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ROBINSON & SMITH,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

BENJN ROBINSON.....H. H. SMITH.

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THE CENTURY PLANT.

I had a brother once—a sailor lad was he,
And many a gorgeous gift he brought over the Eastern sea,
Passionate rubies, languid pearls, and a diamond,
Whose eye gleamed 'neath a lid of molten gold, like a star in a sunset sky;
Pink-cheeked shells with musical lips—blossoms without a name,
And a wonderful bird, whose brilliant wing lighted her cage like flame.

But rarer far than these, my brother brought to me,
From the last voyage he ever made across the trembling sea,
A beautiful broad-leaved Century Plant—a growing mystery,
The Genii of the East had found it in their bowers,
And prisoned the soul of a thousand blooms in its mighty, emerald towers,
And doomed it, as the Wandering Jew of the short-lived race of flowers.

In the garden's sunniest spot, where Summer's face is fair,
Yearly I throne the exile plant, with its sad and stately air;
Near it the roses bend and blush, the lilies their censers swing,
And over it flutters my wonderful bird on her strangely radiant wing;

But whether it shines, or whether it snows, whether in chamber or tower,
It answers my care with an added leaf—but never with a flower.
Sunshine and shadows may fall, seasons may come and go—
Spring may reopen the May-flower's grave, and kiss its pale cheeks into glow;

Or winter may frighten the timid leaves, with the white ghost of the snow;
Whether the clouds are alive with light, or black with a coming doom,
Whether the sky-lark searches for morn, or hides from the evening's gloom,
The spell-bound heart of the Century Plant never bursts into bloom!

Hearts and faces will change, and the warmest love grow cold,
Before its silent and mournful lips open in blossoms of gold;
The interpreter of its life-long dream, these eyes will never behold.
Glorious will be its awakening hour—yet, I cannot covet its fate;

Wearily and faint grows the traveler, if he lingereth long at the gate,
And the hardest lesson a heart can learn, is to think of the future and wait!

"AND THEN."—The following story is told of St. Filippo Neri. He was living at one of the Italian universities, when a young gentleman whom he had known as a boy, ran up to him with a face full of delight, and told him what he had long been wishing above all things in the world was at length fulfilled, his parents having given him leave to study the law, and thereupon he had come to the law school in this university on account of its great fame, and meant to spare no pains or labor in getting through his studies as quickly and as well as possible. In this way he ran on a long time, and when at last he came to a stop, the holy man, who had been listening to him with the greatest patience and kindness, said:

"Well, and when you have got through your course of studies, what do you mean to do then?"

"Then I shall take my doctor's degree," answered the young man.

"And then?" repeated the holy man.

"And then," replied the youth, "why then I shall be promoted to some high office or other; besides, I shall make money and grow rich."

"And then?" repeated St. Filippo Neri again.

"And then," pursued the young lawyer—"then I shall live comfortably and honorably in health and dignity, and shall be able to look forward quietly to a happy old age."

"And then?" asked the holy man.

"And then," said the youth—"and then—I shall die."

Here St. Filippo again lifted up his voice and said:

"Whereupon the young man made no answer, but cast down his head and went away.

This last "And then?" had pierced like a flash of lightning into his soul, and he could not get rid of it. Soon after he forsook the study of the law and gave himself up to the ministry, and spent the remainder of his days in godly works.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RECONSTRUCTION.

Mr. Fessenden in the Senate, and Mr. Stevens in the House of Representatives, on the 8th inst. presented the report of the Committee on Reconstruction.

It commences by stating the reasons for the conclusions to which they came on the subject submitted to them. They speak of the Confederate States at the close of the rebellion as being in utter exhaustion, without government, and say the President had no power except to execute the laws of the land as Chief Magistrate. The laws gave him no authority over the subject of reorganization. By the Constitution he was commander-in-chief of the army and navy. It was his duty under the laws of nations and the army and navy, to protect the property, and to protect the people against violence from any quarter until provision should be made for their government. He might, as President, assemble Congress and submit the whole matter to the law-making power, or he might continue military supervision and control until Congress should assemble on its regularly appointed day.

