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Following the unanimity and cordiality with which the act of secession on the part of North Carolina, came the election of Representatives to the Confederate Congress at Richmond...

George Davis, W. W. Avery, W. N. H. Smith, Thos. Ruffin, J. M. Moreland, T. D. McDowell, R. C. Puryear, A. W. Venable, A. T. Davidson, Burton Craige.

Making an equal number of each from the old political organizations—that no voice of party might utter a complaint. Such was the effect produced by the previous and continuing absence of party...

It is true intervals of discussion occurred, and the Standard is not free from responsibility for the violent party spirit that thereafter engendered, but in November, 1862, recurring to this "era of good feeling," and animated by a honorable and just sense of merit, the legislature in session by an unanimous vote, accorded its unqualified confidence to President Davis and Governor Vance...

The presence of the invader—his ruthless warfare—his unscrupulous strategy, and his diabolical purpose, invite the junction of all our energies, and the union of all our force. The glorious example of our troops—their heroic endurance, their unflinching submission to danger and toil, their bold and patriotic enlistment—all appeal against dissension and division. Let the croaker stand abashed in the presence of this unflinching fidelity. Let the weak-kneed borrow mantle and sword, and stand firm on the leanings of this manly display of fortitude and strength. Let the keen critic, on his fat buttocks, sit down before this outburst of sublime inspiration—the extemporizer let go his hold in the face of this wealth of patriotic virtue. Let him who writes words only in consoling, and dependence, and acquiescence, and failure, dip his pen in this ocean of true patriotism and language of living light, clothing sentiments of hope, encouragement, applause, and success with flash from its point; his heart will be improved; his nature elevated; his country benefited, and the brave soldier doubly rewarded, in the triumph of his virtue at home and victory upon the field.

Then North Carolina will be re-established in her own good opinion and in the esteem of her sisters. No voice of suspicion will dare assail her. Her record will speak in her behalf, and the nations will say AMEN!

We return thanks to a correspondent for furnishing us with an account of the recent brilliant affair at Southfield, Va.; but having published full particulars of it already, there is no necessity for a repetition of them. We will be pleased to hear from our friend whenever he has anything to communicate. An unfinished note in his letter indicates that he intended sending many more. There was none in it when it reached our hands.

The Route Agent on the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, who had charge of the mails on Tuesday last, on which day the Confederates did not reach us, subscribers, inform us that the entire mail from our office returned from Richmond, the next day; and it must have been placed in a bag labeled "Richmond," and thus sent from the Post Office here. We know mistakes are liable to happen in the best regulated establishments; and while we are willing to make all due allowances, we hope all the Post Office employees will try and prevent such annoying errors in future.

THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND.—We are indebted to the Presbyterian Committee of Publication, Richmond, Va., for a file of this interesting little publication for the juveniles of the country. It is especially designed for circulation in Sabbath Schools. It is most admirably adapted to the little ones—both instructive and entertaining, and free from sectarianism, so far as we have been able to discover. Terms—20 copies of each monthly issue sent for a year to one address, 40 cents a copy. To all others, 50 cents a year per copy. Address—Children's Friend, Box 107, Richmond, Va.

THE CAVALRY IN MISSISSIPPI has been divided into two parts; all north of Grenada and West Tennessee is under command of Major General Forrest; all south of an imaginary line running through Grenada east and west and in Louisiana, is under command of Major General S. D. Lee. General Forrest's headquarters will be at Cairo, in Panola county, and General Lee's at Jackson.

OUR PRESIDENT'S HOME.—The home of President Davis and his brother Joe, in Mississippi, is now in the hands of the Yankees. They have converted it, say their papers, into a negro camp. The estate was once highly improved, but it is now in mournful ruin. But our President has a home in the hearts of his countrymen that will never be destroyed even by the ravages of time.

The Standard of the 2nd inst., substitutes for an ordinary editorial, a Dialogue between two imaginary persons whom it pleased to style "Conservative" and "Destructive." As perhaps hereafter the Standard intends to editorial or trial of its sentiments from its editorial to these dialogues, it is well to bestow notice upon them. "Conservative" is undertaking to explain to "Destructive" how the Convention proposed is innocent in its objects, and may be useful in its results, and to this end he sets out with the assurance that it is wanted "mainly for the purpose of taking steps to obtain peace" by negotiating, along with the other States, or joining the common Government in negotiation. Unfortunately for "Conservative," no other State consents to join it in the movement. So far as the voice of the other States are heard through their press and public men, they are wholly opposed to such State action. The common Government does not need the aid of a State Convention, because by the Constitution it already has inserted in it the power of negotiation—not in association with the States, but separately and above them—and a far suggestion of terms is concerned, the Government can more readily attain the views of each State through its public presses and representatives in Congress. Besides, the President has made three efforts to negotiate: one by sending two Commissioners; one through an eminent officer whom he sent into the enemy's lines after the battle of Manassas, and the third through Mr. Stephens—all of which efforts were received with contempt by our foes. And since then, the Lincoln Government has not only given no evidence that it would receive a proposition to negotiate, but both its President and Congress have repudiated and declared that they would hear nothing short of unconditional submission. All this "Conservative" knows to be true. Unless, then, he is prepared to submit to Federal rule—relinquish independence, and receive the yoke—his Convention steps towards peace will result in a dead hilt.

