



Excerpts from The Philadelphia *Inquirer* 23 August 1861, 4

“The Suppression of the Christian Observer”

Yesterday a wise and judicious step was taken by the United States Marshal, in suppressing the publication of the only traitorous sheet published in this city. The *Christian Observer*, although a religious paper, and edited by Minister of the Gospel, has, for some time past, teemed with villainous articles in opposition to the prosecution of the war, and abusing the brave patriots who have left the comforts of home for the hardships and dangers of the battlefield.

The *Observer* professed to be an organ of the New School Presbyterian Church, but the *American Presbyterian*, the able organ of that body in the city, says that “it is repudiated by ministers and laymen, in this city and vicinity, and as far as our church membership extends, Southward, Westward, and Eastern from this point, with fast decreasing and insignificant expectations. It is, therefore, scarcely, just to speak of it, under present auspices, as a ‘New School’ paper. There is no denomination in the country, from which the tone and spirit of that paper are more foreign than ours.”

[Excerpts from the *Christian Observer*]:

- “ATROCITIES OF FEDERAL SOLDIERS IN VIRGINIA. – The following is an extract of a letter from a Northern gentleman resident in Virginia, to a friend in Philadelphia. Under date of August 9th, he says:-
‘Re-union is an *utter impossibility*. The gross, brutal, fiendish, demoniac outrages perpetrated by the chicken stealers sent here to ravage the country, pillage the houses and burn them, outrage the women, and shoot down for amusement peaceable citizens, and even children on the streets, have *greatly exasperated the people*.’”

[From a *Christian Observer* correspondent in Missouri:]

“Be assured, Missouri is out, as soon as she can get out, from such abominable misrule. The administration has thus done for Missouri what the Secessionists of the State, or elsewhere, never could have done. If you tell men that these are the doings simply of a bad administration, the ready answer is yes, but the administration is backed in this coercion by nearly the *entire North*. From what I *know* of public and general sentiment in this State, we are no doubt to have bloody work in Missouri, if the General Government continue armed forces on our soil for the purpose of *coercing* us to stay in a Union that has become a loathing and abhorrence to the great mass of our people.”

“ANOTHER ADVOCATE OF PEACE. – We have received the second number of the *National Zeitung*, a large quarto in form, of eight pages, neatly printed in the German language. . . . The editors state it as their purpose *to aid* in rescuing this country from the

consequences of this horrible war.’ We commend it to the attention and patronage of our fellow citizens of German birth and education. We observe, by the *Journal of Commerce*, that the advocates of peace are increasing in almost every part of the Border and Northern States. It states that there are now *one hundred and fifty-two papers* opposed to the war, and advocating a peaceable settlement of our national difficulties.”

[From a correspondent in Delaware:]

“The Peace Party in Delaware, which is by no means an insignificant party, are unable to comprehend how war is to reconstruct our Union! or how our Government is to be sustained by trampling under foot our Constitution and Laws; or how the dignity of that Constitution is to be maintained by the violation of its most sacred obligations, by those who sworn to *protect* and *defend* it.”

[From the editor of the *Observer*.]

“The first question now is, *for peace*, which is demanded by increasing numbers every week: PEACE, *with* or *without* Union, on any terms not disgraceful to Christian States. — Union may be a question for subsequent consideration.”