As to Governors appointed by the President, it could not be contended that they possessed or could exercise any but military authority. They had no power to organize civil governments nor to exercise any authority except that which inhered in their own persons, under their commissions. Neither had the President, as Commander-in-chief, any other than military power. But he was in exclusive possession of the military authority. It was for him to decide how far he would relax it, when and on what terms he would withdraw it. He might, perhaps, permit the people to assemble and to imitate local governments and to execute such local laws as they might choose to form not inconsistent with nor in opposition to the laws of the United States; and if satisfied they might safely be left to themselves, he might withdraw the military force altogether, and leave the people of any or all of these States to govern themselves without his interference.

The committee, after speaking of the origin and leading incidents of the war, say it was waged as a civil war of gigantic magnitude. It was necessarily subject to all the rules which, by the laws of nations, control a contest of that character, and to all the legitimate consequences following it. One of the consequences was this: Within the limits prescribed by humanity, the conquered rebels were at the mercy of their conquerors.

The committee did not deem it necessary or proper to discuss the question whether the late Confederate States are still States of the Union, or can ever be otherwise. Grant this profitless abstraction, about which so many words have been wasted; it by no means follows that the people of those States may not place themselves in a condition to abrogate powers and privileges incident to a State of the Union, and deprive themselves of all pretense of right to exercise their power and enjoy their privileges. The committee maintain that no portion of the people of the country, whether in a State or Territory, have the right, while remaining on its soil, to withdraw from or reject the authority of the United States. They say it is quite evident from all the facts, and indeed, from the whole mass of testimony submitted by the President, that in no instance was any regard paid to any other consideration than obtaining immediate admission to Congress, under the barren form of an election, in which no precautions were taken to secure regularity of proceedings, or the assent of the people. No constitution has been legally adopted, except, perhaps, in the State of Tennessee, and such elections as were held were without authority of law. The committee are accordingly forced to the conclusion that the States referred to have not placed themselves in a condition to claim representation in Congress, unless all the rules which have, since the foundation of the Government been deemed essential in such cases, shall be disregarded.

The committee then review at length the condition and feeling of the Southern people, saying among other things, the latter claim as a right the privilege of participating at once in the Government, which for four years they sought to overthrow, while their presses abound in abuse of the loyal States and efforts are made to perpetuate the deadly hate and discord between the two sections, and excite hostility against the Federal Union.

The report which is a long one, concludes as follows, which may be regarded as a summary of the whole case:

The evidence of an intense hostility to the Union, and an equally intense love of the late Confederacy, nurtured by the war, is decisive. While it appears that nearly all are willing to submit, at least for the time being, to Federal authority, it is equally clear that the ruling motive is a desire to obtain the advantages which will be derived from a representation in Congress. Officers of the Union army on duty, and Northern men who go South to engage in business, are generally detested and persecuted—Southern men who adhered to the Union are bitterly hated and relentlessly persecuted. In some localities prosecutions have been instituted in State courts against union officers for acts done in the line of official duty; and similar prosecutions are threatened elsewhere as soon as the United States troops are removed. All

such demonstrations show a state of feeling against which it is unmistakably necessary to guard.

The testimony is conclusive that, after the collapse of the Confederacy, the feeling of the people of the rebellious States was that of abject submission. Having appealed to the tribunal of arms, they had no hope except that by the magnanimity of their conquerors their lives, and possibly their property might be preserved. Unfortunately, the general issue of pardons to persons who had been prominent in the rebellion, and the feeling of kindness and conciliation manifested by the Executive, and very generally indicated through the Northern press, had the effect to render whole communities doubtful towards the Federal Government and regardless of their duties as citizens. The conciliatory measures of the Government do not seem to have been met even half way. The bitterness and defiance exhibited towards the United States under such circumstances is without a parallel in the history of the world. In return for our leniency we receive only an insulting denial of our authority. In return for our kind desire for the resumption of fraternal relations we receive only an insolent assumption of rights and privileges long since forfeited. The crime we have punished is paraded as a virtue, and the principles of republican government which we have vindicated at so terrible a cost, are denounced as unjust and oppressive.

