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SEMI-WEEKLY REGISTER

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1864.

ADDRESS OF CONGRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

In closing the labors of the First Permanent Congress, your Representatives deem it a fit occasion to give some account of their stewardship; to review briefly what, under such circumstances and adverse surroundings, has been accomplished; to invite attention to the prospect before us; and to address such words of counsel and encouragement as the times demand.

Compelled by a long series of oppressive and tyrannical acts, culminating at last in the selection of a President and Vice-President by a party confessedly sectional and hostile to the South, the institutions of these States withdrew from the former Union and formed a new Confederate alliance, as an independent Government, based on the proper relations of labor and capital.—This step was taken reluctantly, by constraint, and after the exhaustion of every measure that was likely to secure us from interference with our property, partially in the Union, or exemption from the burdens which were being thrown upon us.

The course of the Federal Government has proved that it did not desire peace, and would not consent to it on any terms that would preserve the independence of the States, and that its policy was one of aggression, not of reconciliation. It was a policy of force, not of persuasion; and it was a policy of domination, not of partnership. It was a policy of conquest, not of compromise.

The mass of the Northern people were not pitted to, and sympathized in no such design.—They loved the Union and wished to preserve it. They were the people to support of the war, its object was proclaimed to be "a restoration of the Union," as if that which implied voluntary consent, of which agreement was an indispensable element and condition, could be procured by coercion.

These reasonable anticipations were doomed to disappointment. The red glare of battle, kindled at Sumter, dissipated all hopes of peace, and the two Governments were arrayed in hostility against each other. We charge the responsibility of this war upon the United States. They are accountable for the blood and treasure which have been poured out, for such a war was not prepared. The difference in military resources between our enemies and ourselves; the immense advantages possessed in the organized machinery of an established Government; a powerful navy; the nucleus of an army; credit abroad, and unlimited facilities in mechanical and manufacturing power, placed them on the "vantage ground."

The war in which we were engaged was wicked, and against all our protests, and the most earnest efforts to the contrary, forced upon us.—South Carolina sent a commission to Washington to adjust all questions of dispute between her and the United States. One of the first acts of the Provisional Government was to accredit agents to visit Washington, and use all honorable

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PETERSBURG, VA. TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1864. NO. 40.

means to obtain a satisfactory settlement of all questions of dispute with that Government.—Both efforts failed. Commissioners were deceived and rejected, and clandestine but vigorous preparations were made for war.

The wages of battle having been tendered, it was accepted. The slavery which our people believed and patriotically defended, was the object of the contest. It was not a matter of mere expediency, but of principle. It was not a matter of mere expediency, but of principle. It was not a matter of mere expediency, but of principle.

Our army is no hiring soldiery. It comes not from paupers, criminals or emigrants. It was originally raised by the free, unconstrained, and uncoerced consent of the men. All vexatious and oppressive measures have been abandoned. Abandoning luxuries and comforts to which they had been accustomed, they submitted cheerfully to the scanty fare and executive service of the camps.

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things can continue. The people of the United States, accustomed to freedom, cannot consent to be ruined and enslaved, in order to ruin and enslave us. Moral, like physical, epidemics, have their allotted periods, and must sooner or later be exhausted and disappear.

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1844, and the proffered mediation of Russia, the principle was maintained by the United States that "the emancipation of enemy's slaves is not among the acts of legitimate warfare."

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TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS

CIRCULAR FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

THE WRIT OF HABEASCORPUS

A BILL TO Suspend the Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus in certain cases.

