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J. J. BRUNER,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Price of the Watchman.

From and after this date, and until there is a change in the prices of provisions, paper and other articles required to carry on business, the subscription rates of this paper will be two dollars for six months, and three dollars for a year.

Advertising, two dollars for the first, and one dollar for each subsequent publication.

April 20th, 1863.

A CIRCULAR.

To the Freeman of the Eighth Congressional District, composed of the Counties of Iredell, Cabarrus, Union, Mecklenburg, Gaston, Lincoln, Catawba and Cleveland.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—Having, at length, after much unavoidable delay and with much diffidence, acceded to the wishes of my friends, to become a candidate for Congress, I hasten to announce the fact, and take this method of publishing a synopsis of my views, on the most prominent subjects of public interest.

I was ardently attached to the Union of our fathers, and labored for its preservation with the most untiring zeal, until "the logic of events," and the famous proclamation of Abraham Lincoln, left no alternative, in my opinion, but to take up arms, with the seceded States, for the defence of our common rights. Consequently, I acquiesced in the separation of North Carolina from the Northern States; and now, holding their people "as enemies in war, and in peace, friends," I regard a vigorous prosecution of a defensive war as the best avenue to national independence, and an honorable peace.

A Christian people, however, should not be too sensitive on the subject of honor, when principle is not involved; and a brave people should carry the olive branch of peace in one hand and the sword in the other. And, inasmuch, as Mr. Lincoln has recently announced that "any peace compromise shall not be rejected," if proposed by any of those controlling the army, I think it advisable that the President should instruct those having this power to open negotiations for peace; subject, however, to the supervision of the treaty-making power of the Government, or the decision of the people. When our armies are victorious, as they now are, propositions for peace, on the basis of our national independence, may be made and received, with the least prejudice to our interests and honor; but if it seems to me that those in power, cannot be entirely acquitted of permitting opportunities of this sort to pass by without proper improvement. Entertaining the opinion that the necessity alleged for the enactment of the Conscription laws—if, indeed, it ever existed, was the result of want of forecast on the part of those who managed public affairs, and regarding those laws of doubtful constitutionality and expediency, I could not have voted for them, if I had been in Congress. But I do not propose their repeal, and advise a prompt and cheerful acquiescence in their requirements, for reasons which must be apparent to all. Should the war continue much longer, it will be necessary to modify, if not entirely abolish the Exemption acts.

Neither the Tithe, the Funding, nor the Impressment laws are necessary, in my opinion, in any other sense than as the result of improvident legislation. The "tax in kind" portion of the Tithe law, should be modified as to operate more particularly on those products, not necessary to the support of animal life upon the farmer. The surplus should be taken; those who have none, should not be forced to give what they cannot spare; while those who have, should give it all, if necessary. Let the currency be placed upon a secure footing and the Tithe laws will be no longer necessary.

If the Impressment law is not repealed, it will be necessary to provide, with more certainty, that the provision of the Constitution which declares, that "private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation," shall not be violated. It admits of a grave doubt, whether property can be taken for consumption, under a Constitution which limits its taking to the "use" of that property.

The power of Congress to suspend the privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus, is limited, but I cannot agree to its exercise—the privilege of the writ is too invaluable to freemen. Much less would I clothe the President with this power. The personal liberty of the people should not be in the keeping of any one man, however pure or exalted. Mr. Jefferson was in favor of "the eternal and unmitigated force of habeas corpus laws," and history has not yet proven that he was wrong. Let us take care, how we part with liberty in order to obtain more; in that way we may, some day, lose what we have. "All political power is vested in, and derived from the people only," and their right to the freedom of speech, and to a free Press; to keep and to bear arms; to assemble together to consult for their common good; and not to be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law—all these and more, are constitutional rights, "formidable to tyrants only," to which I turn with almost idolatrous devotion—nor can they be suspended

or abolished by a free people, or their representatives.

There are those—I hope they are few—who desire a strong government—who advocate the coming of our "Legislative, Executive and Courts of Justice—the overruling of all other laws by Military law—the concentration of the whole force of the people in the hands of a military Chief, and the reduction of the army as near as possible, to a perfect machine—in a word, they want a Dictator, and would obtain a Military despotism. Whether in or out of Congress, such views shall receive no aid or comfort from me. Military law should, and does apply to the army only. Civil law controls civilians, and soldiers also; but Martial law, which means the abolition of all civil laws, cannot exist in the Confederacy. Let the laws, Civil and Military, be enforced within their respective spheres, and their majesty vindicated against all offenders, whether of citizens or soldiers; especially let us see to it, that republican liberty suffer no detriment.

