

THE TRI-WEEKLY NEWS.

VOLUME I.]

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THE TRI-WEEKLY NEWS:

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Mr. Davis' Capture in Europe.

WHAT IS THOUGHT OF HIS CAPTIVITY.

Opinions of the Foreign Press.

The news of the capture and imprisonment of Mr. Davis has reached Europe and creates some sensation and anxiety in England. The hope was generally expressed that he would be treated in no vindictive spirit. On one point all the organs, both English and French, agree. They say that Davis ought not to be hanged. The London Post asserts that only success was wanting to raise Mr. Davis to a level with George Washington. The opinions of the British and French press on the subject are exceedingly curious and interesting, and we give some extracts from them:

THE LONDON TIMES RECOMMENDS MR DAVIS TO MERCY.

[From the London Times May 27.]

The public will wait with extreme interest the news, as by the spirit in which Mr. Davis is likely to be dealt with, not merely from its bearing on the few remaining years of the life of an individual, but because of the effect it must have on the national reputation for future generations. Those, however, who know the American character best, and who are aware that, except under sudden excitement, they are amongst the most placable people in the world, have little fear of the result. It is purely in the cause and for the credit of the American Union that we urge its statesmen, if there is yet time to consider again and again the extreme impolicy of shedding the blood of a man whom a little success would have transformed from an attained traitor into something very like a successful monarch.

Modern Europe affords but one precedent for capital punishment in such a case—the treatment of Poland by Russia; and that precedent is not one to encourage imitation. When a people rise for a common object they are not likely to be deterred by the prospect of individual punishment, and when punishment ceases to be justifiable.

SUCCESS WOULD HAVE MADE DAVIS A WASHINGTON.

[From the London Post, May 27.]

Elected as the Chief Magistrate of six millions of people, Mr. Davis achieved for himself and for them, during the period in which he held his high office, a fame in presence of which that of his Northern rival must pale. In the space of a few short years he helped to found a Republic which possessed in itself all the elements of commercial strength and political greatness, and which, but for the undying animosity of foes whose prowess proved irresistible, would probably in time have become one of the most powerful commonwealths in the world. With the greatness, ephemeral though it was, of the Southern Confederacy, the name of its only President will ever be associated, and to impartial minds it will always occur that the absence of that most material element of all human undertakings, success, will alone prevent Jefferson Davis taking his place in after times by the side of George Washington. A few months since, many, indeed we think we may say the majority, would have regarded as a greater object of pride the position occupied by Mr. Davis in Richmond than that filled by Mr. Lincoln in Washington.

We would also venture to hope that content with extinguishing what they termed the rebellion in the Southern States, and with having made their Chief Magistrate a prisoner, the government at Washington will not sully a great victory by an act which, on this side of the Atlantic, at least would be regarded as one of paltry revenge. If the American nation declare Jefferson Davis worthy of death, they will, by implication, admit that George Washington would justly have been hanged by us if he had fallen into our hands.

MR. DAVIS COMPARED TO KOSSUTH AND GARIBALDI.

[From the London Telegraph, May 27.]

To the Southern President the popular

feeling has always been that expressed in the well-known line, "We'll hang Jeff. Davis on a sour apple tree!" It is idle to disguise the fact that there was an intense personal animosity against him, and the abler he proved himself the more bitter this feeling grew. Hitherto, however, the Northern Americans have confined themselves, as regards terrorism, to "talk talk" and unjustifiable arrests. It is one thing to shout at a camp fire a threat against the leader of the enemy; another to carry it into effect, when he is a helpless prisoner. To use a homely saying, the bark of the Yankees is much worse than their bite. President Johnson's violent speeches has not yet absolutely resulted in the execution of a single man, and it is scarcely credible that Mr. Davis will be treated otherwise than as a prisoner of war.

The fate of President Davis, whatever it may be, is a matter that exclusively concerns the people of the United States. For the sake of their own good name, we, their kinsmen, earnestly trust that they will not stain their victory with blood; but as a nation, we have no more right to protest on his behalf than we should have had to interfere had the Emperor of Austria in 1849 caught Kossuth in Hungary and hanged him, or had the King of Italy, after Aspromonte, brought Garibaldi to the block. All who are unsuccessful in a civil war become *ipso facto* rebels, and "woe to the vanquished" is an old, stern law, that is not yet quite obsolete.

MANCHESTER PLEADS FOR MERCY.

[From the Manchester Guardian, May 27.]