If we add to this evidence the fact that, although peace has been declared by the President, he has not, to this day, deemed it safe to restore the writ of habeas corpus, to relieve the insurrectionary States of martial law, nor to withdraw the troops from many localities, and that the commanding general deems an increase of the army indispensable to the preservation of order and the protection of loyal and well-disposed people in the South, the proof of a condition of feeling hostile to the Union and dangerous to the Government through out the insurrectionary States would seem to be alarming.

We now propose to state as briefly as possible, the general facts and principles applicable to all the States lately in rebellion:

First. The seats of Senators and Representatives for the so-called Confederate States became vacant in the year 1861 during the second session of the 36th Congress, by the voluntary withdrawal of their incumbents, with the sanction and by the direction of the legislatures or conventions of their respective States. This was done as a hostile act against the Constitution and Government of the United States, with a declared intent to overthrow the same by forming Southern confederation. This act of declared hostility was speedily followed by an organization of the same States into a confederacy which lived and waged war, by sea and land, against the United States. This war continued more than four years, within which period the rebel armies besieged the National Capital, invaded the loyal States, burned their towns and cities, robbed their citizens, destroyed more than 250,000 loyal soldiers, and imposed an increased national burden of not less than \$3,500,000,000 of which seven or eight hundred millions have already been met and paid. From the time these Confederate States thus withdrew from their representation in Congress and levied war against the United States, the great mass of their people became and were insurgent—traitors—and all of them assumed and occupied the political, legal, and practical relation of enemies of the United States. This position is established by acts of Congress and judicial decisions, and is recognized repeatedly by the President in public proclamations, documents, and speeches.

Second. The States thus confederated prosecuted their war against the U. S. to final arbitrament, and did not cease until all their armies were captured, their military power destroyed, their civil officers, State and Confederate taken prisoners, and put to flight, every vestige of State and Confederate Government obliterated, their territory overrun and occupied by the Federal armies, and their people reduced to the condition of enemies conquered in war, entitled only by public law to such rights, privileges and conditions as might be vouchsafed by the conqueror. This position is also established by judicial decisions, and is recognized by the President in public proclamations, documents, and speeches.

Third. Having voluntarily deprived themselves of representation in Congress for the criminal purpose of destroying the Federal Union, and having reduced themselves by the act of levying war to the condition of public enemies, they have no right to complain of temporary exclusion from Congress; but on the contrary, having voluntarily renounced their right to representation, and disqualified themselves by crime from participating in the Government, the burden now rests upon them, before claiming to be reinstated in their former conditions, to show that they are qualified to resume Federal relations. In order to do this, they must prove that they have established, with the consent of the people, republican forms of government in harmony with the Constitution and laws of the U. S.; that all hostile purposes have ceased; and should give adequate guarantees against future treason and rebellion; which will prove satisfactory to the Government against

which they rebelled, and by whose arms they were subdued.

Fourth. Having by this treasonable withdrawal from Congress, and by flagrant rebellion and war, forfeited all civil and political rights and privileges under the Federal Constitution, they can only be restored thereto by the permission and authority of that constitutional power against which they rebelled and by which they were subdued.

