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Gallipolis Journal.

GALLIPOLIS, FEBRUARY 21, 1867.

Rebels and Federal Officers.

The new plan of reconstruction proposed by the President and his Southern friends is not so objectionable for what it contains, as for its omission of one important measure contained in the Amendment proposed by Congress. We refer to the fact, that it imposes no disabilities, political or otherwise, upon the leading men of the rebellion, but leaves them, as they were prior to their treason, eligible to any and all offices under the Federal government. Reconstruction upon this basis would render Jefferson Davis eligible to the Presidency of the United States, and place it in the power of the South to return to Congress the very men, who in 1861, left it for the avowed purpose of destroying the government. To such reconstruction the loyal North can never assent. There is something revolting in the very thought. Honor with the highest national offices men who have prostituted their talents and ability in a wicked and cruel attempt to destroy the nation—who have entailed upon the people an immense national debt, and who stand now, as they will in history, accountable for the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of lives? So restore the movers and originators of this long train of national disasters to positions of power and trust under the very government they sought to destroy would disgrace us in the eyes of the world, and present an anomaly without counterpart in history.

Through no spirit of revenge or persecution, but as a matter of strict national justice and right, the loyal people of the country demand that the *leaders* of rebellion be debarred from political preferment under the general government. Let them retain their lives and their property which were justly forfeited by their treason; let the law protect them in all their rights of person and property; let them live among us in peace, pursuing the ordinary avocations of life and forgetting their crime if they can, but we believe we speak the universal sentiment of the loyal North, when we say that they can never again be *rulers* in this country. Having once taken a solemn oath to support the Constitution and Government of the United States and having violated that oath by open treason, they can never again be safely trusted with political power. We speak now of the *leading* men of the rebellion, men who prior to their treason occupied high and responsible positions in the government and used the influence thus acquired in fostering and cherishing secession. The masses at the South, who participated in the rebellion, will be restored to their political as well as civil rights. But the men who plotted and planed the rebellion, who furnished its brains and vital force, and who seduced the masses into its support, these men are and must remain politically dead. Office-holders, trusted and honored by the people, they never again can become. Jefferson Davis may not be hanged for his treason, but he can never again be a United States Senator.

The above we believe to be sound doctrine and in accordance with the views of the Union party. Our Democratic brethren think and act otherwise. They hold it unconstitutional to shut the doors of Congress against the leading rebels. Mr. Shellabarger, in a late speech in Congress, has aptly reduced the Democratic creed on this subject to plain, yet truthful, terms. He affirms that if the doctrines held by that party were actually embodied in sections and put into Constitution of the United States, they would read as follows:

"Art. 9, Sec. 1. If the people of a section shall raise a rebellion against the Government of the United States, shall overthrow the Constitution and laws, shall use the State governments to carry on war against the United States, shall set up an independent national government, shall assume and exercise all the belligerent rights of foreign alliances and invite the aid of foreign powers to divide this Republic, shall continue to wage war for four years, and thereby kill a quarter of a million of loyal men, destroy $10,000,000,000 of property, inflict upon the people a debt of $4,000,000,000, and shall persist until they are so utterly defeated that they cannot wring from their section any more means to continue resistance, and shall aggravate this bloodshed by the most atrocious cruelties, they shall not thereby forfeit any power or privilege of citizens of the United States, nor shall they thereby be disqualified as electors, nor from being elected to any office in the United States, nor shall it be in the power of the United States Government to impose any such disqualifications for the carrying on of such a war."

☞ The Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, in the face of the late decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, have decided the lawyer's test-oath constitutional. We now have that Court and the courts of California and West Virginia holding the law Constitutional, while the U. S. Supreme Court holds the contrary. Will some lawyer be kind enough to tell us, upon which side lies the weight of authority?

Report of the New Orleans Riot.

