

Miscellaneous.

HENRY WARD BEECHER ON RECONSTRUCTION.

The Executive Committee having in charge the preparations for the National Convention of Soldiers and Sailors to be held in Cleveland, Sep. 17, notified Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, of his appointment as Chaplain to the Convention. In reply that gentleman wrote as follows:

PEEKSKILL, Aug. 30, 1866.

Charles G. Halpine, Brevet Brigadier General; H. W. Slocum, Major General; Gordon Granger, Major General, Committee.

GENTLEMEN: I am obliged to you for the invitation which you have made me to act as Chaplain to the Convention of Soldiers and Sailors about to convene at Cleveland. I cannot attend it, but I heartily wish it and all other Conventions whatsoever, success, whose object is the restoration of all the States late in rebellion to their Federal relations.

Our theory of Government has no place for a State except in the Union. It is justly taken for granted that the duties and responsibilities of a State in Federal relations tend to its political health, and to that of the whole nation. Even Territories are hastily brought in, often before the prescribed conditions are fulfilled as if it was dangerous to leave a community outside the great body politic.

Had the loyal Senators and Representatives of Tennessee been admitted at once on the assembling of Congress, and in moderate succession, Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia, the public mind of the South, would have been far more healthy than it is, and these States which lingered on probation to the last would have been under a more salutary influence to good conduct than if a dozen armies watched over them.

Every month that we delay this healthful step complicates the case. The excluded population, enough unsettled before, grow more irritable; the army becomes indispensable to local government, and supersedes it; the Government at Washington is called to interfere in one and another difficulty, and this will be done inaptly; and sometimes with great injustice—for our Government, wisely adapted to its own proper functions, is utterly devoid of these habits, and unequipped with the instruments which fit a centralized Government to exercise authority in remote States over local affairs. Every attempt to perform such duties has resulted in mistakes which have excited the nation. But, whatever imprudence there may be in the method, the real criticism should be against the requisition of such duties of the General Government. The Federal Government is unfit to exercise minor police and local government, and will inevitably blunder when it attempts it. To keep a half score of States under Federal authority, but without national ties and responsibilities; to oblige the central authority to govern half the territory of the Union by Federal civil officers and by the army, is a policy not only uncongenial to our ideas and principles, but preeminently dangerous to the spirit of our Government. However human the ends sought and the motives, it is, in fact, a course of instruction, preparing our government to be despotic, and familiarizing the people to a stretch of authority which can never be other than dangerous to liberty.

I am aware that good men are withheld from advocating the prompt and successive admission of the exiled States by the fear, chiefly, of its effect upon the parties, and upon the freedmen.

It is said that, if admitted to Congress, the Southern Senators and Representatives will coalesce with Northern Democrats, and rule the country. Is this nation, then, to remain dismembered to serve the ends of parties? Have we learned no wisdom by the history of the last ten years, in which just this course of sacrificing the nation to the exigencies of parties plunged us into rebellion and war?

Even admit that the power would pass into the hands of a party made up of Southern men, and the hitherto dishonored and misled Democracy of the North, that power could not be used just as they pleased. The war has changed, not alone institutions, but ideas. The whole country has advanced. Public sentiment is exalted far beyond what it has been at any former period. A new party would, like a river, be obliged to seek out its channels in the already existing slopes and forms of the continent.

We have entered a new era of liberty. The style of thought is freer and more noble. The young men of our times are regenerated. The great army has been a school, and hundreds of thousands of men are gone home to preach a truer and nobler view of human right. All the industrial interests of society are moving with increased wisdom towards intelligence and liberty. Everywhere, in churches, in literature, in natural sciences, in physical industries, in social questions, as well as in politics, the Nation feels that winter is over and a new spring hangs in the horizon and works through all the elements. In this happily changed and advanced condition of things no party of the retrograde can maintain itself. Everything marches and parties must march.

I hear, with wonder and shame and scorn, the fear of a few that the South once more in adjustment with the Federal Government will rule this nation. The North is rich—never so rich; the South is poor—never before so poor. The population of the North is nearly double that of the South. The industry of the North, in diversity in productiveness and forwardness, in all the machinery and education required for manufacturing, is half a century in advance of the South. Churches in the North crown every hill, and schools swarm in every neighborhood; while the South has but scattered lights, at long distances, like lighthouses twinkling along the edge of a continent of darkness. In the presence of such a contrast, how mean and craven is the fear that the South will rule the policy of the land! That it will have an influence, that it will contribute in time, most important influences or restraints, we are glad to believe. But if it rises at once to the control of the Government, it will be because the North, demoralized by prosperity and besotted by groveling interests, refuses to discharge its share of political duty. In such case, the South not only will control the Government but it ought to do it.