Fifth. These rebellious enemies were conquered by the people of the United States, acting through all the co-ordinate branches of the Government, and not by the Executive Department alone. The powers of conqueror are not so vested in the hands of settlement and confer Congressional representation upon conquered rebels and traitors. Nor can he, in any way, qualify enemies of the Government to exercise its law-making power. The authority to restore rebels to political power in the Federal Government can be exercised only with the concurrence of all the departments in which political power is vested. And hence the several proclamations of the President to the people of the Confederate States cannot be considered as extending beyond the purposes declared, and can only be regarded as provisional permission by the Commander-in-Chief of the army to do certain acts, the validity whereof is to be determined by the Constitutional Government, and not solely by the Executive power.

Sixth. The question before Congress is, then, whether conquered enemies have the right, and shall be permitted, at their own pleasure and on their own terms, to participate in making laws for their conquerors; whether conquered rebels may change their theatre of operations from the battlefield, where they were defeated and overthrown, to the halls of Congress, and through their representatives seize the Government which they fought to destroy; whether the national treasury, the army of the nation, its navy, its forts and arsenals, its whole civil administration, its credit, its pensioners, the widows and orphans of those who perished in the war, the public honor, peace, and safety, shall all be turned over to the keeping of its recent enemies without delay, and without imposing such conditions as, in the opinion of Congress, the security of the country and its institutions may demand.

Seventh. The history of mankind exhibits no example of such madness and folly. The instinct of self preservation protests against it. The surrender of Grant to Lee, and by Sherman to Johnston, would have been disasters far less, for new armies could have been raised, new battles fought, and the Government saved. The anti-conqueror policy which, under the pretext of avoiding bloodshed, allowed the rebellion to take form and gather force, would be surpassed in infamy by the matchless wickedness that would now surrender the halls of Congress to those so recently in rebellion, until proper precautions shall have been taken to secure the national faith and national safety.

Eighth. It has been shown in this report, and in the evidence submitted, no proof has been afforded to Congress of a constituency in any of the so-called Confederate States, unless we except the State of Tennessee, qualified to elect Senators and Representatives in Congress. No State constitution or amendment to a State constitution has had the sanction of the people. All the so-called legislation of State conventions and Legislatures has been had under military dictation. If the President under his will and under his authority, whether as military commander or Chief Executive, qualify persons to appoint Senators and elect Representatives and empower others to appoint and elect them, he thereby practically controls the organization of the legislative department; the constitutional form of government is thereby practically destroyed and its powers absorbed in the Executive. And while your committee do not for a moment impute to the President any such design, but cheerfully concede to him the most patriotic motives, they cannot but look with alarm upon a precedent so fraught with danger to the Republic.

Ninth. The necessity of providing adequate safeguards for the future before restoring the insurrectionary States to a participation in the direction of public affairs is apparent from the bitter hostility to the Government and people of the U. S. yet existing throughout conquered territory, as proved incontestably by the testimony of many witnesses as also by undisputed facts.

Tenth. The conclusion of your committee, therefore, is that the so-called Confederate States are not at present entitled to representation in the Congress of the U. S.; that before allowing such representation, adequate security for future peace and safety should be required; that this can only be found in such changes of the organic law as shall determine the civil rights and privileges of the citizens in all parts of the Republic; shall have representation as an equitable basis; shall fix a stigma upon treason, and protect the loyal people against future claims for the expenses incurred in support of rebellion and for manumitted slaves, together with an express grant of power in Congress to enforce the provisions. To this end they offer a joint resolution for amending the Constitution of the U. S.,

and the two several bills designed to carry the same into effect, before referred to.

Before closing this report, your committee beg leave to state that the specific recommendations submitted to them are the results of concession, after a long and careful comparison of conflicting opinions. Upon a question of such magnitude, infinitely important as it is to the future of the Republic, it was not to be expected that all should think alike. Sensible of the imperfections of the scheme, your committee submit it to Congress as the best they could agree upon, in the hope that its imperfections may be cured, and its deficiencies supplied by legislative wisdom, and that when finally adopted, it may tend to restore peace and harmony to the country and to place our republican institutions on a more stable foundation.

