AMERICAN SENTINEL, AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

The American Sentinel.

WESTMINSTER:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1862.

Flag of the free heart's hope and home!
By angel hands to Valor given!
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in Heaven.
Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before
With freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us?

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Glorious News.

We congratulate our readers and the loyal portion of our community this week on the glorious news we present to them of the successes of our army and navy. The capture of Roanoke Island and Elizabeth City have been complete, spreading a panic through the entire South, while the still more glorious victory at Fort Donelson has struck a death blow to the rebellion in the West. The reign of Southern tyranny is almost played out, and the oppressed Union men in these States are beginning again to realize the blessings and privileges secured them by the Government. The "handwriting is on the wall," and the downfall of that dynasty based on deception and fraud, becomes inevitable.

The news from France, of the determination of the Emperor Napoleon, not to interfere with our affairs, will, it is to be hoped, put to rest the fond hopes of the rebels of an interference in their behalf, from that quarter. We never had any doubts about France's course, for she is our natural friend, and all's England's aristocracy, on the other hand, are anxious for the downfall of our republic, and would induce the Government to try our mettle; but we are rather inclined to the opinion that England has been as near the verge of a war with the United States as she will desire to approach, for some time to come. The whole thing is contained in the compass of a nutshell—if the campaign now going on is successful, and Gen. McClellan's forces succeed in placing our flag upon all the principal fortifications from which it had been torn, then England and France, nor any other nation, will presume to meddle or interfere with us, in any shape or form. If the rebels whip us, then these Powers might be emboldened to tender mediation; but it is probable that that is the extent to which they would go, under any circumstances. Recognition, however, of the rebel government would give it a moral support, but not much material aid.

What is It?

Amidst the many complicated affairs which surround us upon every hand, we do not wonder that the mind of man becomes confused—appearances are so deceiving and according to the understanding of our *rebel friends* being placed in such a direful position where everything is so ambiguous and uncertain, as we now find ourselves under this government, we blame not the man who complains of the depression of his mental faculties. But, to the eyes of the philosopher something is daily discovered which strikes him with wonder. The naturalist in his study of the natural sciences daily brings to light some singular freak of nature, and amidst the natural phenomena of the nineteenth century, "Barnum" brings before the public the greatest natural curiosity of the age—"What is it." Well we don't know, and those who are far superior to us in the knowledge of the natural sciences, generally at a loss, to divine its choice. This is, that we are daily puzzled at the apparance of the wonders of nature. But the greatest curiosity of the age is the "*Constitutional Democrat*"—who makes his grand *début* in the last issue of the "*Carroll County Democrat*." Is Webster dead—does the great expounder of the Constitution lie beneath the sod—has the patriotic heart of the wise and sagacious Douglas ceased to pulsate—aye, they have ceased to live, we know that "grim death" has seized them as his victims—and their voice is no longer heard in the councils of the Nation, were we not confident of the demise of each of those great men we should be constrained to believe that one of those distinguished statesmen, is the author of that profound and able article over that *misapplied* signature. We doubt very much the accurate comprehension of the word constitution by that individual, and believing likewise that his ignorance of the word democrat, has persuaded him to write over that signature we can freely forgive him. We are not surprised at him disagreeing with "Patience" in the hope for the return of those glorious times and days we once enjoyed," for we know that great men will differ in opinion, but this learned individual says that he could agree with him if he supposed that the ethiopian could change his skin or the leopard his spots—how naturalists have recently discovered that the leopard can change his spots—this may be doubted, but he has frequently been known to lie down in one it—and upon another and at another time—therefore we contend that the leopard can change his spots, we deny however, that the man who advocates such doctrines as is contained in this Constitutional Democrat is a patriot, and unworthy either of private or public confidence. That the church has done much to facilitate this rebellion we cannot deny, unless we be blind to facts, we admit it, but will not, and could not if we wished to do so particularize any sect.

Among some of the religious denominations, we believe no separation could be effected—upon any grounds, either because of national necessity and public good—or for the good of the soul, rather would they harbor sedition within its pale and cultivate all the iniquity and corruption of which they are capable, and treat the fact that the "sacred of rights and just, but because the powers that be, have thus decreed. It is not our object as we have before stated to attack any sect, but when these *dogmas of treason* and villifyers of all that is good—begin their assaults from that temple consecrated to Heaven and God, we cannot refrain, from saying something upon the subject. We do not intend to say, according to our opinion what particular church has done the most to bring upon us our present calamities, if we look around, we can see in our midst the Confederates are playing out, and with their defeat dont you apprehend a sudden collapse of the Democrat, and lastly which would you rather do, or go a fishing.

Getting worse—The weather and roads, of our Saviour who embrace every opportunity to speak ill of the government—and denounce our Legislature in the most vindictive terms—*as a body of men who can be bribed both body and soul to do anything.*" This is a charge imputed to men, who stand as high above the man who could make it, as the heavens are above the earth—and they who are loyal to their country can only treat that man who thus impugns their honesty, with that contempt which his actions so justly merit. That the church and politics should be separate and distinct is our theory and the one to which we adhere. We are opposed to this Country being ruled by the prejudices and bigotry of any sect, but desire to see every church protected and defended by the strong arm of the Law, in the enjoyment of its particular creed. Let us preserve the Union, and give encouragement to the noble braves who are fighting for its maintainance. Preserve it, and we preserve not only the civil but, a noble principle, aye, one of the main pillars of the Union "the right to worship our Lord, according to the dictates of our own consciences." Let us forget all past differences of opinion, and bury the religious causes of the rebellion in oblivion, but Sublime our strength against treason, in any shape let it be committed by whom it will.