It is feared, with more reason, that the restoration of the South to her full independence will be detrimental to the freedmen. The sooner we dismiss from our minds the idea that the freedmen can be classified, and separated from the white population, and nursed and defended by themselves, the better it will be for them and us. The negro is part and parcel of Southern society. He cannot be prosperous while it is unprosperous. Its evils will rebound upon him. Its happiness and reinvigoration cannot be kept from his participation. The restoration of the South to amicable relations with the North, the reorganization of its industry, the re-inspiration of its enterprise and thrift, will all rebound to the freedmen's benefit. Nothing is so dangerous to the freedman as an unsettled state of society in the South. On him comes all the spite, and anger, and caprice, and revenge. He will be made the scapegoat of lawless and heartless men. Unless we turn the Government into a vast military machine, there cannot be armies enough to protect the freedmen while southern Society remains insurrectionary. If Southern society is calmed, settled, and occupied and soothed with new hopes and prosperous industries, no armies will be needed. Riots will subside, lawless hangers-on will be driven off or better governed, and a way will be gradually opened up to the freedman, through education and industry, to full citizenship, with all its honors and duties.

Civilization is a growth. None can escape that forty years in the wilderness who travel from the Egypt of ignorance to the promised land of civilization. The freedmen must take their march. I have full faith in the results. If they have the stamina to undergo the hardships which every uncivilized people has undergone in their upward progress, they will in due time take their place among us. That place cannot be bought, nor bequeathed, nor gained by sleight of hand. It will come by sobriety, virtue, industry, and frugality. As the nation cannot be sound until the South is prosperous, so, on the other extreme, a wealthy condition of civil society in the South is indispensable to the welfare of the freedman.

Refusing to admit loyal Senators and representatives from the South to Congress will not help the freedmen. It will not secure for them the vote. It will not protect them. It will not secure any amendment of our Constitution. It will only increase the dangers and complicate the difficulties. Whether we regard the whole nation or any section of it or class in it, the first demand of our time is entire Union.

Meanwhile, the great chasm which rebellion made is not filled up. It grows deeper and stretches wider. Out of it

rise dread specters and threatening sounds. Let that gulf be closed, and bury in it slavery, sectional animosity, and all strifes and hatreds.

It is fit that the brave men who on sea and land, faced death to save the nation, should now, by their voice and vote, consummate what their swords rendered possible.

For the sake of the freedmen, for the sake of the South and its millions of our fellow countrymen, for our own sake, and for the great cause of freedom and civilization, I urge the immediate reunion of all the parts which rebellion and war have shattered. I am truly yours.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

A BREECHLESS GUN AND NO GUNPOWDER.

The *London Bulletin* says:

A startling invention in gunnery has been announced by Mr. Harding, who makes not merely a breech-loader, but a gun without any solid breech! He takes a tube open at both ends, and this forms his gun, which is loaded and discharged with deadly effect. The plan is simply this—that a piece of wadding is rammed in at one end of the tube, then another piece, leaving a space, and, of course, some air between them—closely compressed; then the powder is placed in, and then ball on the powder. The breech is practically formed by the air contained between the first and second piece of wadding. Others are inquiring if gunpowder itself should be got rid of altogether midst all these changes? Captain Dixon says yes, and sends us one of his guncloth charges, a piece of rolled tape, so to speak, in a paper case, open at one end. The patentee claims for the guncloth charges freedom from all risk of accidental explosions, "except when confined in a gun-barrel or bombshell."

They are non-explosive; they burn but do not explode; if lighted and held in the hand they are harmless; they may be dropped down a red hot barrel without fear of danger. A hundred may be lighted at once, and the result will not be more explosive or dangerous than setting fire to a handful of shavings, neither would the firing of a whole magazine be attended with more danger than the burning of so much wood, cotton or paper. The recoil is scarcely perceptible; the report is only one half; smoke there is none; and combustion is perfect, and no residue is left to foul the barrel; and, with all, these charges are superior to gunpowder as a propelling force—at least so says the inventor. Gun-cotton was, as formerly made and used, an uncontrolled, unmanageable, capricious force, besides being liable to ignite at a low heat and fire by spontaneous combustion. Gun-cloth, this patentee says, as made according to his patent, is a strong but docile servant; weight for weight many times stronger than gunpowder, and capable of being used with entire safety in existing firearms.

MARRYING IN BAVARIA.—The people of Bavaria are not allowed to marry until they have what is termed an "assured means of subsistence." The law, however, does not work well, as will be seen by the following remarks of a correspondent: "I have heard of a case of two poor people having to wait fifteen years for permission to marry, and spending two hundred florins on applications. One of the writers on the subject gives the following instance: An operative earning twelve shillings a week was engaged to a girl earning seven and owner of the house valued at £120, and a cow. They applied for permission to marry, and were refused; 'means of subsistence not assured.' Time went on; they had two children, and still their application was refused on the same ground. The owner of the manufactory took up their cause and pleaded it himself with the official, saying that his refusal was not what was intended by the Government. The officer replied curtly, 'What does that matter to us; the Government may have its own ideas on the subject, but we have ours, and I in particular am of opinion that such marriages are neither right nor useful.' The author from whom I quote this adds, 'While I am writing, my servant girl, aged fifteen years, comes in dressed for a feast day, and says that her father and mother are to be married to-day, and she must henceforth be called by her father's name. Twelve times her father's application for licence to marry was rejected, and each time he had to pay fees and expenses, lawyer's bills, &c.'

