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Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History



Excerpt from the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, 30 January 1863, page 5

CITY BULLETIN THE EVENING JOURNAL CASE

Presentment by the Grand Jury

The Order by General Schenk

THE JOURNAL'S EDITORIAL

The Grand Inquest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, inquiring for the City and County of Philadelphia, upon their respective oaths and affirmations, do present:

That they have dilligently inquired into the matter especially given to them in charge by the Court, on the 29th Day of January, A.D., 1863, relating to the arrest and forcible abduction of a citizen of this Commonwealth, from this county, on the 27th day of January, A.D. 1863, and after a protracted investigation, extending their session until a late hour, they have found the facts connected therewith to be and they hereby present the same to the Court as follows:

On Tuesday night, January 27th, 1863, between 11 and 12 o'clock, Albert D. Boileau, a citizen of this Commonwealth and a resident of this city, upon returning to his home was taken into custody by military officers in the service of the United States and taken away from this city and conveyed to Fort McHenry a military fortress of the United States near Baltimore, in the state of Maryland. That said officers acted under and in pursuance of a special order issued by General Schenk, the Commanding General of the Eighth Army Corps, in which Department this city is, to General Montgomery, Commanding at Philadelphia, which order is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS EIGHT ARMY CORPS, Baltimore, MD., Jan. 24., 1863

SPECIAL ORDERS, NO. 24

Brigadier General Montgomery will immediately arrest and send under a sufficient guard to Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Albert D. Boileau, the publisher and editor of the Philadelhia *Evening Journal*, for the publication of an editorial article under the title of "Davis' Message" in his paper of January 20, 1863, and for the publication of other articles of like dangerous character tending to the support and encouragement of rebellion against the Government of the United States.

He will also take measures to suppress the publication of the Philadelphia *Evening Journal*, the paper in question, until further orders.

By command of Major General Schenk.

WILLIAM D. WHIPPLE Assistant Adjutant-General

DAVIS'S MESSAGE

The third annual message of Jefferson Davis to the Confederate Congress, and Abraham Lincoln's last message to the United States Congress, provoke a comparison quite damaging to the intellectual capacity of the Federal President. Dr Russel . . . relates that while dining with Mr. [Secretary of State William] Seward . . . the conversation turned upon Jefferson Davis, when, among other things. Mr Seward remarked that 'he (Davis) was the ablest stateman in America; and that the force of his intellect formed the chief sustaining power of the Southern Confederacy.'

.... Some time ago, Mr. Davis went West to inspect and see for himself the conditions of the army and the defences of the Confederacy in that quarter. He was received everywhere along the route by the ovations of the people.... The usual amount of twaddle was indulged in by the Abolition press, deceiving the people now as they have in the past, about the desparate straits of the Confederacy, "the visit of Jeff Davis to restore their drooping courage," and more of the same sort. The New York *Times*, however, an Abolition paper, which is generally pretty candid, unless enagaed in a political campaign, with shrewd foresight and a cutting rebuke at our own Administration, denominated his speeches as "crushingly truthful."

Subsequent events have proved that they were indeed "crushingly truthful." His last message bears the imprint of an analytical mind. He commences with noticing the enormous preparations of the United States, as being so menacing as to excite the grave apprehensions of the minds of many, but that the weight of numbers did not succeed. There was no braggadocio about it. He mentions plainly the decisive repulses at Fredricksburg and Vicksburg, and thus refers to the campaign in the West. . . . He thus refers to the prostitution of the war from its original purpose.

"The war, which, in its inception, was waged for forcing us back into the Union, having failed to accomplish that purpose, passed into a second stage, in which it was attempted to conquer and rule these states as independent provinces. Defeated in this second design, our enemies have evidently entered upon another, which can have no other purpose than revenge, and thirst for blood and plunder of private property."

This is absolutely true, and it cannot escape history any more than Mr. Lincoln himself can. . . .

None of the great benefits predicted by the Emancipation Proclamation have been realized. The slaves have not risen and cut their master's throats as the abolitionists so fondly hoped. The effort of the slaves to free themselves was to have weakened the Confederate armies to such an extent as to make victory certain. Well, the slaves have not risen, but it has been through the Providence of GOD, and not from the desire of Mr. Lincoln to the contrary. He issued this incendiary address to them, inviting them to strike for freedom, but they have remained faithfully with their masters except where they have been driven away at the point of bayonet by Federal troops.

Another grand effect of this great panacea for the Union was to frighten the South and make them quake in their knees. This fond anticipation has not been realized. Many unprotected women & children may quake upon retiring for the night, while their protectors are absent in the army, but they must put their faith in God and their faithful house servants to protect them. The President has just as much right to declare the marriage tie dissolved in

the South as the bond of master and servant. One is as much a military necessity as the other. Who but a madman or fool believes that the Union can be restored by such means?

The Grand Jury have thus stated simply the facts they were desired by the Court when this matter was given to them in charge. Yet they cannot refrain from saying that they whilst indirectly or as a body could not conscientiously do anything which would have a tendency to weaken the arm of the General Government in the exercise of its constitutional authority for the supression of this most wicked rebellion, yet they feel equally bound to enforce all of the laws that have the protection of life, the security of property, and the liberty of the citizen in sacred keeping.