JUSTIN S. MORRILL, W. P. FESSENDEN,
JNO. A. BINGHAM, JAS. W. GRIMES,
ROSCOE CONKLING, IRA HARRIS,
GEO. S. BOUTWELL, J. M. HOWARD,
G. H. WILLIAMS, THAD. STEVENS.

THE LADIES.—A Western girl gives it to the Louisville Courier in the following style:

If it shocks your sense of propriety to see our "pretty gaiters" and "lisle thread-hose," don't look higher so pertinaciously, to let your optics deceive you and accuse us so outrageously. Pull down your blue shades and be sure you don't peep out when high winds prevail. We did not dress our pedal extremities with immaculate hose and high-heeled boots for your dull eyes to squint at, nor for the crowd of loafers who stare us out of countenance and "out of gait" at the street corners. We dress to look neatly and feel comfortably, with a regard to prevailing modes, as every lady should. We dress to please, and feel sure we receive the just appreciation of all well-bred gentlemen, who make us feel our efforts are not "labor lost." We have heard enough about bonnets, "water falls" and "tilting hoops," and we think it high time to put it down; and, Mr. Editor of the Courier, will yet live to learn, as many have before, that an attempt to reform dress is futile, and we would recommend silence to you when again you think of occupying the questionable position of inspecting and recording what ladies don't wear under their ermine, or you will hear again from an enraged redresser of wrongs.

A MATTER OF FACT CORRESPONDENT.—Opinions vary. A friend of mine has been West, and has seen—not the elephant—but the Indian, and has also been chased by him. Commenting on this fact he writes me: "Much has been said by poets and romantic young ladies, about the picturesque aspect and the noble form of an untamed, untamable warrior of the prairie, and far be it from me to gainsay them.

"An Indian is a noble spectacle—in a picture, or at a safe distance—but when this noble spectacle, in company with a dozen other 'noble spectacles,' is moving his moccasins in your direction, and you have to do some tall walking in order to keep the capillary substance on the summit of your cranium, all his 'nobility' vanishes, and you see in him only a painted, greasy miscreant, who will, if given a chance, lift your hair with the same Christian spirit, composed and most serene, with which he would ask another 'spectacle' for 'a little more of that baked dog.' I used to think like the poets; now the sight of an Indian gives me a cramp in the stomach."

Neighbor Talkinton was about six feet and a half long, and was familiarly known as "Talkinton." His pedal extremities were so well developed that No. 13 boots were too limited for his understanding. He was compelled to furnish a special pair of lasts, and pay an extra price to protect his foundation from inclement weather. It took several liberal nips of long-range whiskey to put "life and metal in his heels," but one cold day opportunities being favorable, he succeeded in getting aboard an extra supply, and came home in the night cold and very badly fuddled. Mrs. T. and her son, a boy of five or six years, had retired for the night. She observed him enter the room and take a seat before the embers, and placing one heel on the other toe settle down to warm and take a quiet nap. After dozing some time he awoke chilly; the embers were completely hid from view, and seeing his feet mistook them for his little boy, when, with a majestic side-wave of his hand, he said, "Stand aside, my little son, and let your poor father warm himself!"

It is proposed by the admirers of Wm. Lloyd Garrison to present him fifty thousand dollars. Garrison is chiefly memorable as the author of the sentiment: "The Constitution of the United States is a covenant with death and an agreement with Hell."

An honest Logansport German got excited over an account of an elopement of a married woman, and exclaimed: "If my wife runs away mit anoder man's wife, I will shake him out of her 'tiltings und vaterfall,' if she be mine fader."

Believe it to be the last of all infamies to prefer your existence to your honor, or for the sake of life, to lose every inducement to live.

Be charitable to personal deformity. The most beautiful flowers spring from the most unsightly.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.—Upwards of 400 miles of the new Atlantic cable have been stowed on the Great Eastern. About 60 miles per day were stowed away, the work proceeding day and night. It is found that the Great Eastern will not be able to take all the necessary cable, 2,700 miles on board. The screw steamer Medway, consequently, has been chartered to take about 500 miles of the old cable from the Great Eastern.