But "Conservative" does not pretend that separation and independence are the only terms he would receive. By necessary implication he admits there is something short of this that he would accept—the very best that we can get—something less good than we could have gotten "twelve months ago." Now, anything, no matter what, short of separation and independence, involves the destruction of the Confederate Government, and either reconstruction or subjugation. Seeing, then, that the Standard and "Conservative" are twin brothers, united by a chord, when the Standard is willing to take terms, how ever good—the very best short of separation and independence—the Standard commits itself to one or the other alternative of reconstruction or subjugation. When to this is added the further opinion of "Conservative," that the proposed Convention is to be a "sovereign power" to protect the State against the encroachments of its own agent; and the offer of the Standard having already announced that the "people in their sovereign capacity are about to take their affairs into their own hands" and if any law or authority of the Confederate Government stands in the way, "to break it like a pipe-stem"—that the time has arrived "to check the usurpations of the Government," and that North Carolina will only remain true "so long as she remains in the Confederacy," and when she goes out that the "key-stone will fall and the arch tumble," when to this is added, that the Convention is to assert that "the suspension of the habeas corpus would silence our Judges"—we cannot submit to it, or "you have destroyed our militia system," and you now propose to conscript all our males from 16 to 50—we cannot submit to that.

When to this it is added, that the enemy detests from the Standard's writings, that it bears hostility to the Confederacy and is seeking to break it up—and so publishes: When to this it is added, that its associates, newly elected to Congress, write that "forbearance towards our Government is no longer a virtue"—that it is a despotism to be resisted, and the time is come, and convention is the mode; and these writings are sent to the Standard for publication, and they are published with editorial eulogy of the writers: When to this it is added, that all the meetings assailed the Government in like terms as a tyrant and despot—and urge resistance by the exercise of State sovereignty, and in no single instance, by resolution or speaker, is any aid to the Government offered or hinted at: When to this it is added, that deserters—then known to be traitors and disloyal—such as Chas. J. Foster, now in Newbern practicing law, who has a professional card referring to his qualifications to the editor of the Standard; when all hail the Standard as their organ and exponent:

When to this it is added, the dread and apprehension in which the Standard and its associates are held by good and loyal papers and good and loyal men in this State and in all the Confederacy:—

When all this is summed up—with the addition that "Conservative" and the Standard, no longer twins, but now blended into one and the same being—propose to take "steps" to peace on the terms "the very best they can get"—worse "than twelve months ago," perhaps better than twelve months hence.—What can the Standard expect but that we, and all reasonable men, should reach the conclusion that it and its Convention mean separation from the Confederacy, and the performance of the hard work to save slavery on any terms—or in other words, re-union, if possible, with the enemy.

It is in vain for the Standard to cry persecution. We do not assail it socially, and do not mean to. We condemn threats of personal violence—and in doing so, we are obliged to condemn the Standard, who but the other day threatened some citizen with a mob of its

indignant friends. We support the law. At present its arm is withheld. We trust it need not descend on any one. We shall never invoke it but in behalf of the public safety. As there is no reason for the Standard's cry of persecution, so there is no justice in it. In the course of an editorial life of twenty years, the Standard has alike assailed and applauded every man of political fame in North Carolina. It has not hurled its blows against an adversary with mildness; few partizan papers surpassed it in ferocity;—the only sole it can take when it reflects upon its assaults on the good and upright of the State is, that if for party purposes it has assailed one to-day, a change of its position has enabled it to applaud him to-morrow. We do the Standard the justice to believe that its heart was no more in one case than in the other—the pen in both instances speaking only the voice of the politician. But the Standard is estopped from crying persecution, by the practice of it for twenty years, on every political man and every political party.