The habit of legislating in secret, is incompatible with that strict accountability, of the representative to his constituents, which is of the very essence of free government; and nothing but the most inexorable necessity, affecting the very salvation of the country, can justify its continuance.

The organization of the Confederate Government should be completed, as soon as possible, by the institution, upon a proper basis, of a Supreme Court. This, in my opinion, has been too long delayed. Until it is done, no complaint should be made that the State governments interpret the laws for themselves.

The wages of the soldier are utterly inadequate to his own wants, and those of his family, especially in these times of speculation and extortion, and I am in favor of their increase; but could the currency be reduced, and the necessities of life increased, this would not be so necessary. Speculation and extortion, also, would in a great measure abate.

The rights of the States should be guarded with untiring vigilance, while the powers delegated to the Confederate government should be duly observed. Hence I demand for the Legislative, Judicial and Executive decisions of North Carolina, full faith, credit and respect; and regarding her soldiers, in the field equally brave and patriotic with any in the world; and her people, at home, both patriotic and competent, I insist that they be appointed to fill the offices within the State.

The Administration of the Government shall receive from me, if elected, all proper and due assistance, and I shall not fail to urge all needed reforms, and hold the administration up to the condemnation of the people should it, in my opinion, deserve it. To the Army, I shall give every constitutional encouragement, comfort and succor—to the people every possible protection in their ancient liberties, if assailed; and I shall use all lawful and honorable efforts to bring about the halcyon days and heavenly blessings of peace with independence.

Indulging the hope that some one would become a candidate who would fully represent these views, and feeling an almost insuperable diffidence to undertake even the partial management of the interests at stake, in these appalling times of strife and carnage, I have too long delayed becoming a candidate to canvass the whole district. A partial canvass even if desirable, may be prevented by professional duties and obligations. Under these disadvantageous circumstances, I must appeal to those who endorse these views to see to it that they are as widely disseminated as possible, both at home and in the army.

Election at home vote on the 4th of November, in the army on the 29th of October, making returns within 20 days.

Most Respectfully,
JAMES G. RAMSAY.

Oct. 16th, 1863.

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AND

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Richmond, Va., Sept., 1863. 25 22

BLANK REEDS

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE

For the Watchman.

SONG.

BY ANON.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

GREATER THAN TEN THOUSAND TAILORS, OR ANY QUANTITY OF COMMON YANKEES.

Tune—The Bogus March.

In Washington City there lives a great man,
And his name is Abraham Lincoln;
Now I'll tell you his story as straight as I can,
But you'll find it a strange one I'm thinking.
O Abraham Lincoln! Wonderful Abraham Lincoln!
There are men of renown
In each hamlet and town
But few men like great Abraham Lincoln!

This Abraham Lincoln, they say, when a boy,
Was an orphan most wonderful clever;
He lived up somewhere near the strange Illinois
And set fire one day to that river.
O Abraham Lincoln! marvellous Abraham Lincoln,
Nine tailors, they say
Make a man, but I pray,
Would ten thousand make Abraham Lincoln.

His daddy 'gan teach him all science and arts,
And his mammy the science of knitting;
But soon it was found that a boy of such parts
Could take well to no science but spitting.
O Abraham Lincoln! Rail-splitting Abraham Lincoln!
Fifty Yanks, it is said,
Would make one good Confed
Would a million make Abraham Lincoln!

So to spitting he goes, as his genius was bent,
And anon he outspits all creation;
Split this thing and that thing, wherever he went,
Till he split up the whole Yankee nation;
On the country he made an intrusion; split it all into
fins and confusion;
And he split, and he split,
Till he left not a bit
Of its infidel old constitution!

This Abraham Lincoln, they say, is a man
Of most singular aspect and figure
For he looks not like Ape nor like Orang Outang
Nor like baboon, gorilla, nor nigger,
But is made up of things not quite human
Neither Chimpanzee, gibbon or true man,
But is a mixture of each
Having powers of speech,
But still wanting in much that is due man!

His manners and mein, are quite singular too;
For sometimes he acts much like a monkey;
Like a possum he smiles; like an owl cries boo, boo!
When he laughs, or brays out like a donkey.
He bows at an angle of eighty
In walking tramps sturdily and weighty;
He's as grim as a ghost,
And as stiff as a post,
And as grim as a savage from Hayti.

O Abraham, Abraham, Abraham Lin!
On the future we beg your reflection;
And while there's yet time we beseech you to think
Of some matters which need your correction!
Lay aside all this fuss 'bout the niggers,
And stop all this pulling of triggers;
Send home your gun-boats, sir,
Wherever you loath, sir,
And then you'll not need our grave diggers.

