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COMMUNICATED.

What Shall We Do?

Is it better to write the truth or withhold it? Is it better to state facts to the people as they are, so that they may be enabled to know their position, or to play "hide and seek," with them according to the political way, and delude them still further down the road to ruin. Which is preferable? The demagogue would say don't do it. It won't do. Don't open their eyes. You'll never get office. Well, we have decided that we are now in a free country, where a man can express his opinion without fear of being arrested if he happens to differ with sectional party policy and views. We believe that the people must and should know the truth, the whole truth of the present state of affairs.

The general order No. 63, emanating from Major General Gillmore, military commander of this State, is an index of the policy to be adopted by the U. S. authorities with reference to the matter of reconstruction. The executive officers of the insurgent States in his department, viz: A. G. Magrath, of this State; Jos. E. Brown, of Georgia; and A. K. Alison, of Fla., who have issued proclamations, are set down as traitors, and their proclamations are declared null and void. The people are enjoined to give no heed to them or any other proclamations issued by the rebel authorities.

It is announced that the black race are free citizens and that they will be protected as such. Citizens, white and black, are reminded that it is their duty to observe the laws of compensated labor.

The government of the U. S. will doubtless make known at an early day the method to be pursued in punishing or assisting the exercise of their political rights.

This much is certain and conclusive: the efforts of one, be his position what it may in the so-called rebellious States, to restore the political rights of the States, will not be recognized by the U. S. authorities.

In this situation the question naturally arises, What shall we do? Men seem to be at a perfect standstill at a dead halt. They seem to be paralyzed; many seem to be hardly conscious that they are living beings. The effect of the negro being a freedman seems almost to destroy the wits of many. Some seem to be outraged, and harp incessantly about the constitution, laws, &c. Some seem not willing to fall in with the recent changes. Some are still talking of something that is to turn up, for which there is not the least foundation. This is hoping against hope. It is folly. It is the height of nonsense. We quote for the benefit of all, the logical as well as the common sense views of Gov. Magrath, in his recent address. He says: "I urge upon you fellow citizens, the resumption of your peaceful pursuits, and the adaptation of yourselves to those changes which may be made in your condition. Do not be misled by excitement. Give no heed to passion. Deal resolutely with facts. Look the truth calmly in the face. Spill no more blood. Accept with the dignity which even misfortune can command the condition which you cannot avert." This is the language of the late able governor of the State; plain, statesmanlike, honest and appropriate. It is to the point. It is the best of advice. "Reason governs the wise man and a cudgel the fool."

That the institution of slavery as it was has ceased to exist, is beyond the shadow of a doubt. There is no use for any one to deceive himself with hopes to the contrary. It is irrevocably abolished. The negro is no longer to be considered as a chattel or transferrable property. The sooner therefore every one can induce himself to believe this the better. Whether it will improve his condition as our northern friends think, time and circumstances alone will determine.

What we should do now is not to lament and mourn over what has been done, but to throw aside all despondency, rise up like men who have something to live for, and go to work manfully and heartily. It is the only alternative left. What signifies sitting down, folding our arms, acting sulkily, wishing and hoping for better times. We can only make the times better by bestirring ourselves. In the language of poor Richard, "Industry need not wish, and he that lives upon hope will die fasting. There are no gains without pains, then proceed to work. He that hath a trade hath an estate, and he that hath a calling hath an office of profit and honor, but then the trade must be worked at and the calling well followed or neither the estate nor the office will enable one to pay his taxes."

What is the use to complain and fret? It is the fate of war. The people of the South took up

the sword to vindicate and assert what they called their rights. They submitted the matter to the arbitration of arms. They fought long and well, but the final result was unfavorable and ended in their overthrow. It was their own proposition. They threw down the gauntlet. It was taken up. For the consequences no one can be blamed but themselves. Whenever a man or a nation go to war, it must be expected, no matter how one may philosophize on it, that he will do everything he can to accomplish his ends and purposes. Everything is fair in war. That is the long and short of it, and all history teaches; to the victors belong the spoils, as well as *va victis!*

Since, however, the affair has terminated differently than we expected, for if two parties go to war one must prevail. Let us not act as fools and madmen, but submit with as good a grace as possible to the powers that be, and try by all means in our power to become good and useful citizens, to commence building up, repairing and reconstituting a badly damaged and almost ruined and bankrupt section of country. It is the best thing we can do. It is imperatively demanded. It is of no use to be conjuring up what evil will be or what will happen. Like Frankenstein in the play, to be frightened at the monsters of our own creation. No, no, let us be more philosophic. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Whatever betides, by destiny 'tis done, And better bear like men than vainly seek to shun.