Another steamer, the Albany, is also engaged to assist the enterprise, and the British government has again granted the services of the war steamer Terrible to accompany the expedition. Each of the three steamers is to be furnished with grappling apparatus, so that the old cable may be grappled at points a mile apart, to break the strain and give greater security. The Great Eastern will only partially coal at Sheerness owing to the great draft of water. She is expected to quit the harbor June 5th, and start a day or two after Bearhaven, Ireland, where she will complete coaling, and proceed to lay the cable.

LINOLEUM.—A substance is now manufacturing from flaxseed called linoleum. It is said that it will supercede india-rubber—which it very much resembles, and of which it possesses most of the properties—in the various manufactures in which it is used. Like india-rubber, it can be dissolved into a cement and used in the manufacture of water clothing. It can be used for the coating of iron or wood, or for coating ship bottoms. It is as common cement, having properties similar to the marine glue made from india-rubber and shellac. It is readily vulcanized by exposure to heat, and by this means becomes as hard as the hardest wood, and capable of fine polish. The variety of the uses to which it can be applied in this form will at once suggest themselves to the reader. Hitherto it has been made solely to produce floor cloth, for which it is well adapted. These facts will, doubtless, be interesting to the Canadian farmer, as in consequence of this new discovery, flax—for the culture of which the soil and climate of Canada are so well adapted—will probably become greatly enhanced in value.

Wendell Phillips's income is \$60,000! The Cleveland Plain Dealer remarks that it is true, but the statement should go with it, which will hardly be denied, that Phillips inherited his wealth from ancestors who accumulated immense fortunes by the manufacture of and traffic in New England rum, and by the African trade. For confirmation of the truth of this statement we appeal to Doctor Cheever, now of N. Y., who was horse-whipped in the streets of Salem, Mass., for writing the story about Deacon Giles' distillery, and to those now living who were in the employ of the Phillips while their vessels were in the trade of the west coast of Africa.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LADIES OF BALTIMORE.—In New Orleans they talk about the Confederate prisoners erecting a monument in each State South to the ladies of Baltimore, with such an inscription as this: "We were hungry and they gave us meat; we were thirsty and they gave us drink; we were strangers and they took us in; we were naked and they clothed us; we were in prison and they came unto us."

The New Bedford Mercury tells a story of a witty "Colonel B—," who, when on his death-bed and near his demise, assured his friends that he could not possibly survive many hours. "Nonsense! Colonel," encouragingly remarked one; "your feet are warm, and no one ever died until the extremities came cold." "Don't tell me that," squealed out the sufferer, "do you think John Roger's feet were cold just before he died?"

The Richmond Times tells of a woman who recently cured her husband of incipient intemperance by filling his brandy bottle with kerosene, of which he inadvertently swallowed a dose, which made him cavort around the room like an Indian at a war dance. He begged for relief, forgave the deception, and promised to abstain from liquor forevermore.

When Alexander the Great saw Diogenes in a cemetery, he asked him what he was doing there? "I am seeking," said the philosopher "for some of the bones of your ancestors among those of beggars; but everything here appears to me so confused and mingled together that I cannot distinguish them."

A story is told of an editor who, soon after beginning to learn the printing business, went to court a preacher's daughter. The next time the preacher appeared in the pulpit he announced as his text, "My daughter was grievously tormented by a devil."

A stout, but distinguished lady went to a fancy ball dressed as a shepherdess. Her mild husband, on seeing her thus attired, said, "Sarah, dear, you look like a shepherdess who has just dined on her flock."

"It" as the poet says, "beauty draws us with a single hair," then what—O! tell us what—must be the effect of a modern water-fall?

The London Punch says that Harper's Weekly looks more like an ulcerated than an illustrated journal.