Bright and Brightening. While dissatisfied and disloyal men at home—men who have not struck a blow at the enemy during the war, but having the opportunity have avoided it, and taken to the wagons—men who have not suffered an exposure—have not felt a want, but have been all the while snugly fixed, out of danger, and are grown fat and sleek—while this class of men are and have been grumbling, complaining and abusing—while they have exerted to their utmost all their powers to discontent and dissatisfy the soldier, and thus open to the enemy the pathway to the vital of our land—while these baneful persons have been desiring the actual disbandment of the army, and its reorganization in the spring, the soldier himself, inspired by the noblest emotions, and anticipating the necessities of the nation, has repelled the base suggestion—got behind me, Satan!—and with enthusiasm eukindled and spreading, has re-enlisted for the war—spontaneously and voluntarily has devoted himself anew to the cause and to the independence of his country. They come, these men of chivalrous patriotism, by Brigades and Regiments—whenever they are called; as a flash of hope and full of purpose as when the war first roused in the land. All hail, these joyful men! Sink lower and grovel deeper in the dust, ye traitor submitters, who would have involved the soldier to discontent, and urged him to an abandonment of the country at its most needy hour. Braiden as ye may put your front upon it, ye are marked—and by no brand more intensified than that which the soldier is now putting upon your conduct.

The faithful laborer in the good work rejoices. In the armies of Generals Lee, Longstreet, Johnston, Beauregard—all along the line—the true heroes of the war are renewing their vows of devotion. Float the banners—all the drum—The country calls—they come—they come.

The Alexandria. As we predicted last fall in the Congressional canvass, the Courts of the higher judiciary of England have sustained the decision of the Lord Chief Baron, in the case of the Alexandria, and this long detained vessel now goes free; and the New York Chamber of Commerce may howl again over another pirate turned loose upon the seas. The Emperor of the French too, has sent down to Calais, to let go the Rappahannock—and thus two bull dogs are un-muzzled upon the Yankee curs. This decision virtually decides the case of the iron-clads, and these must come out too, unless Earl Russell should determine in his obstinacy to the Seward to hold on to them, and apply to Parliament for an amendment to the foreign enlistment act. We are not sure that this is not the more desirable course for us. There is scarce an act on the statute book of England more obnoxious than this same act, which are occasions of wars between foreign countries, interfering with many occupations and militating so many important interests. The heavy damage too, to be now exacted from the Government for the detention of the Alexandria, will not, adding that practical and economical people, add to the popularity of an act of Parliament, which thus doubly pinches their pockets. We are satisfied from our own observation, that no amendment to increase the stringency of this law can possibly pass the House of Commons; and if Earl Russell and the Ministry put themselves on this plea before the Parliament, they are quashed beyond redemption.

With all Englishmen who love the honor and dignity of their Government and value their national interests, this ought to be a "con-summation most devoutly to be wished"—while to our cause, it would be the precursor of Recognition. Let no man talk of what we have lost, says the Constitutionalist. Let all men think and speak of what is not lost. By setting a proper value on what remains, we can intensify its capacity a hundred fold. All admit that we are fighting a colossal power under great disadvantages, but the very moral of the war is conch'd in this grand fact. If, flushed with resources, we could conquer and crush our insolent foe, it might not prove a Providential result. If we baffle them it will be the best discomfiture that American tyranny can receive. And, beyond doubt, we can utterly thwart their schemes of sensual aggrandizement and triumphantly secure our independence. The work is nearer completed than we know. Nevertheless, the great sacrifice—the final offering of property, ease, luxury, manhood—is now sternly asked at our hands. If we meet the demands, then 1864 will probably be our year of jubilee.

We call attention to the article in this paper from the London Times. It is indeed a ray sunshine, and should inspire every man, woman and child with confidence in our success. "None but a chronic grumbler will croak over misfortune, which, without vitally damaging our resources, have developed our virtues, and made our people a bright and shining light to the nations of the world."

It is but natural and just to suppose that the President of the Confederate States, and his Cabinet, before recommending to Congress the measures necessary for the defence of the nation and the proper means for carrying those measures into effect, have taken the best and wisest counsel that they could procure. Their individual interests are identified with the Confederacy. Its success will be their glory; its downfall their destruction. We may take it for granted then, that the Military Bill prepared upon this joint recommendation, embodied the opinion of the highest, the ablest and the most competent minds in the army. That, that great officer, General Lee, and those other co-workers in ability and patriotism—Generals Johnston, Beauregard, Polk, Longstreet and others, have all been consulted, and that the plan of strengthening the army and establishing the system of defence has been matured under their advice. We wish now to put a plain question of common sense:—which is the more likely to know the necessities of the country, those who are daily studying these necessities—who have opportunities for more full and better information—or, the people who remain at home—editors, speculators, principals of substitutes, critics who never fight, but descend on how other people ought to do it?