What shall we do? Let the blacksmith, the tailor, the carpenter, the shoemaker, the farmer, the planter, the lawyer, the doctor, the minister or man of whatever occupation or profession, at once turn his attention to work. There is an abundance to do. The "Creator giveth us rain and fruitful seasons" and causeth "the herb to grow for the service of man," but it is equally true that only he who tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread, while "the sluggard shall beg in harvest and the idle soul shall suffer hunger."

"Idle hearts only the dark future brightens, Play the sweet keys would'st thou keep them in."

What shall we do? Do not get worried, excited, uneasy. "All dangers are not deaths," and you will find that the condition of society, of the human race, South, will, by no means, be half as bad as street corner sophists and chimney-corner statesmen are disposed, with a nod of the head, positively to predict. We firmly believe that if the people of the South will eschew politics for the present, stop discussing what will be done by the Federal Congress, what is right, and what is not according to their views, and put their shoulder to the wheel, like earnest minded men, the progress and march of the South will be upwards and onwards. We have every facility in the way of climate, material, resources, wealth, &c., to make of the South, independent of the slave institution, as it was, one of the most glorious lands that the sun ever shone upon. Let the people of the South wake up to a full sense of energy, will and active determination and forthwith will be diffused a business like vitality, sending its galvanic impulses to every branch of productive industry; not distant will be the period when curling volumes of smoke and flame will be seen rising like volcanic eruptions, inspiring joy instead of terror. From the furnaces of every mineral locality, thousands of waterfalls will be taxed to the utmost extent of their capacity; machinery will fill the land with the noise of its ceaseless revolutions, mechanical genius and enterprise will be aroused and awakened, while the progress of agricultural prosperity—illimitable fields of wheat, oats and rye—their surfaces rising and falling as the waves of the sea; corn fields bowing down under their weight—rolling meadows sinking under their heavy burden; cotton fields white as the driven snow; and orchards displaying rich fruits of every color and shade, will fill the soul of the beholder with admiration and secure a homage commensurate with her rich and fertile broad domain. Then may we say in devout aspiration, of the home of the citizen of the South, as the inspired bard said of Jerusalem, "Peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy palaces."

What shall we do? Learn to bear misfortune like a Socratic philosopher—to be good and useful citizens, to attend faithfully to our respective duties, to inculcate lessons of morality and obedience to the laws of the land, to exercise and practice industry, patience and economy, remembering as we travel in the future along the highway of life, to practice as well as to impress upon the minds of those who look up to us for advice, "To avoid politicians and demagogues as they would the devil, and never to break up a good government with the Utopian expectation of forming a better."

The London Times says that our war against the South has been waged as a war of subjugation. Indeed it hasn't, but our war with Great Britain, if we have one will be. Of course we don't want a war with her, but we confess that we should like to have another Trent affair occur about this time.

There are between twenty and twenty-three thousand rebel prisoners at Point Lookout, most of whom will soon take the oath of allegiance and be discharged.

Amnesty Proclamation of Pres. Johnson.

Whereas, the President of the United States, on the eighth day of December, A. D., eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and on the twenty-sixth day of March, A. D., eighteen hundred and sixty-four, did, with the object to suppress the existing rebellion, to induce all persons to return to loyalty and to restore the authority of the United States, issue proclamations offering amnesty and pardon to certain persons who had directly or by implication participated in the said rebellion; and

Whereas, many persons, who had so engaged in said rebellion, have since the issuance of said proclamation failed or neglected to take the benefits offered, thereby;

Whereas, many persons, who have been justly deprived of all claim to amnesty and pardon thereunder by reason of their participation, directly or by implication, in said rebellion and continued hostility to the government of the U. States since the date of said proclamation, now desire to apply for and obtain amnesty and pardon;

To the end, therefore, that the authority of the government of the United States may be restored, and that peace, order, and freedom may be established, I, ANDREW JOHNSON, President of the United States, do proclaim and declare that hereby grant to all persons who have directly or indirectly participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, amnesty and pardon, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and except in cases where legal proceedings, under the laws of the United States providing for the confiscation of property of persons engaged in rebellion, have been instituted, but on the condition, nevertheless, that every such person shall take and subscribe the following oath, of affirmation, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate, and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

I, _____ do solemnly swear or affirm, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support and defend the constitution of the United States, and the union of the States thereunder, and that I will, at all times, abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God.