The Democrat.

In last week's issue of the above paper it was grossly and solemnly announced "upon no less authority than Gen. Huger, commander of the Confederate forces at Norfolk," that

"An attack had been made by Burnside's fleet upon Roanoke Island, that during the engagement the Federal fleet was twice repulsed, or driven off to repair damages, that the fight was renewed the next day, with the same success that a third attempt was made and a fourth on that day, but whether the engagement was renewed, or whether all operations against the Island have been indefinitely postponed we have yet to learn. The associated press despatch states that one or two Confederate gun boats were sunk by the fire from the Seattle. That the only ground for this report is the statement that two *gunboats* have been sunk; but whether they were Federal or Confederate boats, or whether there be any truth in the story at all, remains to be ascertained, and we shall be more fortunate if we get at the exact truth even then."

We must confess that we were not a little surprised upon seeing the above announcement, and hurriedly walked down to the office of the Democrat, (presided over by a somewhat celebrated *Zany* Editor,) to ascertain, whether by any means a telegraph had suddenly, as if by magic sprung into existence, and was even then sending in its winged messengers to throw light upon the grave fears entertained by the Editor for the success of the expedition.—A glance was sufficient as that there was a total absence of all appliances necessary to telegraphic operations; and we want away wondering how the Editor had received his information in so *the latest*, when it was well known in town a day before that the expedition had not only been successful, but that it had actually captured and bagged not less than 2,000 of the F. F. V.'s. We were let in *ballieve*, and so suggested to our "devil," that the Democrat must have started a "Pony Express down the Chesapeake."

In such the fact? If so, will our fascinating Editor be kind enough to answer us from his new and novel storehouse of information, whether he has any later intelligence from Burnside; and if so, when, where and how he failed.

Also, whether he has learnt how many Federal gun boats have been sunk, and what are their names, &c., and where they sailed to for repairs. Also, whether any official intelligence has been received to satisfy the Editor about the success of the expedition, and corroborating the unanimous response mentioned above.

Also, what frame of mind, soul and *body* he was in when he wrote the article, and whether he has heard anything lately about "Jeff's crossing the Potomac," and whether he thinks Beauregard will hold his reception in Baltimore" also, how the committee of reception in that city are getting along, and when the finance committee will report upon the sale of tickets to the grand "Levee" to be held by Jeffy and his retinue, in Baltimore, that was talked of before the election, and whether the same is not getting somewhat mold from its long delay.

Also, that since the "Pony Express" brings from Fort Henry, and whether or not it will dispute the *Grand* Commodore Foote's way to it upon Constitutional grounds.

Also, whether you think the rider of the Express is not suffering from "headache," having been compelled to sleep the last night in Fort Donelson without a "Pillow" also do you not think it would be a good investment for some sporting gentleman to secure "*Fanny*," and what odds the owner of "*Flora Temple*" would ask in a four mile heat against him.

Also, what has become of the black flag carried over Fort Donaldson, and whether the rebels will hang Col. Corcoran, and if one *Southern Gentleman* can continue to whip ten *Yankee Hessians*,

Also, do you *Grant* that we gained a victory at Fort Donaldson, and whether you think it *heedless* that our government should put its *Foote* in this affair in the manner in which it did.

Also, whether you "Southern chivalry" you talk of so much, *fight* by proxy, and when will down trodden, crushed, subjugated Maryland throw off its shackles, and send its 30,000 men to "assist the rebels," or are they laying "*Low*" awaiting the *arrival of Jeff*, on this side?

Also, whether you will have the full returns from the election in your paper of this week and whether you think the salute at Fort Donelson was in honor of the success of Breckinridge and his friends or intended as a damper to cool their ardor in the Confederate cause?

Also whether you think with the aid of "*Pedro*" somewhat celebrated as a correspondent of your paper you can jointly persuade the Government to desist from further prosecuting this war, and if you dont soon expect a call *from some* special quarter to lay down certain specific plan for an amicable adjustment of our troubles upon the principle suggested in the *Democrat*?

Also, what do you expect to hear from the foreign nations so untimely tangled, and appealed to (in your paper of a recent date)and whether you are still disposed to think, they will respond favorably to your suggestion, and if so, about what time do you suppose they will be here to *aid* the South, and what kind of *aid* do you think the south most need *Foreign aid Commands or Blockade*.

Also, whether you think there could be any chance of hiring or securing the loan of some of the extensive prisons down South to lodge the 19,000 prisoners lately captured at Roanoke, Forts Henry, Donelson &c.

Also, whether you are of the opinion that the Democrat will be allowed to be kept for its legal fare, and its editor handed to posterity as a benefactor of the human race.

Also, whether "my paper" will continue to preach up "Secession" and urge upon the government to cease its robbing, ravaging murder and plunder, and whether you think *Blood* likes *cold steel* better than *to steal gals*.

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