The Select Committee, appointed by Congress to investigate the riots in New Orleans in July last, have made their report which fully substantiated the accounts published at the time of that bloody and atrocious affair. The following paragraph taken from the report graphically describes the manner in which unoffending citizens, both white and black, were brutally massacred by the mob:

"White and black men, with arms uplifted, praying for life, were answered by shot and blows from knife and club. The bodies of scores were pounded to a jelly. A colored man was dragged from under a street-crossing and killed at a blow. Men, concealed in out-houses and under piles of lumber, were eagerly sought for and slaughtered or maimed without remorse. The dead bodies upon the street were violated by shot, kick and stab. The face of a man just breathing his last was gashed by a knife or razor in the hands of a woman. An old, gray-haired man, peaceably walking the street, at a distance from the Institute, was shot through the head. Negroes were taken out of their houses and shot.—A policemen, riding in a buggy, deliberately fired his revolver from the carriage into a crowd of colored men. A colored man, two miles away from the Convention Hall, was taken from his shop by the police, about 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the riot, and shot and wounded in the side, hip and back. One man was wounded by fourteen blows, shots and stabs. The body of another received seven pistol balls.—After the slaughter had measurably ceased, carts, wagons and drays, driven through the streets, gathered the dead, dying and the wounded, in promiscuous loads, a policeman, in some cases, riding in the wagon, seated upon the living men beneath him."

As to the present condition of affairs in Louisiana, the Committee say that all State and municipal powers are in the hands of the men who precipitated Louisiana into the rebellion. That to have been a rebel is a recommendation for office; to have supported the Union cause, and especially to have fought in the Union army, is a known disqualification.—In business and social life, Union citizens are virtually proscribed, and such is the intensity of the feeling against them that many have sold their estates, closed their business and removed from the State to more congenial localities. So long as this state of feeling exists at the South, she will find it difficult to convince the North of the sincerity of her professed loyalty and of her fitness for restoration to political power in the Government.

The Next House.

The question has arisen whether the fact that some of the States will not be represented when the Fortieth Congress assembles, on the 5th of March, will not deprive the Republicans of a two-third vote. But the question is satisfactorily answered by the following list of the States that are to vote in the spring and autumn.

Date of election.	States.	Rep.	Dem.
4th May, '67, special,	Ky.,	2	7
1st Monday in April,	Conn.	4	0
1st Wed'y in Apl.	R. Island,	2	0
2d Tuesd'y in March,	N. Hamp.	3	0
1st Tuesd'y in Sept.	Cal.	3	0
1st Thursd'y in Aug.	Tenn.	4	4
		18	11

☞ The Legislature of West Virginia has come to a dead lock on the question of the permanent location of their State Capital. The House has indefinitely postponed the subject, while the Senate have passed a bill locating it at "Flatwoods" in Braxton county. A correspondent says "Flatwoods is supposed to be hard by the eternal center of the State, in the woods muchly, and can be found upon the map, but nowhere else." The question will now probably go over until next winter. We wish our neighbor Charleston better success next time.

☞ Our neighbor Charleston rejoices in a new bank, under the title of the Merchants Bank of Charleston. It is incorporated under the laws of West Virginia, but will, we understand, be changed to a National Bank at the first opportunity.

☞ There are rumors that changes will be made soon in the Cabinet. Seward goes out, and it is said that Horace Greeley will be appointed Postmaster General.

☞ The Swatara has arrived at the Washington Navy Yard, with Surratt on board.

☞ There are eighty-five vacancies of Assessors and Collectors of Internal Revenue to be filled before the 4th of March. The vacancies arise from the fact that the Senate has failed to confirm a large portion of the President's appointments.—The "Bread and Butter" brigade have come to grief.

☞ Hon. Jno. Morrissey, M. C., announces that faro and stock-gambling haven't cleaned him out, as was reported, but he is game for several rounds more.

☞ A playful hackman in Columbus has a fashion of putting Cayanne pepper on the stove in the ladies' room of the railroad depot. A policeman caught him at it and gave him a caning. Served him right.

Advices from Iowa say the rain storm was furious west of Dubuque, flooding parairies and breaking up rivers.

Reconstruction.