THE *London Times* curtly invites England to examine her navy, and see if it is as strong and invincible as cockneys generally suppose it to be.

A PLAGUE.—The plague of locusts in Algeria causes considerable uneasiness to the government. The troops were recently called out to act against this new species of enemy; but the consequence of this massacre may lay the seeds of pestilence; inasmuch as the remains of such an agglomeration of dead insects have produced a nuisance of the worse nature. To convey an idea of the number of locusts daily destroyed, we are told that three thousand cwt. is the average result of the day's battle with this new foe.

STEAM RAILROAD TO SUMMIT OF MOUNT WASHINGTON.—A steam railway is being built on the West of Mount Washington, running to the Summit. It is near the old site of the old Fabyan Hotel. A half mile has been completed, and was tried last week with complete success. The track has two smooth rails, and between them lies a wrought iron ladder, in which the feet of the cogged driving wheels find a firm hold. The ascent is one foot in three. Excellent time was made, and the brakes placed the car under the most complete control. A new hotel is to be erected at once, capable of accommodating 1,000 persons! New Yorkers approaching the White Mountains next season via the Connecticut River Valley, will be speedily placed on the Summit of Mount Washington by a mode not "dreamed of" in the old "philosophies." No mode is so dangerous, and none so tedious as on horseback over rocky break-neck bridge paths. The mode of mountain ascent is revolutionized by this invaluable invention.—[N. Y. Sun.]

THE SABBATH IN CALIFORNIA.—A California correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* writes as follows:

"Another thing which strikes the lately arrived emigrant from New England as entirely unlike home habits, is the almost entire disregard of the Sabbath. Stores are open, mills and mines in full operation, and except that it is more of a holiday, there is little to distinguish it from any other day of the week. In San Francisco, it is true, there are many churches supported by wealthy and numerous congregations; but it is nevertheless a fact that in the mines, almost without exception, the work is pursued the same as on any other day, and workmen have told me they have not had a 'Sunday off' for six or seven years in some cases. Some of the new companies about commencing operations in Nevada, and whose stockholders for the most part are Eastern men, propose to run their mills and work their mines but six days in the week, believing that they shall lose nothing in the end by allowing the workmen a day's rest; but it is asserted by the managers and superintendents of those which have been longest in operation that the cost of stopping the work is too great; and they predict with great unanimity that the new idea will not last and they will have to come down to working on Sundays."

A DACOTAH chap thinks he has found Paradise. Hear him: "No income tax; no infernal revenue; no spies to see if you treat a friend on Sunday; no special police; no dog tax; no poll tax; school tax or bounty fund; and, to end with, the Indians and half-breeds can't tell one greenback from another, so all our ones are tens."

LIST OF PASSENGERS.

BY CAP. JOSEPH RAWLIN'S TRAIN.

Jno. & Emma Bird; Philip, Mary A., Charlotte & Elizabeth Kirk; Elizabeth Hill; Mary Monk; Ann Hind; Ralph, Mary A., Thos. J., Eliza S., Ralph & Edith F. Harrison; Henry, Mary, Jane, Charlotte, Selina & Charles Criddle; William Woodward; Jane Wilkins; Daniel & Isabella White; Richard, Sarah E. & Charles R. Tilt; Mary, Thos., Henry, George, Jno. & Joseph Kingsbury; Jane Berry; Margaret & Annie Grimshaw; W. L., Sarah A., Elizabeth, William & Jno. & Rhoda Mitchell; Elizabeth Green; Wm. Jones; W. Ellen & Esther A. Rinder; Geo., Mary & Annie Palmer; Moroni Ramsell; Chris., Harriet C. & Harriet C. Halifax; Paul, Louisa, Moroni, Maria & Henry Hinchey; Joel, Margaret, Samuel, Sarah A. & Elizabeth Wood; Abram, Ann, Ellen & Emily Todd; Sarah, Margaret, Agnes & Sarah J. McFarland; David, Jane, David & Evan Stephens; David, Mary, Ann & David Jones; Daniel & Ann Daniels; Jacob, Ann, Mary, Margaret, Ann & Gwenny Morris; Thos., Harriet, Heber, Mary A., Ruth & Naomi Goff; Wm., Hormah, Mary A., Wm., Jesse & Jedediah Aylett; Eleanor Jenkins; Jere., Mary H., Arthur H., Rachael, Amelia, Lorenzo & Fred. Robinson; Mary Gill; Caroline Wakefield; Caroline Robinson; Margaret &