

THE WILMINGTON POST.

W. P. CANADAY, Editor and Proprietor.

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OUR POLICY.

As a suitable and unanswerable reply to the "Too Much Niggerism" that so unhappily affects the Wilmington Journal, we offer our readers a very sensible article from the New Orleans Republican...

We can point out the ridiculousness of the Journal when it says "that all the assistance we render the negro, and the encouragement we extend him, to help his societies" are not only not appreciated, but are hurtful to both races...

It is worthy anything it is worth asking for, and we can see no objection to Mr. Blaine's proposed amendment. Men who have been guilty of treason and perjury, and who did all they could to destroy their government, should not think it unreasonable when they are obliged publicly to ask for pardon before they receive it...

Judging from the tone of the average Democratic newspaper of the South, one might be led to think that the North could never survive the withholding of the smiles of approbation of southern scribes, and that unless the said scribes should condescend, aid and assist their Yankee friends in their centennial celebration, that that grand affair would collapse...

That this country is fast drifting into another war is very evident, and it will require all of the generosity and statesmanship of our most patriotic and most able men to avert it. It is a most remarkable fact that since the assembling of Congress and the eruption of secession and rebellious sentiments, expressed in the House of Representatives by the Confederate Brigadiers there, that the tone of the southern chivalry has suddenly been changed from bad to worse, from grumbling and complaining to downright threatening...

was all that the honorable gentlemen could find to indulge in until last week when they opened out strong on "Amnesty," by which they propose to forgive everybody who participated in the war of the rebellion except the Union Generals who whipped them back into behaving themselves and the "one armed Yanks" who found positions in and about their end of the Capitol.

But one might naturally inquire what this great bluster about "amnesty" meant? Not even Jeff. Davis, by any Federal law, had been disfranchised nor deprived of liberty or property. No enactment had been passed affecting the rank and file of the soldiers of the Confederacy. Those who held important offices in the Confederacy were the only ones affected by the enactments of Congress, and even then it applied to only those who, having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress or as a member of any State Legislature, or an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, and who subsequently engaged in the rebellion, should not be eligible to be a member of Congress or to hold any office, either under the United States, or under any State, unless such disability be removed by a vote of two-thirds of each House of Congress...

Mr. Randall's amnesty bill provides a full pardon and the conferment of full citizenship upon every man who was engaged in the rebellion, and in no wise requires the subjects of it to even ask for its benefits. Mr. Blaine proposed to amend the great defects of Mr. Randall's bill by excluding Jeff. Davis from its benefits, and by requiring those who desired amnesty to ask for it, and by having an oath of allegiance subscribed and sworn to and recorded in a United States Court.

It is worthy anything it is worth asking for, and we can see no objection to Mr. Blaine's proposed amendment. Men who have been guilty of treason and perjury, and who did all they could to destroy their government, should not think it unreasonable when they are obliged publicly to ask for pardon before they receive it, nor to object to taking another oath of allegiance to the government which they tried to overthrow, and to voluntarily to destroy.

Judging from the tone of the average Democratic newspaper of the South, one might be led to think that the North could never survive the withholding of the smiles of approbation of southern scribes, and that unless the said scribes should condescend, aid and assist their Yankee friends in their centennial celebration, that that grand affair would collapse. And now a little 79 newspaper in Fayetteville, eliciting itself over the supposed re-ascendency of the Democratic party, says: "Reconciliation between north and south must be effected in order to the execution of the work laid out before the Democratic party. But while this is so, we desire that the sunny south make no compromise of the pride and independence so peculiarly characteristic of her—too far already, we verily believe, have our southern leaders extended their hands and hearts, too far have they opened their arms to receive their antagonists in time of war, too willing have they proved to forgive the injuries inflicted upon their names and country, too willing to shake hands across the bloody chasm. Altogether too far have they gone to maintain that respect for themselves that other countries, entertained for them, for what have they gained? Nothing but the ridicule and contempt of Yankee warriors and demagogues. We have been unable to see every occasion, our prominent leaders, men to whom the whole southern populace have pointed in the days of the pride and hope of the nation, have been refused admittance into assemblies that were sitting upon questions that embodied the welfare of their own immediate homes, and their voices hushed—thus proving conclusively that we are regarded as inferiors to be held in subordination to the powers who subjugated us in war. Therefore, let us manifest our independence by standing firmly on this side the middle ground of peace, and await the approach of our northern should be friends to effect a union as we had in ante-bellum days."

