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THE STRUGGLE ENDED.

The great political struggle of 1864 belongs to history, and few there be who do not rejoice that its passions and prejudices have fulfilled their mission, or at least exhausted their efforts for evil. That their baneful fruits mind linger and survive the field of mad strife and phrenzied political hatreds and hopes, is we fear, but too true; but it is a welcome hour to every faithful man that closes the contest and bids the conflicting hosts to retire and yield the victory to those who have won it.

Never before have we struggled through a National contest with such a sense of responsibility, and with such mingled hopes and fears, as in the one just closed. We had no idols to conserate with power; no shrine of personal devotion that called out a Nation's overflowing love and enthusiasm, such as kept in the train of the tall white plume of Harry Clay. Men and men-worshippers were dwarfed in the colossal issues of the conflict, and they faded into insignificance as a mighty Nationality struggled with deadly treason in the field and subtle treachery at home, for its own life. Candidates were but the representatives of ideas, around whom gathered their supporters often with solemn, earnest, tireless effort rather than the hearty shouts which have usually made the welkin ring in Presidential contests.

Passion deepened into prejudice, prejudice into implacable hatred even of a beneficent government; and these were thousands upon thousands who were deceitfully led, step by step, until they mourned our country's triumphs and rejoiced at its misfortunes. Clouded in intensified political inclinations they forgot the holy duty of the citizen to law and order, and lawlessness sprang million-tongued from one side of the contending lines, and spread the seeds of anarchy among friend and foe. On the side of the Democratic party there was an habitual teaching of disregard for law a constant wearing out of the sanctity with which all have been taught to regard it in better days; and it culminated in thousands of skulking conscripts who, forgetful of honor, shame and country, turn upon their own homes, upon their house-hold gods and upon their Nationality, and peril the last hope of Free Government by their perfidy. Equally, earnestly and persistently were the people taught that our taxes are but needless oppression; that our debt but the fruits of treasonable tyranny, and that the calls for troops to strengthen our brave armies in the field, are but the steady strides of a grasping usurpation; and resistance even to revolution was counseled, either in spirit or in fact, until the last refuge of a free people the majesty of law was threatened in the very house of its friends. Could such elements in a National struggle fail to be fruitful of evil? Not alone within their own elevated ranks did it lessen the sanctity of law; on its pestiferous breath spread like a deadly miasma over friend and foe, and aimed at the very vitals of the life of the Republic.

We write without knowledge as to the result of the last contest. We hope to record in these columns the re-election of President Lincoln by a decisive majority, but, improbable as it is, a different result is remotely possible, and we would have all men of whatever political persuasion, prepare to leave passion and lawlessness on the field so desperately contested, and make common cause for the preservation of the government. If Gen. McClellan is chosen President of the United States he has a right to demand the support and cooperation of every citizen in his efforts to administer the government. As its constitutional head, we should sustain him in all things looking to the safety of our institutions. We should differ with him doubtless in many of his measures and council against his policy; but looking as we do to the majesty of law as the only safety to person, property and our institutions, we should seek to strengthen rather than weaken his power so long as he stood firmly for maintaining the unity of the States and overthrowing treason. And equally sacred is the duty imposed upon the opponents of Mr. Lincoln if he is our Chief Magistrate, chosen in conformity with our laws. Mere political differences cannot justify an open, desperate effort to defeat the measures of the government in a deadly conflict with traitors. He will assume that he is the best judge of what measures the government should adopt to preserve it, and return assent or support to any other, is himself either deceived or purposely faithless to his country; and whatever may be the political affinities of our chosen rulers, let them be sustained with one concerted treason is overthrown, and an honorable and enduring peace gained for ourselves and posterity. We hope indeed that the torrent of partisan prejudice has spent its fury, and that henceforth we shall make common cause to rescue the Republic from its relentless foe, and give speedy and decisive triumph to Liberty and Law!

A BOLD BUT FAITHLESS FRAUD.

The efforts of the Democratic leaders to defy the army vote have been persistent and continuous. They resisted the extension of furloughs to the soldiers solely because the soldiers, other than to vote for McClellan, were pushing their lives. In every act in their effort to disfranchise our heroes in the field, they next resolved to defraud them by system, fraud and chicanery in manipulation of their votes and in the use of every things tech nical in our laws. The New York World, Mozart and Mr. Wickham have given the people a series of the most appalling forgeries, and frauds upon the soldiers and the party, of the ballot box, and in Pennsylvania every sophistry has been called in and put them in mind by disregarding the vote of our battle scarred heroes in the field.

In such a work Gen. Coffroth is a fit instrument. Without rational appearance of fraud, it seems an idle sport thing upon him, it is not surprising that he should attempt to defy the laws and pilfer the empty honors of an illegal certificate of election, hoping to gain a seat for a few months in the next Congress. That he can hope to hold it in the face of his palpable defeat, is not probable even with Gen. Coffroth. He may think foolish things and inflate himself with the wildest of chimeras; but he cannot be such a super-extra ass as to believe that a thoroughly Union Congress would not dispense with his presence as speedily as the rules will allow of it. Still clinging to the position from which his own constituents have cast him, he is, we must believe, a party to the insolent disregard of the law that has culminated in rejecting certain army returns for informality in Adams, Fulton and Bedford counties.

There is no evidence of fraud; but merely irregularities, which, it must be remembered, are all covered by the law which providing that no mere informalities shall defeat the army suffrage. Regardless of this plain direction of the law, much of the army vote has been rejected by the Democratic judges of the election commissioned to give Coffroth an apparent majority, and he has received a certificate of election after a fashion.