President Davis is in the hands of his enemies. It is undoubtedly in the power of the Federal Government to punish him to the last extremity for the political offence of levying war against them. Now, then, is the time for warning. That the influence of a strong party in the North will be earnestly exerted to prevent so shameful a crime from the staining the success of the republic, there is every reason to believe. It is sincerely to be hoped, however, that they may prevail to prevent the horrors of the gibbet being added to those which have been wrought by the sword; and no efforts which it may be thought the civilized Powers of the world can usefully employ towards the accomplishment of this end ought to be withheld.

[From the Manchester Examiner, May 27.]

Should Mr. Davis be hanged at all, it will be, we venture to predict, not for murder, but for treason, and we trust he won't be hanged for that. The New York Times says that to deliver Mr. Davis to the gallows will help to consign the rebellion to infamy. We believe that if anything can save it from infamy it will be the execution of Mr. Davis. The scaffold will assuredly make him a martyr. Death will give his name a power with posterity that nothing else could give it.

OPINIONS OF THE FRENCH PRESS.

[Translated from the Paris Patrie, May 27]

The capture of Jefferson Davis is the epilogue to the great national drama that has lasted four years in America. Although this last triumph of the North must be deplored, in view of the principle of popular liberty, still it should be regarded as a providential event for the future of the Southern States. In fact the democratic party has got itself into a position antagonistic to every sentiment of humanity, justice and generosity, and the death of Mr. Davis by violence would cover the victims with shame, and ruin them morally.

[Translated from La France.]

An important event, and one which may be considered as the last act of the terrible drama of the American war, is recorded in our last despatches from New York. Jefferson Davis, the chief of the Confederate Government, has been arrested, and is now in the power of the Federal Government at Washington.

For our part we hope that the Federal Government will treat Mr. Jefferson Davis with the dignity and generosity becoming a great people.

[Translated from the Opinion Nationale.]

With regard to the capture of Mr. Davis we have but a word to say. His capture is, in our opinion, to be regretted, inasmuch as it will naturally tend to place moral embarrassments in the way of the United States, from which they will find it difficult to extricate themselves to the perfect satisfaction of their friends in Europe.

MR. DAVIS BELIEVED TO BE INNOCENT

OF ALL COMPLICITY IN THE ASSASSINATION.

The charge of complicity in the assassination, made against Mr. Davis, was received in Europe with incredulity and horror. We give some extracts upon this point:

[Translated from the Paris Pays.]

If we may credit a despatch received from London, Mr. Johnson has frankly admitted that he committed an error in accusing Mr. Davis of complicity in the terrible crime of the 14th of April. Not Jefferson Davis, a man who was once a United States senator and Cabinet minister, and who, before the war enjoyed the esteem of his fellow citizens in the North, and subsequently that of the Southerners, in connection with Stonewall Jackson, Lee and Johnston, cannot be an assassin. His former life confounds such an accusation, and the law of nations will not allow him to be treated otherwise than as a vanquished and disarmed enemy.

A letter from Paris, says:

"The proclamation of President Johnson, implicating Mr. Davis in the assassination plot provoked a storm of incredulity on one side, and of violent denegations on the other. The *Patrie*, the journal which appears to take the defeat of its southern friends the most to heart exclaims: "The period of re-action, the reign of terror, has at last commenced! The long looked for unchaining of official passion, seems at length arrived!"

A letter from London, May 20th, says;

"For four years all Englishmen, whether they sympathized with his cause or not, have professed to admire the personal character of Mr. Davis, and they will not, without overwhelming proof, believe him to be an assassin."

A Paris letter of the same date makes this comment on the matter:

"President Johnson's proclamation charging Jefferson Davis and others with full complicity with Booth, has produced a most painful impression here—not so much upon our enemies as upon our friends."

Every man is innocent till he is proved guilty on formal trial. Suppose that on trial Davis should not be proved guilty. Has the chief magistrate, the official representative of a great nation himself been guilty (and involved the nation in the disgrace) of lowering the dignity of his great office by this act, hastily done under the influence of febrile suspicion, morbid excitement, passion, party passions."