*Should be sung in very quick time.
*Was elected by a minority.
*Rule, 1863, October 2nd 1863.

THE COMING ELECTION IN OHIO.

The election of Governor takes place in Ohio next Monday. It is not to be expected that a Government thoroughly regardless of law, and having at its disposal half a million of bayonets, and a thousand millions of money a year, will the election of a man it has already banished from the country. But it is not doubted by the supporters of Vallandigham, that a majority of the people of the State desire his election. The only important thing to be ascertained is whether, believing themselves to be a majority, they will quietly submit to be robbed of their franchises as citizens and their sovereignty as a State. Our own expectation is that they will, but there are some rather promising manifestations of spirit among the friends of Vallandigham. We shall soon know what they amount to. The Chicago Times, of Sept. 21st, gives the following special dispatch from Cincinnati:

Rich. Whig, 8th.

An immense Democratic mass meeting was held in Carthage to-day, to hear a great speech from Vorhees, of Indiana. To-night an equally great meeting was held in Fifth street market space, to hear a speech from Judge Bartley.

At Lebanon, yesterday, a Democratic procession was moving through the streets, Republicans were insolent and threw stones. The Democracy rallied, and one republican was shot dead. The excitement in Lebanon is very great, and further bloodshed is anticipated.

At Deerfield, to-day, a Republican named Trumb was shot dead by a Democrat named Lucas.

At Eaton, to-day, a very large meeting was held. One thousand ladies and gentlemen were on horseback. As a part of the procession was passing the depot, an indiscriminate attack was commenced by throwing stones into the procession. The democracy dismounted from their horses and out of their wagons and took after the crowd, which fled. A delegation from Camden were interrupted by the republicans of the place, running a wagon with a saw log on it across the road. The democracy undertook to move the same, and

a fight ensued, in which five or six republicans were shot, two mortally. Threats were made that the delegation should not return home by that road. The delegation have armed themselves, and will go that road or lay Camden in ashes. Further difficulties in that locality are looked for.

These troubles are brewing in various portions of the State, and so badly scared are the opposition that they will resort to extraordinary measures to carry the election. That they will import soldiers and voters into the State, there is no doubt; while inmates in hospitals, all of which are full, will be given liberty to vote.

One hundred Dead Rabbits, from the Five Points of New York, who passed through Cincinnati last night, were all arrested upon the arrival of the train at Lexington to-day, and placed in jail. They were destined for Danville, to work on the Knoxville Railroad. They acted outrageously in the cars and worse in Lexington. They were arrested in Lexington by order of the military. They kept the people in the cars awake all night, and stole every thing coming in their way.

SORGHUM SYRUP.

Just as we expected, many of the farmers are rating this article so high that the poor cannot buy it. We hear of some folks who are asking fully as much for it as Louisiana molasses sells for in Richmond! We had supposed our farmers could afford it at \$2 a gallon. We hear of it selling in Chatham at these figures, by the men of conscience, while those who have as little conscience as they have patriotism are asking \$8 per gallon, in the same neighborhood, and some \$4 and \$5. Farmers, listen to us: It is to your interest to sell your products at the lowest price possible, for on you hangs the destiny of this Southern Confederacy. You have the non-producing classes flat on their backs, and your feet upon their necks—will you crush them because you have the power! The tanner and shoemaker can alone cope with you—they can get your products, no matter how high you charge, and you can swap for them. So, too, can merchants. But for your Country's sake, if not for humanity's, pause and think how those who have everything to buy and nothing to sell are to get along. Remember that the soldier who is baring his bosom to the "harvest of death" to protect and defend you and your property, is not receiving a cent more than was allowed him when you sold your products ten times cheaper than you now ask. Why should your labor advance five or ten times higher, and that of the soldier remain at \$11 per month? Perhaps you reply, increase his pay! To do this, his pay must be increased in proportion to your advance, say \$100 a month; this would make money as abundant as the leaves in the forest, and about as little account. Besides you would then double and quadruple your present prices. The soldier's \$100 would then buy no more bread and meat for his family than his 11 dollars will now buy. It would do for you to plead as an excuse for your exorbitant prices that "Confederate money is no account." You fit when you put in this plea. If it is no account why take it at all! Why not say, pay me in brick-bats or leaves! Confederate money is deemed good enough to pay soldiers for catching balls, and pray, sir, why isn't it good enough for you! Every dollar of it is worth a dollar in pure gold or it is worth nothing at all. Mark that. If it be worthless, why do you take it? If it be worthless, why are you so anxious to get it all! We repeat, every dollar of it is worth a dollar, or it isn't worth a pinch of snuff. It is far preferable to the State Bank money, which you seem so anxious to get (pretending that you will take a great deal less for your products if paid in State money, but knowing this money cannot be had). We say it is preferable, we mean Confederate money stands on a more solvent basis. Why! Because all that the State Banks are worth is pledged for this Confederate money. And don't you see the States Bank money must prove worthless BEFORE Confederate money is "no account." If Confederate money falls it will fall upon the ruins of the State Banks and the whole Confederacy. But we tell you, farmers, mechanics, merchants, extortioners and speculators, that mad ambition sometimes overleaps itself, and your ambition to make money out of this war by exorbitant charges may prove your ruin—in this way! We will suppose that our gallant troops, in spite of your high charges and the enemy's balls conquer the Yankees—these troops returning home and finding you rich and themselves poor—finding an enormous debt saddled on the Country by your high charges and rapacity—finding that while they have been made poor you have grown rich—they will go for Repu-