The south is to do no more extending of hands nor opening of arms—no more of shaking hands across the bloody chasm, but a new manifestation of independence by standing this side the middle ground of peace, and await the approach of our northern should be friends to effect a union as we had in ante-bellum days. And they threaten that unless Congress grants a universal amnesty to every unconstructed rebel, Jeff. Davis included, without their even having to ask for the boon, that they will discontinue any and every attempt to have the Centennial Exposition prove a success, and they they will even do all they can to defeat it.

And they threaten that unless Congress grants a universal amnesty to every unconstructed rebel, Jeff. Davis included, without their even having to ask for the boon, that they will discontinue any and every attempt to have the Centennial Exposition prove a success, and they they will even do all they can to defeat it.

Patriotism is a good thing, and very essential to the life of the nation, but these so-called Democrats don't know the meaning of that sacred word. The Centennial Exposition will go on, whether the rebels like it or not; Jeff. Davis will not be amnestied worth a cent, and the Union must and shall be preserved.

The system under which this gentleman has been endeavoring, with commendable zeal, to discharge his duties, is not the most perfect one ever invented, in fact it never was invented at all, but grew with the demands of business and the growth of the country, until, from being a small affair with one chief and five clerks, it has come to be an immense concern with an auditor, deputy auditor, chiefs of divisions and clerks, to the number of two hundred, transacting an enormous amount of business; and it would be seen from all the facts in the case that General Rutherford has vacated a position into which no thinking man, fully cognizant of the responsibilities, will step without great reluctance.

The report of the investigating committee, Commissioner Pratt chairman, charges that General Rutherford has been negligent of his official duties, and it would seem that the committee were of the opinion that the auditor should make such personal examination of each claim that passes through his office as would enable him to say upon his own responsibility whether or not such claim was correct and just. It would be well, indeed, if this thing could be done, but the question arises whether it is, under this present system, possible for the auditor to do this or approximately in any degree toward doing it. Take, for instance, the division of miscellaneous claims. There were on file and received during the last year, in this division alone, 18,687 claims, of which 7,734 were disposed of. Besides this division, there are those of "State claims," "lost vessels," "horses," "engineers' department," &c., &c.; in all twelve divisions, through which passes an enormous amount of business.

The third auditor is required to sign his name to at least six hundred papers each day, and to say that it is possible for any man to examine these papers in person and decide upon the merits of each case is absurd, and it is plain that the trouble is in the system, not with the officer. Now, when a claim comes to the office of the third auditor for action what is the red tape business through which it passes? It is this: The chief of the division to which the claim properly belongs refers it to a clerk, (and it will be remembered that these clerks are appointed for and not by the auditor,) the clerk makes an examination of said report and papers, and if he is satisfied that the claim is correct and just, he indorses his initials on the upper left-hand corner of the brief or report. Upon this brief and the indorsement of the chief of division the auditor acts, and he cannot do otherwise, for if he ceased to rely on the brief and reports of the chiefs of division and undertook to make a personal examination of all the papers in each case the business of his office would at once come to a stand still.

Considering this state of facts, a disinterested person is prompted to enquire what are chiefs of Division and clerks under this system (transacting the enormous amount of business) for, unless to stand responsible for their own acts in the discharge of their official duties. If the auditor is to do all their work over again and be responsible for their negligence, then they are useless and expensive supernumeraries, and had better be permitted to depart without delay.

As to the Sugg Fort and Witowski cases, which seem to have been fraudulent and principally to investigate which the Pratt committee was appointed, the following appears to have been the course of the auditor in regard to these cases:

The Sugg Fort case arose under the act of July 4, 1864, (see 13th vol. United States Statutes, p. 281.)

This act provides that "it shall be the duty of the commissary general of subsistence to cause each claim to be examined, and, if convinced that it is just, and of the loyalty of the claimant, and that the stores have actually been received or taken for the use of and used by said army, then to report each case for payment to the third auditor of the Treasury with a recommendation for settlement. This having been done, the Sugg Fort case came in for the formal action of the third auditor's office, and so pure and simple a matter of form has this action been considered to be, that we are informed that after a claim has passed the commissary general, under the act of July 4, 1864, banks will discount the same without waiting for formal action of the auditor, which is considered certain to follow. This case came to the third auditor at the eleventh hour, and the formal statement having been made out as usual, the auditor sent the same to the second comptroller by one of his officers, with the information that "he was not satisfied that the claim was correct and just." It does not seem, therefore, that in this case the auditor was guilty of negligence, especially as he is not required by law to go behind the action of the commis-

sary general; has no agents to examine into the merits of cases where they arise, nor any kind of office to pay such claims in case he should desire to employ any.

