security to property, chastity, or life itself, where there is no government. The people must be restrained or they will just as surely destroy each other as the sun shines. Talk of their honesty, patriotism, &c., as much as you please, and yet if not restrained by laws and a correct popular sentiment, they will most surely run into the grossest licentiousness. It is because man is a selfish, sinful creature, and prone to error as the sparks to fly upward; and it is to restrain him for the public good that laws and governments were instituted.

Restraint, therefore, when designed for the public good, is legitimate. And if we used the word "all" in our brief conversation with the editor of the Progress, it was in the sense of moral restraint. We have just organized a new Government for the firm establishment of which much of the best blood in the South has been shed; and in the midst of the struggle a part of the people propose to surrender to the enemy—go back into the old Union—like the children of Israel at the Red sea—sacrificing, voluntarily, every hope of the present and the future. They are tired of the war as all of us are, but shall they be encouraged to pursue a course which will bring upon us all a greater evil, or shall they be restrained by the opposing voice and counsel of those who have a common destiny with them? If any have the right to counsel a return to the old Union, others certainly have an equal right to show that that will be destructive to our every interest. And it was so harmonious in this difference that the meeting in Salisbury was held. We ought to be an one man, otherwise internal strife may spring up in our midst, and our destruction made sure beyond the hope of a remedy.

Advices from Knoxville to the Ed., says—The Yankees in East Tennessee is variously reported. One account says that but 4000 came to Wardsburg, and retreated across the mountains to the advance of Forrest. Another, that the Yankees are stronger, and have not fallen back. Private telegrams from Chattanooga to-day say the enemy is firing the town.

At Wm. Beck's, 2.—There are rumors of a Yankee raid in North Georgia territory. Precautionary measures were taken in the city, and to-day the aspect of affairs is more calm. No information of the approach of the enemy is received. A force of cavalry is reported at Trenton, Ga. Advices from Knoxville to the Ed. are reported in the Watchman. There are no Yankees there. The city is quiet and business going on as usual. At last accounts Burnside was still west of the mountain. At Chattanooga yesterday, the Yankee sharpshooters in the rifle pits were trying to pick out stragglers. No operations of the enemy look place in South. Parties of cavalry are still reported in the direction of Bridgeport.

A special to the Appeal, dated Canton, 20th, says: The whole of Burnside's corps has certainly gone North. Three army corps remain at Vicksburg. In the recent engagement on White River, Price captured four Yankee regiments. Grant's expedition to cut off Price failed completely. Price succeeded Holmes, deceased, in command.

IMPORTANT FROM THE ENEMY.

A letter from the United States General Otis, with letters to friends at home, dated at Vicksburg, Miss., dated Sunday, and is now in possession of our military officials at headquarters. By letters from Capt. Whiting to his wife, and letters from other officers, we are informed that the Yankees have entertained the idea of breaking up the line of operations by night operations, and actually made the attempt last Wednesday night, with their monitors and gun-boats, of which the Otis was one. The programme, as we learn, was for the Ironsides to engage Fort Monitor while the monitors ran by. The ten signals of wind and rain are given as the reason, the sailing back before reaching the obstructions, of which our Yankee neighbors have apparently such a wholesome dread and high estimate.

The letters state the attempt was to be renewed on the night of the 25th instant, (Saturday,) as it did not take place, it is presumed that heavy weather again interfered between the monitors and our obstructions, which yet stand intact. We observe by the letters that the Captain of the Otis was sick on the 25th. This fact, however, did not prevent him from writing home, and he has broken down and being sent home, he has written from the home, in his long and minute description of the daily life and events, and in the expression of his ardent conjugal affection.

From these effusions we learn, we anticipated, that "very many of the officers in the South are breaking down and being sent home, and that the South is in a very bad state of mind." It appears, too, in the attempt to destroy our obstructions, the monitor Pastie got aground, and came near being abandoned by her crew.

Extract from a letter, dated Camp near Orange C. H., Va., August 19, 1863, to G. A. Heilig, from Otho Hobbouse, of the Rowan Rifle Guards.

"George:—We hear that you have Union meetings in North Carolina. Is it so? I do hope the people at home are not in favor of reconstruction, that will never do. George, I am just as tired of the war as any one, but I say let us fight rather than go back in the old Union. I say never submit to Lincoln. I would see even rather as a home at present, than to see our country divided. I was wounded at Gettysburg, Pa., but my wound is nearly well, and I am again with my Regiment."