As a matter of plain reason there can be no doubt upon the question. Surely, they who lead the armies, who have daily reports of the number of their men and the effective strength of their commands, who who reconnoitre the enemy, learn his strength, find out his plans, and come to the possession of his method of putting them in execution, surely, with all these opportunities, they know far better than we here at home, what force is necessary to meet the preparations of the foe. Another question is, which is the more interested to decide these matters rightly? In one sense, we are all equally interested—for success ensures the independence of all—gives us a specific peace, and bestows upon us the blessings of liberty. In another sense, they, our military commanders and soldiers, have a deeper interest than we have who are not actually in the field. They are immediately in the face of the peril they suffer the rigors, endure the privations and fight the battles of the war—they make no profits and they receive no gains. The pride of victory is their reward; the humiliation of defeat at their punishment; the ultimate hope, the gratitude of a liberated people. Besides, the main body of the critics at home are not disinterested. If the ranks are filled up, it must be by incorporating themselves—and thus they are averse to it. On the conscript age is extended, many must exchange the comforts of home for duty in the field. Principals, who have been already handsomely requited, must meet the necessity and furnish arms. There is no longer choice, that these eminent men who advise the passage of a strong Military Bill, will hazard other interests for the sake of numerical force in the army. They understand the necessity of leaving farmers to till the soil and provide the necessary food; mechanics to carry on the trades necessary to the comfort of army and people; what State officers are needed for the performance of public duties; and there is not the slightest danger that the public interest will be sacrificed in any one of these particulars. On the contrary, by entrusting the head of the Government with the power of detail, and for limited times, many vexatious questions will be avoided—the "chief" will be relieved from the "wheel," and while useful men at home will be left in their avocations for the public benefit, the usefulness will be put in camp. The fathers who have sons in the field; the wives who have husbands, all who have relations and friends, are deeply interested to aid in sending all to share the perils and strengthen in battle the hands of their dear ones who have all along been required to fight against too heavy odds.

The soldiers need help. They cheer it. As their friend we call for it in their behalf. Let no one believe of those who is not more useful here. The soldiers will appreciate this legislation. Congress will earn the everlasting gratitude of the soldier, if it legislates to increase the number of our troops as much as possible. And the parents, and families, and kindred, and friends of the soldier will rejoice at the act. No one is the soldier's friend who throws obstacles in the way of this necessary and just legislation. We will recur to this subject again.

CORRECTION.—In our article on "The Alexandria" yesterday, an awkward typographical blunder occurred. The sentence commencing "There is scarce an act on the statute book of England more obnoxious than this same act, which are occasions of wars between foreign countries interfering with many occupations and militating so many important interests." The error occurred in the failure to properly correct the proof sheet.

We regret to learn that Mr. Lewis H. Padgett, of Beaufort County, who has been serving the people of Beaufort and Hyde as volunteer mail agent, conveying papers, letters, supplies, &c., to and from the soldiers and their families, has been taken from his useful and benevolent work and ordered into camp. Mr. Padgett was in the service for some time, until seriously wounded. After his recovery he devoted himself to the business referred to, carrying papers and frequently five to six hundred letters per week. His absence will be seriously felt, for without some mail line of the kind it will be impossible for the people of Beaufort, Hyde, and the lower part of Martin to communicate with their relatives in the army, or send them supplies. We concur with the Spirit of the Age that it is a hard case, and nothing would gratify the people of the Counties referred to more than to have Mr. Padgett detailed to resume his former work.

Our Recent Successes. In the interval between the projection of campaigns and the putting of them in execution—when general advances of the opposing armies are forbidden by the condition of the roads and the state of the weather—our various commands have not rested idly in winter quarters. We have the pleasure of chronicling various important and brilliant successes, showing the metal of our soldiers and the skill of their commanders. Gen. Longstreet has effectually pushed the enemy back into Knoxville and closed him in there with his hospitals crowded with small pox, dependent on long lines of transportation for his supplies; while our troops are in possession of the rich valley around Russellville extending towards the Cumberland Gap. That veteran and indefatigable officer, Gen. Early, is doing industrious service in the valley, having captured, by the Yankee accounts, 500 or 600 prisoners, horses, cattle, and supplies. Gen. Rosser, of the cavalry, has just taken ninety-three wagons loaded with commissary stores, and sent in fifty of them, with seventy prisoners, twelve hundred cattle and fifty hundred sheep. The reconnaissance towards Newbern, was successful in capturing three hundred or more prisoners, in killing and wounding over a hundred of the enemy, in destroying a powerful gunboat, in breaking up the Railroad between Newbern and Morehead city, and in securing valuable supplies. Col. Jordan's command of the North Carolina Militia, under Capt. Sturdivant, has met one of those awful gambouls, in fair fight, and totally destroyed it; capturing a handsome string of Yankees, and solving the question of the vulnerability of these dreaded monsters. Altogether, these desultory movements are highly favorable indications—the harbinger, we firmly believe, of grander and more enduring successes.