The Witowski claim arose under a contract alleged to have been made under the supervision of the corps of engineers, U. S. army. A copy of the contract, alleged to have been taken from the papers of Colonel St. Clair Morton, was furnished with the papers in the case. The usual examination was made and the regular brief submitted to the third auditor by the chief of division, and the auditor claimed that the brief would have justified him in recommending payment and wrote instead "Respectfully submitted to the honorable second comptroller for his decision," which certainly showed an unwillingness to express a favorable opinion of the justice of the case. This was done in order to give the claimant an opportunity to go before the second comptroller and present his arguments without making a formal appeal and filing further evidence, which would have been necessary in case of an absolute rejection of the claim by the auditor. Such are the facts in this case.

The course of the honorable Secretary of the Treasury in accepting the resignation of General Rutherford is certainly justifiable. He was acting upon the report of a regularly constituted committee, and as he always does, for the best interests of his department and the government, and he is in no wise responsible for the defects in the system. It is, however, gratifying to the friends of General Rutherford that he retires from the office without a spot or blemish on his character, as is shown by the following letter:

DEAR SIR: I have your note of this morning, in which you ask whether, in connection with your resignation as third auditor of the Treasury, or in reference to your service in this department, there has been anything which reflected in any manner upon your character and integrity, and in reply, have the pleasure to assure you that no charge has been made against you in this respect, and that your resignation has been accepted without the slightest imputation on your integrity as an officer.

But after all is said, it must be acknowledged the system of accounting in this office is fatally defective and should be speedily remedied.—Washington Capital.

Looking throughout the Southern States we form the opinion that many statesmen who had been reared under the institution of slavery appreciate the true policy of the South toward the emancipated masses. There has been cast upon Southern society four millions of people, who come into the social and political affairs of the country, somewhat as immigrants from a foreign land. These four millions have been endowed with legal and political rights by a power which will guarantee their exercise, or will at least refuse their repeal. The Southern statesman accept this accession to the political force of the South. They regard the social and industrial influence of these people, and in place of fighting against the inevitable and inexorable will of the whole Union, they accommodate and adjust the new relation according to the principles of justice and good temper.

The reasoning of the ex-slaveholding statesman is this: All people have a power of good or evil. If they are honest, they may be the trusted aiders and agents of society. If they are industrious, they create values and render service for society. Society, then, is interested in the religious and moral instruction of these people. This renders them in every respect more valuable fellow-citizens in peace or war. The evil influence of a demoralized and idle population is to be deprecated by all who feel an interest in the welfare of the South. The first duty of the South in regard to the colored people will be to educate them for usefulness. Develop the intellect, and society will have the advantage of its application to any field of service, industrial, literary or political. Under this policy the two races are falling into relations of kindness and reciprocal usefulness, and even in our own legislative halls these associations are very amicable.

We have, however, leading politicians who are very intolerant of negro rights. In some cases they are persons who have never belonged to the class of large landed proprietors, or of hereditary slaveholders. Some of them are alien, who could never themselves have been entitled to exercise the right of suffrage in their own country, and who have been accustomed to bow to the noblemen as a superior class. Then there are many of a class which always stood in hostile attitude toward the slaveholder and to the slaves. There is with this class a jealousy of any rival at the polls or in the workshop. In the agricultural South the colored man and woman are indispensable agents of production. In the mechanical North they are competitors for mechanical and manual employment. The necessity for a supply of labor compels the Southern planter to stay the hand of the Democratic candidate who conducts a canvass with a field piece, and who drives the laborer out of the cotton and cane field to secure his own election to office. The most intense White League are compelled to import colored labor to realize the value of their idle lands. With all the famous inducements offered to white immigrants, the domestic services of the South is still performed in greatest part by colored people.

There is, then, a pronounced difference between the permanent population of the South who hold property and intend to rear their posterity in the South, and that mixture of violence and rapacity which would destroy an element of industry indispensable to the existence of the South. There must be an issue between those who have lands idle for want of labor or households which require honest and attentive domestics, and those who have an interest in neither. The issue can be as well made upon the Democratic proposition to repudiate the compromise, overthrow the State government and drive the colored voters from the polls, as at any other time. A late publication states that some five hundred laboring men assembled at Meridian, Mississippi, to deliberate upon the advantages of migration to some other country. Those laborers own no land, they toil for a living, and are treated with abuse and violence. Naturally they would prefer peace and safety. They can emigrate as readily as a landless Irishman, and Mississippi will lose a producing force just as England has done for the want of justice to the poor people.