The London *Saturday Review*, in an article on the subject says:

Cromwell, Washington, Larochejacqueline, Kossuth and Garibaldi, committed treason in the same sense in which it is declared by Mr. Johnson to be worse than murder; but with the exception of the great American patriot, not one of the number was entitled to immunity so fully as Mr. Jefferson Davis. It is to this moment doubtful whether secession was illegal, and it is certain that it was approved by a great and free community. If the elected ruler of a State which has assumed independence is put to death by the authority of a conqueror, a question may arise whether the assassination of Mr. Lincoln was more criminal than the vindictive slaughter of Mr. Jefferson Davis. Booth at least sacrificed his life with unflinching audacity, while Mr. Johnson, by fulfilling his threats, would risk only his own reputation, the honor of this country, and the respect and esteem of the civilized world.

A REBEL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN A BAD WAY.

The Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Columbia, S. C., of which the late Dr. Thorngill was the shining light, and of which Dr. Palmer, hardly less able and equally rebellious, has recently been chief professor, is in a bad way financially. The treasurer's report shows that the invested funds of the Seminary amounts, in round numbers, to two hundred and sixty-two thousand dollars. Nearly one hundred and eighty thousand dollars are invested in the bonds of Confederate States, about sixty-two thousand in the banks of South Carolina and Georgia, ten thousand in the Columbia Bridge, recently burned, if we mistake not, and the balance in various Southern railroad bonds and stock and State and city bonds. The only investment in securities outside of the seceded States is about thirty-three hundred dollars in a Baltimore bank.

DISFRANCHISEMENT IN VIRGINIA.

A correspondent of the Washington *Chronicle* writes as follows from Richmond upon the subject of disfranchisement in Virginia under the Alexandria Constitution. He apparently writes with a kind of semi-official authority, and claims, in closing his letter, that his statements are "neither speculation or conjecture, but may be relied upon as correct in every particular."

It is very obvious to the Governor that a large class of persons cannot take the oath, and are, by the restored government of Virginia disfranchised. He has ascertained, after consultation with the most intelligent persons; that, in organizing some of the counties, there are not qualified constituents enough to fill the county offices, and that hardly one-twentieth of the people could take the oath and become voters. The Governor thinks that, under the circumstances, there is great danger of what he terms the honorable and truthful men refusing to take the oath while those who care nothing for the privilege of voting may indifferently avail themselves of the opportunity.

The Governor is of the opinion that while many of the soldiers were in the rebel service against their inclination, and from force of circumstances, the policy of excluding their officers, who can exert an influence upon those who served under them, will be productive of great evils. The disfranchised officers would create, he thinks, a great deal of sympathy, which would enable them to control votes which might be used for improper ends, while the ban of proscription rested upon them. The Governor regrets this, since the soldiers and a large number of politicians, whom he deems to be every way inferior to the excluded class, can, under the law, become qualified voters. He deeply sympathizes with the political disabilities of the chivalry, who have stirred up the very depths of his compassion. He is even now considering whether it is best to restore them to their former political rights, or forever disgrace them.

In speaking upon this subject yesterday, Governor Pierpont remarked that he would sooner cast his lot upon the proscribed class, under all the penalties of the authorities, than to be identified with the Copperheads of Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York or Boston, who had the desire to injure the country but did not possess the courage to enter the field in support of their treason.

A new revolution has taken place in Haiti, and the towns of Cape Haytien, Gonaives and St. Marks have fallen into the hands of the insurgents. The leader of the rebellion, Col. Salane, is the person who attempted to assassinate President Geffard's ministers some months since.

OUR TERMS

For the News, one month, ONE DOLLAR, or in barter for other commodities. All articles necessary, or useful in families, or in business, will be taken in exchange, at fair prices, as usually understood in the market. But for the better understanding of our friends, we present the following schedule of rates, in the case of the most obvious commodities. For one month's subscription to the News, we will receive either of the following, viz:

- 2 bushel corn, 1 bushel peas or potatoes.
- 24 lbs Flour.
- 5 pounds butter.
- 5 " lard.
- 5 " bacon.
- 2 gallons Syrup.
- 4 head of chickens.
- 8 dozen eggs.

Wood, and provisions generally received at fair market rates.

For single copies, TEN CENTS, or a proportionate amount in any of the above mentioned articles.

Advertisements will be inserted at one dollar per square (eight lines or less) for the first insertion, and seventy-five cents for each subsequent insertion—invariably in advance.

Any friends receiving papers, or arriving with papers or news, from any places not now in full connection by mail, will oblige us specially by reporting to the News office, and will thus aid in preventing exciting rumors.

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A good COOKING STOVE, and other kitchen utensils. Apply on Mt. Zion street, opposite Maj. McCleughan's. [June 17/65—3

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June 1/65

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