The Confederate Loan. In close association with the good news of the decision of the English Court in favor of the release of the Alexandria and the Rappahannock, by order of the Emperor, is the rise of the Confederate Loan in the stock market of London. This stock had been heavily depressed by the fall of Vicksburg—the failure at Gettysburg, and the removal of our army back into Virginia. Charleston, too, was closely besieged, and it was scarce deemed possible that she could hold out, after the enemy got forth on Morris Island and brought to bear his immense force of iron clubs. But Beauregard has conducted the defence; Charleston is still free from pollution. Battered and beaten, the iron monitors have been hauled off, and England has heard their confession of disaster and defeat. There is a firm conviction in the European mind, that our independence will be achieved. That most sensible and sensitive member of our mercantile community—our confidence in our success, and respect of our honor. The Confederate loan at fifty dollars in gold, in the London market, is equal to one thousand dollars here; and thus is English capital most plainly expressing its faith in our power and our will to redress our national obligations. While narrow-minded money holders here are afraid to touch Confederate Bonds—people over three thousand miles hence—thoroughly versed as to our political and military status—make them a matter of duty, negotiating—paying for them in specie the value of one thousand dollars of our currency for a Bond of one hundred dollars. It is high time for our own people to learn wisdom; the day is not far distant when he will be a fortunate man who can fold up his Confederate Bonds—when the hoarder of flour, and corn, and pork, and bacon, will mourn and lament that he did not sell them for Confederate money and turn that money into Confederate securities. If Congress does not meditate the most wanton *felo de se*, it will hasten to catch up to the popular demand, and bring these times on.

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The Alexandria. As we predicted last fall in the Congressional canvass, the Courts of the higher judiciary of England have sustained the decision of the Lord Chief Baron, in the case of the Alexandria, and this long detained vessel now goes free; and the New York Chamber of Commerce may howl again over another pirate turned loose upon the seas. The Emperor of the French too, has sent down to Calais, to let go the Rappahannock—and thus two bull dogs are un-muzzled upon the Yankee curs. This decision virtually decides the case of the iron-clads, and these must come out too, unless Earl Russell should determine in his obstinacy to the Seward to hold on to them, and apply to Parliament for an amendment to the foreign enlistment act. We are not sure that this is not the more desirable course for us. There is scarce an act on the statute book of England more obnoxious than this same act, which are occasions of wars between foreign countries, interfering with many occupations and militating so many important interests. The heavy damage too, to be now exacted from the Government for the detention of the Alexandria, will not, adding that practical and economical people, add to the popularity of an act of Parliament, which thus doubly pinches their pockets. We are satisfied from our own observation, that no amendment to increase the stringency of this law can possibly pass the House of Commons; and if Earl Russell and the Ministry put themselves on this plea before the Parliament, they are quashed beyond redemption.

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With all Englishmen who love the honor and dignity of their Government and value their national interests, this ought to be a "con-summation most devoutly to be wished"—while to our cause, it would be the precursor of Recognition. Let no man talk of what we have lost, says the Constitutionalist. Let all men think and speak of what is not lost. By setting a proper value on what remains, we can intensify its capacity a hundred fold. All admit that we are fighting a colossal power under great disadvantages, but the very moral of the war is conch'd in this grand fact. If, flushed with resources, we could conquer and crush our insolent foe, it might not prove a Providential result. If we baffle them it will be the best discomfiture that American tyranny can receive. And, beyond doubt, we can utterly thwart their schemes of sensual aggrandizement and triumphantly secure our independence. The work is nearer completed than we know. Nevertheless, the great sacrifice—the final offering of property, ease, luxury, manhood—is now sternly asked at our hands. If we meet the demands, then 1864 will probably be our year of jubilee.

We call attention to the article in this paper from the London Times. It is indeed a ray sunshine, and should inspire every man, woman and child with confidence in our success. "None but a chronic grumbler will croak over misfortune, which, without vitally damaging our resources, have developed our virtues, and made our people a bright and shining light to the nations of the world."

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