

## One Chance Left to Avoid a Dictator--The Republican Party Must go Out of Power.

A dictator is staring the North in the face. The Philadelphia *Mercury* points to Fremont as the man, and fears he has a large support for the place. His speech at St. Louis, declaring that the "people" should have their way in defiance of the "red tape at Washington," is hailed as a shadow of the coming event. It implores the country to support the Democracy in ousting the Republicans and saving the "Union." It says:

That the Republicans cannot save it is, we should think, fully demonstrated by the history of the last sixteen months. In that interval they have had undivided control of the government, and the President and his Cabinet have been sustained by a powerful majority in Congress. The people of the non-seceded States have, without distinction of party, given the Administration the most generous support in its efforts to put down the rebellion. Money and men have been supplied without stint. Nay, more than this. The people have suffered with wonderful patience a certain exercise of arbitrary power rather than seem to deny the Executive any means deemed necessary to enforce the national authority in the revolted States. The freedom of speech and of the press has been abridged, the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* has been suspended, not in military districts only, but in places where civil courts were open; citizens have been arrested on suspicion, on the report of interested spies and informers, sent to prison without a hearing, restrained of their liberty for months in total ignorance of the cause of their confinement, and discharged at last without a trial. These and other illegal invasions of the constitutional rights and franchises of the people have been endured by them simply in the hope that a temporary concession of the largest powers to the government might strengthen its hands to crush insurrection and bring the war to a speedy and happy end.

But the result has disappointed expectation. After sixteen months of time, the expenditure of more than ten hundred millions of dollars, and the sacrifice of upwards of two hundred thousand lives, we have the Northern capital besieged, while the rebel army is pressing into Maryland and Pennsylvania in the East, and into Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio in the West.

In the presence of such facts, who will deny that the rule of the Republican party has signally and disastrously failed. It has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. It should give way, therefore, to a new order of things—to a party of sounder views, wiser counsels, and more vigorous action—in a word, to the rule of those whose comprehension of the crisis and its necessities is more in harmony with the convictions and wishes of the great mass of the loyal people of the country. The war against the rebellion thus far has been so conducted as to unite the South and divide the North. Why? Because sectional and party views have been allowed to supersede the one only proper and important object of the war,

namely: the restoration of the Union as it was. The war, to be successful, must henceforth be so managed as to unite the North and divide the South. How may that be done? By waging it according to the Constitution, for the simple purpose of upholding and enforcing the Constitution. This can be done only by a party whose cardinal principle has ever been, and is now, the preservation of our national unity and the maintenance of the sacred compact of federation on which it was originally based and established. That party is the Democratic party. But how can it now exercise a decisive influence on the government? Only through a strong majority in Congress. If the people at the next elections will send Democrats to act for them in the National House of Representatives, the policy of the Administration may be controlled by a conservative legislature, having command of the national purse, and therefore of the sword.

As regards the ability of the Democratic party to save the nation in its present fearful extremity, the Rev. Robert J. Breckinridge, of Ky., who has signally proved his devotion as a loyal Union man says, recently: "The permanent triumph of the Democratic party in 1864, is the best result I see to be possible for the country."

### The Release of Pope's Officers.

The Richmond *Enquirer*, in noticing the departure of Pope's officers from that city, says:

This action was taken in consequence of the explicit declaration, from the highest military authority of the Yankee government, that the orders of Gen. Pope, to which exceptions had been taken by President Davis, were no longer in force. The reason for their detention, according to the proclamation of President Davis, no longer existing, they stood upon precisely the same footing as other Yankee officers, and were, therefore, subject to parole and exchange.—Our readers are doubtless aware of the ground upon which the close confinement of Pope's officers was placed. Our government, always anxious to conduct this contest upon the acknowledged usages of civilized warfare, was forced, by the highest obligations of duty to its citizens, to adopt such measures of retribution and retaliation, as would repress and punish the barbarities openly proclaimed by Pope. The proclamation by the President was purely a matter of retaliation, forced upon him by the infamous orders of Pope. When those orders were made inoperative, and repealed, the necessity for that proclamation, as well as its justification, ceased. We are glad that the prompt and decided course of President Davis has thus caused these obnoxious orders to be repudiated by the Yankee government, and, thus far at least, preventing the war from drifting into one of rapine and murder. We understand, further, that the federal authorities have not only declared that the orders of Pope are not in force, but have communicated to our authorities the additional facts, that Pope has been relieved from his command, and his troops assigned to other corps.

A young man who fits the business of the counter is a counter fitter.

### Scenes after the Surrender of Harper's Ferry.

A Federal letter from Harper's Ferry says that no sooner had the rebels taken possession of our camps than officers and men of both armies sat down to friendly conversation, which was kept up during most of the day. It adds:

It must be said, to their honor, that the rebels conducted themselves in the most unexceptionable manner, from the highest officer down. Your correspondent spent several hours in agreeable conversation, sounding them on the great question and other matters. "We have," said a South Carolina captain, "150,000 men on Maryland soil, but we do not come as an army of invasion. You go your way and we will go ours."

"What do you think about pushing us to the wall now?" playfully retorted another to me. "How about that 'onward to Richmond?'" inquired a third. "Cincinnati is ours, and so will Washington soon be," said a Georgian.

A Virginia Secessionist informed me that Ewell was wounded at Manassas, and is now at Winchester. Lee they considered their most able general; Jackson the best for speedy marches and dashes. Beauregard had not fallen into disgrace, but was out of health. Magruder was drunk at Malvern Hill, and had been transferred to another command. "Had it not been for him and another drunken general, we should have bagged McClellan and his whole force at that time."

Sigel was considered among "his countrymen" our ablest general. McClellan's strategy no one feared. "How about that last retreat," they said, has "become a byword with all our soldiers." Pope was execrated by all. He thought him an able general, but constantly leaving gaps open. "The only difference between us and you," said a rebel colonel, "is, that you magnify your forces in the field, while we keep our estimates down." The most severe battle of the war, for the number engaged, was that fought before Charleston. "Jeff. Davis is very much behind the people in his measures."

Here I asked a South Carolinian, are you going to keep your Southern Confederacy together on the States-rights theory?

"Give us a chance and we will show you," he retorted. "If we don't make it work we may return to the old Union, but not with Abraham Lincoln as President."

The privates informed me that they had no tent equipage, and frequently marched twenty-five miles or more a day, but were content. "We are fighting for our country; what are you fighting for?" inquired a North Carolinian of me.

Who could have believed, on looking at those groups of men scattered over the fields, eating, drinking, and conversing together, that they had in one short hour before been engaged in deadly conflict?

A MAN, complaining of being turned out of a concert-room, said he was "fired with indignation."

"If you were fired," remarked a bystander, "perhaps that was the reason they put you out."