liation, as well to save themselves as to spite you. And the men out of the army, who you are now bleeding at every pore, will freely join them, if indeed, they do not take the lead. This is the danger that threatens Confederate money—you carry the danger in your own hands. And that danger is extortion. As wise men, then, we conjure you to pause and think. But we have digressed.—Milton Chronicle.

SOUTHERN GREEK FIRE.

Capt. Travis, of Mobile, whose celebrity in the manufacture and use of fire-arms is daily increasing, invented a modern Greek Fire which will prove invaluable to the Confederacy in the conduct of this war. Two experiments recently tried near Mobile were crowned with success. A correspondent of the Register says:

On Tuesday evening last, near the Bay Road, in the suburbs of this city, in the presence of several scientific professors, ordnance and artillery officers, Col. Miller, commanding this Volunteer and Conscrip Bureau, other officers of the army and navy, a score of ladies and at least one representative of the press, Capt. Travis made two distinct experiments of his fire or composition, using on each occasion less than half a pint of the preparation—a fluid. Both were eminently successful, eliciting universal commendation. Instantaneously on being exposed to the air the fluid became a blaze of fire with heat intense, resembling that of a liquid metal in the smelting process. A pile of green wood into which it was thrown ignited immediately like tinder. Without delay, within ten seconds, a number of buckets full of water were thrown upon the flames—a dense volume of smoke ascended, the hissing and singing sound of a quenched fire was heard, the burning fluid licked up the water, destroying its oxygen, a fuel seemingly added to the flame, and the wood cracked and the flames arose again defiantly unquenchable. On the occasion of these experiments, "Travis' Greek Fire" burned for something over a quarter of an hour in full vigor and force. Its heat is intense, and it flies at once into the body of the substance it touches.

TAX IN KIND—IMPORTANT.—In a recent letter from the commissioner of taxes at Richmond, an important rule is laid down for the guidance of collectors and producers. By section XI of the Tax Act each farmer and planter of the Confederate States is required to pay one-tenth of the products enumerated therein, save certain reservations to the Government. This tax is imposed on all, whether gathered or not, except hay and fodder, which must be cured, and peas, beans and ground-peas, which must first be gathered. It, therefore, follows that if a farmer gather none of the latter, but turns his hogs into the field, and the crop is consumed in that way, then, as none has been gathered, there will be no tax. So, then, the tithe is only required upon the hog and fodder cured, and the peas, beans & ground peas gathered—these are all the exceptions. If a man turns hogs on his potatoes, corn, etc., he must save enough of each to pay the tithe on the whole. This is the law, and it is by that that we must all be governed. By section XII the farmer, planter or grazier is required to pay one-tenth of his pork—that is, of all the hogs slaughtered, reckoning sixty pounds of bacon from one hundred pounds of pork. There is no deduction to be made. No inquiry, as to how the hogs were fattened, whether by corn from the crib, corn in the field, or peas, ground peas and potatoes fed in the field, it is all the same.

Col. Guardian.

Mr. E. W. Smith, a young man of ingenuity and industry, has put up on Rock River, near Lowndesville, S. C., two power looms, a machine for resetting cotton cards, and also a machine for picking holes through leather for cards, all of which are his own invention. His two looms weave sixty yards of nice cloth per day—his little daughter attends one of the looms. He has reset over 2,000 pairs of cards this year, at prices ranging from fifty to seventy-five cents.

"Soldiers must be fearfully dishonest," says Mr. Partington, "as it seems to be a nightly occurrence for a sentry to be relieved of his watch."