

STAUNTON SPECTATOR AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

Staunton Spectator.

STAUNTON, VA.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1864.

The Spring Campaign.

The Spring campaign has opened not only suspiciously but gloriously for the South. The news from the East, West and South has been of the most cheering character. Victory has followed victory in quick succession. The news from the North is also of the most encouraging character.

The peace party is growing in strength and boldness, and the financial condition of the enemy is becoming worse daily. Gold is going up, and, if our success continue, will soon take an alarumous ascension.

Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury acknowledged that, without military success, no remedy will save the finances.

The great conflict between the armies of Lee and Grant, upon the result of which depend the issues of peace or a protracted war, is awaited with impatience.

Our people are not only hopeful, but confident. It is not well to be too confident, for the results of battles are very uncertain, and where there has been too much confidence, an unlooked-for result is followed with a corresponding depression.

We should guard against presumptuous confidence. A hasty spirit goeth before a fall.

FAILURE TO EXEMPT.

It is well known that the exemption bill which applied to persons between the ages of 18 and 45 years, exempted the members of specified churches on account of religious opinions, who had paid the tax levied to relieve them from service.

When the bill was passed extending the conscription so as to embrace those between the ages of 17 and 18, and 46 and 50 years, Congress failed—it is supposed by mere oversight—to provide for the exemption, "on account of religious opinions," of those embraced by the extension of conscription.

It is not presumed that this class of persons will be required to go into the field service—unless it be the corn or harvest field—for that would be making an unjust distinction between persons of the same church on account of their rule of action, and they are not fools enough to hear the military power of France. The resolution of the House, as Mr. Cox justly characterized it, is a mere *brutum fulmen*, unless backed by arms. And how are they going to back it in that way? They have already more on their hands in that way than they can attend to.

Bullying the South and bringing to Europe is the extent of their capacity.

If they had never driven the Southern States from the Union the United States would have escaped its profound humiliation which it now suffers. Or, if it could conquer the South, it might in a fair way of retrieving its disgrace, and sending back Maximilian to the land of his fathers. By the aid of Southern troops and Southern Generals, it brought the whole of Mexico to its knees without difficulty, and, with such auxiliaries, what might it not accomplish against the few foreign troops of Maximilian, unsupported by the energies of a united people! But the soldiers who conquered Mexico are now defending the Mexican empire as well as their own.

Does the United States differ? Perhaps Maximilian is the extent of their capacity.

The Richmond Dispatch gives the following additional particulars:

The force engaged on our side was Hoke's brigade, commanded by Col. Mercer of the 21st Ga., Ransom's brigade, commanded by Gen. Ransom, and Kemper's (Virginia) brigade, commanded by Col. Terry.

On Sunday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, our forces, under the command of Gen. Hoke, arrived in front of Plymouth, the fortifications being plainly visible through the trees behind which the Confederates were drawn up. The 1st Va. regiment, commanded by Major Norton, was thrown forward as skirmisher, and the enemy's lines retired, and their fortifications were captured.

The following extract from a circular of the Bureau of Conscription Rolling Officers shows that the purpose of the Government in violation of their principles, was to become participants in a bloody strife upon the battle-fields.

The fundamental principles of justice, equality, and freedom, are violated by the Government in the following manner:

"The Government is disposed to make war upon the people of the country, and to sustain the Government, it may be done under the pretense of the other classes of individuals."

"The Government employs laborers that they can purchase for the objects of the war."

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