The following classes of persons are excepted from the benefits of this proclamation:

- FIRST—All who are, or shall have been, pretended civil or diplomatic officers, or otherwise domestic or foreign agents of the pretended Confederate government.
- SECOND—All who left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion.
- THIRD—All who shall have been military or naval officers of said pretended Confederate government above the rank of Colonel in the army or Lieutenant in the navy.
- FOURTH—All who left seats in the Congress of the United States to aid the rebellion.
- FIFTH—All who resigned or tendered resignations of their commissions in the army or navy of the United States to evade duty in resisting the rebellion.
- SIXTH—All who have engaged in any way in treating otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war persons found in the United States service, as officers, soldiers, seamen, or in other capacities.
- SEVENTH—All persons who have been or are absentees from the United States for the purpose of aiding the rebellion.
- EIGHTH—All military and naval officers in the rebel service who were educated by the government in the Military Academy at West Point, or the United States Naval Academy.
- NINTH—All persons who held the pretended offices of Governors of States in insurrection against the United States.
- TENTH—All persons who left their positions in the jurisdiction and possession of the United States, and passed beyond the federal military lines into the so-called Confederate States for the purpose of aiding the rebellion.
- ELEVENTH—All persons who have been engaged in the destruction of the commerce of the United States upon the high seas, and all persons who have made raids into the United States from Canada, or been engaged in destroying the commerce of the United States upon the lakes and rivers that separate the British provinces from the United States.
- TWELFTH—All persons who, at the time when they seek to obtain the benefits hereof by taking the oath herein prescribed, are in military, naval or civil confinement or custody, or under bonds of the civil, military or naval authorities of agents of the United States, as prisoners of war or persons detained for offences of any kind either before or after conviction.
- THIRTEENTH—All persons who have voluntarily participated in said rebellion, and the estimated value of whose taxable property is over twenty thousand dollars.
- FOURTEENTH—All persons who have taken the oath of amnesty as prescribed in the president's proclamation of December eight, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, or an oath of allegiance to the government of the U. States since the date of said proclamation, and who have not thenceforward kept and maintained the same inviolate.

Provided, that special application may be made to the President for pardon by any persons belonging to the excepted classes, and such

elementy will be liberally extended as may be consistent with the facts of the case and the peace and dignity of the United States.

The Secretary of State will establish rules and regulations for administering and recording the said amnesty oath so as to insure its benefit to the people, and guard the government against fraud.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the independence of the United States the eighty eighth.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:
WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

FROM THE CHARLESTON COURIER
Free Labor.

A NEW ORDER.

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN DISTRICT,
Department of the South,
Charleston, S.C., April 25.

To Planters residing on the north bank of the Ashley, Cooper and Wando rivers, and the Lower Santee, Black, Pedee and Waccamaw rivers:

Numerous applications have been made to me for information as to the policy to be adopted on the subject of labor.

All can understand the importance of making a crop the present season, and foresee the misery and suffering consequent upon its failure.

In the present unsettled state of the country, and in the absence of any recognized State authorities, I find it my duty to assume control of the plantations near the military lines, and order as follows:

1st. The planters, after taking the oath of allegiance, will assemble the freedmen, (lately their slaves) and inform them that they are free, and their own exertions for a support.

2d. Equitable contracts in writing will be made by the owners of the land with the freedmen for the cultivation of the land during the present year.

Payment will be made in kind, and the allowance of one-half the crop is recommended as fair compensation for the labor, the landlord furnishing subsistence until the crop is gathered.

The contracts will be submitted to the nearest military and naval commander for approval.

When the above requirements are complied with, protection will be granted as far as military necessity will allow; but where no contract is made, the crop will be considered forfeited for the use of the laborers. Should the owners refuse to cultivate it, they will be considered as embarrassing the Government, and the land will be used for colonies of freedmen from the interior.

JOHN P. HANCOCK
Gen. Comd'g.

A gentleman who traveled on the Central road yesterday, informs us he met numerous parties of negroes on their way towards their old homes, who had tried the experiment of being free in Macon, with nothing to eat, and no employment to earn money. Their wretched condition was beyond description, many of them being almost famished. He was also informed that there were many hundreds lying in the woods in the vicinity of the railroad, in the same state of destitution, and that at one point three men in a single squad had died from starvation on Friday night. Humanity would dictate that something be done for the relief of these wretches, but unfortunately our people seem to be unable to aid them. The section of country in which they were found, is, owing to the ravages of the war, almost destitute of supplies for the whites who are residents, and they cannot possibly aid the runaway negroes.—Ez.

Gov Brown.—The Cincinnati Commercial says:—many suppose Governor Brown, of Georgia, has been harshly dealt with, and the benevolent and forgiving think of the Governor as languishing in a loathsome dungeon. A gentleman who called on the President in the evening, a few days ago, was by him made acquainted with "Governor Brown, of Georgia" who was going about the city in a hack, without a guard, and had called at the White House.

GREENBACKS.—It may not be generally known that, by act of Congress, United States Treasury Notes—generally termed "greenbacks"—are legal tender for all dues—except import and export duties and the interest on the public debt. Gold and silver can only be rated as articles of merchandise. This should be understood by one and all.

UNION MEETING IN SUMMERVILLE, S. C.—A Union meeting of the citizens of Summerville and the surrounding country was called by the intendant of the town to take place on Wednesday.