By last week's paper we showed that the return judges had no authority to reject any vote unless so defective as "to prevent the same from being understood." It is not pretended that any part of this vote is not perfectly intelligible, every vote returned is entirely understood, but the difficulty is that the soldiers did not please to vote for Coffroth and therefore their ballots are rejected.

We borrow no trouble about this foolish attempt to defraud the Union people and the brave soldiers of the 15th district out of the election of Gen. Koontz. They have now exhausted their villainy and to the time the remedial power of the proper authorities will lay a strong hand on this attempt to usurp a seat in Congress in defiance of the people, and Gen. Coffroth will have only grief for his labors. The case is not without precedent. In 1860 Mr. Butler was regularly returned as elected in the 1st district of Philadelphia city. Mr. Lehman. He had the certificate of election and so far as the preliminary ministerial officers of the law could go, he was the member of Congress elect. But Mr. Lehman all-good that the return was made out by frauds in certain precincts, and at once induced Mr. Byerly as the chief instrument in consummating them. Governor Packer issued his proclamation declaring under the broad seal of the State, who was chosen to Congress, Mr. Byerly was convicted and imprisoned. The incredible fraud was thus brought officially to light. Gov. Packer, and he accepted and laid in the demand of justice by proclaiming Mr. Lehman elected. This was the official evidence of the election. Congressman, the Clerk of the house entered Mr. Lehman on the rolls and qualified him, leaving Mr. Butler outside with his certificate of election in his pocket. He contested to contest, but his own party friends refused him. In the case of the district the evidence of the fraud of the Executive, and it is conclusive. Even the officials are expressly prohibited by the law of the State from putting the case before honestly elected in the position of contestant, and by that law Gen. Coffroth is solemnly bound, and in accordance with its requirements he will, we doubt not, issue his proclamation in due time declaring Gen. Koontz elected, and thus give him his seat. Hon. Edward M. Fiss is the Clerk of the House, and we confidently and affectionately advise Gen. Coffroth that he will consider the army vote fairly polled as entitled to be fairly counted, and in deference to the blood-sealed Pennsylvania he will call and qualify Wm. H. Koontz as the Congressman from the 15th district. Gen. Coffroth will then have his constitutional right to protest and to contest, and we bid him be merry in his labor of forcing himself into Congress by defrauding the soldiers out of their votes. When the General is through with the affair, he will oblige us by reporting in an early statement of the profits of the transaction.

The official majorities of the army vote for Gen. Koontz in the several counties of the district are as follows:

Adams	177
Franklin	111
Fulton	21
Bedford	261
Somerset	129
	699
Coffroth's majority on home vote	625
Koontz's majority on whole vote	74

The record evidence of the election of Gen. Koontz fortunately does not depend solely upon the returns to the several counties, where they are accepted or rejected as Union or opposition partizans prefer, but they are of record in the Executive office at Harrisburg, and upon them Governor Curtin will indicate the purity of the ballot box, the sanctity of the soldier franchise, and the undoubted right of Gen. Koontz to a seat in the next Congress.

As the case now stands both Koontz and Coffroth have certificates of election; Gen. Koontz's certificate gives the full vote of the districts as follows:

	Koontz.	Coffroth.
Adams	2[illegible]	[illegible]
Franklin	211	[illegible]
Fulton	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bedford	[illegible]	[illegible]
Somerset	[illegible]	[illegible]
	11,832	11,[illegible]

Koontz majority, 68.

Thus the whole we regard Gen. Koontz as our Congressman elect, and have no doubt but that he will take his seat, if living, in December, 1865, and serve until the 4th of March, 1867.

LAWLESSNESS.

It is at all times unwise to conceal the perils that surround us, and especially so, as among like the present, when the dictates of society are trembling in the balances, and every care is needed to preserve its order and stability. It is then with just cause for alarm, that we see abroad in the land a prevailing and growing tendency to lawlessness, a spirit of disobedience to establish authority, and a consequent increase of crime. Such are the beginnings of anarchy, and if they are suffered to increase, it once the strained bands of law are broken asunder, then begins the carnival of ruin. It is not difficult to point out the causes of such a state of affairs among us. War, and especially such an one as that in which we are now engaged, naturally gives a license to crime. A thousand evils follow in its train which no discipline can reach and no law prevent. Under the high plea of military necessity, it often over-rides the civil power, and so, in the conflict of authorities the guilty go unpunished. The disturbed state of society, also caused by the presence of a large army, is such as greatly facilitates the designs of the lawless and wicked. The murderer clothed in the uniform he has dishonored, is feared among his comrades; while thieves and plunderers, ply their trades unsuspected. We who live along the border, where contending armies have swept over us, have suffered and are still likely to suffer from great deal of lawlessness which we have claimed. But there is still a deeper, and we think, a far more serious cause for alarm, one which has grown out of the shadowy land of opposition to our government. Secretly, but with double zeal, in opposition, openly, with public hate. Rebellion is organized, it is in full array against us, and it is natural to expect that sympathy with it would show itself in lawlessness and insubordination. And so we have every degree of it, from that which simply denounces the administration as a "tyrannical," to that which openly and defiantly shouts down the officer of law. When a treasonable press in addition, gathers together such things as are called to its aid, the passions of the [illegible] and [illegible] counseling the President to [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]