The late rebellious States having rejected the Constitutional Amendment, passed at the last session of Congress, that body is now proceeding to fix other and more stringent terms for the admission of those States. On the 12th the House passed the bill for the reorganization of Louisiana, which, it is supposed, is but the precursor of a policy to be extended to the other States. The Cincinnati Commercial gives the following concise statement of the provisions of this bill:

By the provision of this bill, a Governor is to be appointed by the President, the Senate approving, who, it is required, shall be some man who took no part in the rebellion, and he is to appoint a provisional council of nine persons, all of whom must be equally guiltless, and the provisional government so constituted shall exercise all legislative powers in the State. No one is to be allowed to hold an office in the State who can not take the test oath, and all persons who engaged in the rebellion or aided it in any way, are to be disfranchised. They are in reality to take back seats while the process of civil re-organization is going on. A State convention is provided for, which is to proceed to frame a constitution for the State in which there are to be no civil or political distinctions on account of color; the payment of all debts in behalf of the rebellion are to be prohibited, and the perpetuity of the Union is to be expressly recognized.

Until the work of civil reorganization has been completed and approved, the State is to be virtually governed by military authority; at least, military power is to be employed to enforce laws which the civil authorities neglect, and no law of the provisional government shall be valid till approved by Congress.

In connection herewith the Commercial remarks:

The lofty gentlemen who, the moment they were pardoned, turned round and advised the people not to ratify the amendment, and so end the business, who assured them that nothing had been settled by the war, who were proud to proclaim the fact that they had committed no treason in making war on the Government of the United States, and styled themselves patriots, and gloried in the part they had taken in the war, will have themselves to thank for the condition in which they will be placed if the Louisiana plan is put in operation. They will discover that it is possible to punish as it has been common of late to reward treason, and that a certificate of having fought to destroy the Union will not pass as satisfactory evidence of patriotism and loyalty. If they had not been blind as bats they would have urged upon their fellow-citizens the prompt ratification of the amendment, which, we have good reason to believe, would have been speedily followed by representation on the floor of Congress.

Since the above passage of the Louisiana bill, the House has passed a new bill, reported by the Reconstruction Committee, for the more efficient government of the insurrectionary States. It divides those States into five military districts, to be presided over by an officer of the army not below the rank of a Brigadier General, whose duties are set forth as follows, to wit:

That it shall be the duty of each officer assigned as aforesaid, to protect all persons in their rights of person and property, to suppress insurrection, disorder and violence, and to punish, or cause to be punished all disturbers of the public peace and criminals, and to this end he may allow local civil tribunals to take jurisdiction and to try offenders. Or, when in his judgment it may be necessary for the trial of offenders, he shall have power to organize military commissions or tribunals for that purpose, anything in the Constitution and laws of the so-called States to the contrary notwithstanding; and all legislative or judicial proceedings, or processes to prevent or control the proceedings of said military tribunals, and all interference by said pretended State governments with the exercise of military authority under this act, shall be void and of no effect.

This bill came up in the Senate on Saturday. It was so amended, on motion of Mr. Sherman, as to provide that on establishing universal loyal male suffrage, and framing constitutions acceptable to Congress, together with the ratification of amendment, restoration of State government and representation in Congress may be secured. In this shape it passed by a vote of 29 yeas to 10 nays. It now goes back to the House for its concurrence. It is stated that the Republicans of the House held a caucus and agreed to accept of the Senate amendments, thus insuring the passage of the bill. The N. Y. Tribune, says of Sherman's substitute:—

"Had it passed a year ago, we believe every State would have been represented in the Fortieth Congress from the outset. Sherman's bill is a great step in the right direction, and a decided improvement on the two bills it supersedes."

The President has stated that if the Military Reconstruction Bill should be passed, he will offer no obstacle to its full and proper administration in the South.

☞ We have rumors from Washington of an attempt on the part of the President to compromise with Congress. It is stated that Mr. Johnson was ready to adopt the Constitutional Amendment, urged its adoption in all the Southern States, and give negro suffrage in addition. However, the matter is little more than rumor at present. If true many will doubt the honesty of the President in the matter.

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