The first class statesmen to whom we have referred are, in our opinion, wise men. They do not wish to see the South a jungle of cottonwood, sweet gum and briars. They do not desire to behold poorhouses and prisons filled with outcasts. They dread an idle and demoralized population. All these commitments of intolerance and cruelty would make the South uninhabitable. It would make lands valueless and city property unproductive. European monarchies have, by the persecution of the people, filled their borders with ignorance, destitution and violence. England has her farm laborers and toilers in her mines whose condition is more deplorable than that of the Indian tribes of America. France has her Communists, Italy her brigands and beggars. Spain her highwaymen and robbers. This is the consequence of hating and oppressing the poorer classes. These wretched people have the same complexion, profess the same faith, and speak the same language with their oppressors. Let us not follow this sad example. The colored people are a loyal, industrial and political element among us. The sagacious Southern statesman who knows the value of their services, and can dread the evil of their degradation, adopts the policy of protection and instruction. Can there be a doubt in the mind of any Southern patriot what should be the proper policy of the South to pursue in regard to the colored citizen?

There has just died in Pamlico Mrs. Kezia Wheeler, and old lady at the age of seventy-seven over whom an inquest has been held. Mrs. Wheeler was found dead in her bedroom on Sunday morning, dressed for church, and with her bible in her hand, having apparently expired suddenly.

The surgeon said that death had resulted from the bursting of an aneurism, and the post-mortem examination revealed terrible evidences of tight lacing on the part of the deceased, who had been a very beautiful woman. In fact one end of the old lady's ribs had been pressed against the internal organs, and had kept them constantly at half action, as it were, until apparently an aneurism was produced, by the sudden rupture of which she died. Mrs. Wheeler must have been an exceptionally healthy woman to have thus lived in spite of the corset which imprisoned part of her organs and interfered with their natural development; had she not laced, she would doubtless have been a centenarian.—London Telegraph.

When a Union General calls those who were under oath to serve the United States, and deserted its cause to enter the rebel army, "perjurers," and is asked by a rebel general, who is guilty of the treason, if he intends to make a personal application of the term; it is about the only way to say "I do," instead of beating about the bush. A firm and positive answer will win the day in the pending conflict in the House.

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A man would have to be a careful observer indeed, to recognize much difference in the animus of the present House of Representatives at Washington, and that of the Confederate Congress which held sway at Richmond during the rebellion.

If anything the action of the latter was the more excusable. It can be easily perceived that the following resolution offered by a Mr. Whyte from Maryland, a few days since, are nothing less than an attempt to commit the Congress of the United States to a recognition of the right of secession and to that extent, to cast a stigma upon the Union loving people of the nation. Can any one doubt what would be the effect if democracy should ever again obtain complete control?

The abject cowardice displayed by the Democrats in the House will do them as much injury as would have followed if they had pursued a bold, straight-forward and manly course. Messrs. Randall, Kern and others, of the Northern wing of that party had received telegraphic admonitions from all sections of the North that to continue the debate on the amnesty question would be simple destruction to their partisan interests. About forty ex-Confederate members were desirous of speaking in this connection, but were choked off by their more discreet leaders because they knew that a further defense of the Andersonville and kindred atrocities would only serve to rekindle the fires of patriotism and true Republicanism throughout the country. The Republicans were anxious to have the debate go on, but were overpowered by the strength of the cowardly majority.—Republican.

When the rebellion broke out a Captain of Police at the Capitol building deserted his post and went South to fight in the ranks of treason. He was a native of Virginia, and appointed from that State.

The Democratic control of the House of Representatives brings this valiant official into the public service again. The ex-Confederate Lawkeeper appoints him to a responsible position. Now he hails from California, having removed to that State soon after the surrender of the Confederacy. After this appointment who will doubt the love of Democracy for those who strive to destroy the Union?

Death from Tight Lacing. There has just died in Pamlico Mrs. Kezia Wheeler, and old lady at the age of seventy-seven over whom an inquest has been held. Mrs. Wheeler was found dead in her bedroom on Sunday morning, dressed for church, and with her bible in her hand, having apparently expired suddenly.

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