From the 4th North Carolina.

CAMP NEAR ORANGE C. H., VA., August 22, 1863. Negligent Commissaries make soldiers steal—Our fare, Who is responsible—Fast Day and its observance—Religious exercises.

All goes on smoothly and quietly with us. The only complaint I hear, is concerning the quality of our rations. Nothing but corn meal and beef, with a little bacon once in awhile, is rather hard diet during the dog days. It might be better, and could be, if we had a brigade commissary worth his room in purgatory; but as it is, he is too hopelessly lazy to make an effort to procure the articles prescribed by order No. —, which says brigade commissaries are authorized to purchase green corn, potatoes, &c., from the farmers in the neighborhood, &c.—or something to that amount. Now, Doles' brigade, which lies near us, has been feasting on these things for a week, procured by an energetic commissary, while we have been endeavoring to keep a protracted fast on this loathsome corn-bread. As might be expected, the result of this gross mismanagement is stealing; scarce a day or a night passes but roasting-ears and vegetables are clandestinely brought into camp. The men grumble every where, and some are so bold as to threaten desertion as a last resort to get food appropriate to the season, when such food could be had in abundance if our commissary thought less of his own ease and more of the comfort of the soldiers generally. The officer whose business it is to provision the troops, has one of the most arduous and responsible positions in the army; thousands of men feel the least neglect of duty on his part, and bitterly curse him for such neglect; we can see the profusion of luxuries on his table and turn with disgust to our own meagre diet, yet we are helpless; we have neither money nor credit, and at once our consciences become accommodating and our appetites uncontrollable. The blockade is run, sentinels eluded (which by the way, does not require much shrewdness—they generally wink at it, or keep both eyes shut,) and thus a change of diet finds its way into camp—Place the disgrace, or sin, whatever it be, where it properly belongs—use our guileless. A new hand at the wheel for the last two weeks has, probably, been the cause of our meagre diet; we look for better things since Major Miller has once more resumed the discharge of his duties.

Yesterday was fast day, the observance of which was almost a necessity with us. The camp was profoundly quiet, as much so as any Sunday I have ever witnessed in the army. All labor and duty was suspended, and the men assembled in large congregations to hear and participate in divine service. We have two chaplains in our brigade, Mr. Betts of the 30th, and Mr. Powers of the 14th, both Methodist I believe. They delivered very appropriate and affecting sermons both in the forenoon and in the evening, and at night the solemn ceremonies of the day were concluded with the holy sacrament administered to upwards of two hundred communicants. I never saw a scene of the kind more deeply impressive, and humbly trust that great good may be the result. The condition of our country was brought vividly before the minds of the hearers, and so eloquently, and touching that tears were seen chasing each other down not a few sunburned cheeks. Our land a waste; bright and smiling farms are trodden under foot; black ruins mark the spots where once stood beautiful cottages with their thousand pleasant associations; family circles are broken, some of the once happy members lie unburied in a foreign land, or fill bloody graves in our own, and the very atmosphere is hushed with the wails and prayers of disconsolate widows and orphaned children. Such were some of the appeals made to the hearts of the soldiers;—who would not be affected? Still scarce a ray of hope sheds its light upon us; reverse after reverse attends our arms,—almsy after calamity befalls our nation,—all the just chastisements of a righteous God for our national sins. Oh! when will it be said, enough! Peace!—and the same mighty voice, that stilled the ocean's storm, will ere long, still the tumult in our own unhappy land. Let us patiently bide our time, and do our duty faithfully. Let us renounce every evil war, and sincerely follow the dictates of a pure conscience; then let every man, whether success or misfortune, be assured that in the end all will be for good. NAT.

For the Watchman.

CAMP 57th N. C. T., Near Orange C. H., August 22, 1863.

The mellow days of autumn are at hand. Nature's verdure is already fading, and the cool dews of moonlight evenings refresh us as we lay aside the cares and duties of camp to sing the songs we've sung before when other friends were round us. We are enjoying army life as well as we ever did. Step in and see us, you will find us merry, cheerful, full of fun, and though not eager for a fight, yet fully recovered from the weariness and debauching effects of the Pennsylvania campaign. Of that trip, I shall not write at present, the events have been described by other hands and heroes have been chronicled by other pens.