Whereas, the Constitution of the Confederate States of America provides in Article I, Section 9, Paragraph 2, that "the writ of Habeas corpus shall not be suspended unless when in case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it; and whereas, the power of suspending the privilege of said writ, as recognized in said Article I, is vested solely in the Congress, which is the exclusive judge of the necessity of such suspension; and whereas, in the opinion of the Congress, the public safety requires the suspension of said writ in the existing case of the invasion of these States; and whereas, the President has asked for the suspension of the writ of Habeas corpus, and informed Congress of conditions of public danger which render the suspension of the writ a measure proper for the public defense against invasion and insurrection; now, therefore,

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That during the present invasion of the Confederate States, the privilege of the writ of Habeas corpus be, and the same is hereby, suspended; but such suspension shall apply only to the cases of persons arrested or detained by order of the President, Secretary of War, or the General Officer commanding the Trans-Mississippi Military Department, by the authority, and under the control of the President. It is hereby declared that the purpose of Congress in the passage of this act is to provide more effectually for the public safety by suspending the writ of Habeas corpus in the following cases:

- "I. Of treason, or treasonable efforts or combinations to subvert the government of the Confederate States.
- "II. Of conspiracies to overthrow the government, or conspiracies to resist the lawful authority of the Confederate States.
- "III. Of combining to assist the enemy or of communicating intelligence to the enemy, or giving him aid and comfort.
- "IV. Of conspiracies, preparations and attempts to invade, or to obstruct the operations of the military service, and of attempts to obstruct the operations of the military service, and of attempts to obstruct the operations of the military service.
- "V. Of desertions or encouraging desertions, or harboring deserters, and of attempts to obstruct the operations of the military service.
- "VI. Of persons advising or inciting others to abandon the Confederate cause, or to resist the Confederate States, or to adhere to the enemy.
- "VII. Of unlawfully burning, destroying, or injuring, or attempting to burn, destroy, or injure any bridge or railroad, or telegraphic line of communication, or property, with the intent of aiding the enemy.
- "VIII. Of treasonable designs to impair the military power of the Government by destroying, or attempting to destroy, the vessels or arms, munitions of war, or arsenals, foundries, workshops, or other property of the Confederate States.
- "IX. Of holding correspondence or intercourse with the enemy, without necessity, and without the permission of the Confederate States.
- "X. Of conspiracies, or attempts to liberate prisoners of war held by the Confederate States.
- "XI. Of conspiracies, or attempts or preparations to aid the enemy.
- "XII. Of persons advising or inciting others to abandon the Confederate cause, or to resist the Confederate States, or to adhere to the enemy.
- "XIII. Of unlawfully burning, destroying, or injuring, or attempting to burn, destroy, or injure any bridge or railroad, or telegraphic line of communication, or property, with the intent of aiding the enemy.
- "XIV. Of treasonable designs to impair the military power of the Government by destroying, or attempting to destroy, the vessels or arms, munitions of war, or arsenals, foundries, workshops, or other property of the Confederate States.

Sec. 2. That during the suspension aforesaid, no military or other officer shall be compelled, in any writ of Habeas corpus, to appear in person, or to return the body of any person or persons detained by him, by the authority of the President, Secretary of War, or the General Officer commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department; but upon the certificate, under oath of the officer having charge of any one so detained, that such person is detained by him as a prisoner for any of the causes herein before specified, under the authority aforesaid, further proceedings under the writ of Habeas corpus shall immediately cease and remain suspended so long as this act shall continue in force.

Sec. 3. That this act shall continue in force for ninety days after the next meeting of Congress, and no longer.

We hear that the President and Superintendent of the Southern Telegraph Association are causing the arrest of the operators in the various cities who have formed an association for self-protection, and that several have been sent to camps of instruction. Such a course was scarcely necessary, unless dictated by some of those gentlemen would rather be in the ranks, with muskets on their shoulders, than engaged in the performance of tasks in which they have experienced only injustice and a tolerable shade of tyranny.

The press and people are indubitably to these self-acting men for all they have received, even during the war, and our journal, at least, shall be one that will not forget its gratitude.—*Colonel's South Carolinian.*

NOTICE TO FARMERS AND PLANTERS.—I have a large lot of TENT CLOTH, suitable for making covers and for wagon covers, selling cheap. Also the highest cash price paid for cotton rags, cast and wrought iron, and other articles. Apply to JOHN P. AYER, at Feb 24th: No 30 Old street