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Copy of a Letter Written from Buffalo, State of New York: July 23, 1862, to His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of North America.

Frederick Hasted

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Jeff Davis
Benhadad
M156

COPY OF A LETTER

WRITTEN FROM BUFFALO, STATE OF NEW YORK, JULY 23, 1862.

To His Excellency, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States of North America :

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :—I beg leave to inform your Excellency, that a few days ago, while I was stitching covers on some of my pamphlets, to send to Indiana, hoping the people would read them attentively—study them seriously, and thereby obtain the blessing of the Almighty thereon, I thought of the manifold evils Jefferson Davis and the cause he is fighting for, has brought upon the whole nation.

By which, both him and it, are proved to be a great curse in the sight of God and man. My mind being intent on the subject, my thoughts became engaged in tracing the sacred records of divine truth, to see if I could discover anything at all similar, and I stopped with the record of Benhadad, king of Syria, and Ahab, king of Israel, both bad men.

Nevertheless, as Ahab ruled over Israel, God was pleased to declare what he would do, in order that Israel should not be overcome by their enemies,—it being all one with him to save by many or by few.

Now, before Jefferson Davis left Congress and Washington City, he called the Union of States the accursed Union. But said he, Let us have peace, while war was brewing in his heart. Unless he could obtain all his desires by threats, like Benhadad. As it is written, "And Benhadad, the king of Syria, gathered all his host together; and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots; and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it. And he sent messengers to Ahab, king of Israel, into the city, and said unto him, Thus saith Benhadad.

"Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also, and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine. And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O King, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.

And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaketh Benhadad, saying, Although I have sent unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children; yet I will send my servants unto thee to-morrow about this time, and they shall search thine house, and the house of thy servants; and it shall be, (mind what follows,) that whatsoever is pleasant in thine eyes, they shall put it in their hand, and take it away.

Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land and said, Mark, I pray you, and see how this man seeketh mischief; for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not.

And all the elders and all the people said unto him, Harken not unto him, nor consent.

Wherefore he said unto the messengers of Benhadad, Tell my lord the King, All that thou didst send for to thy servant at the first I will do; but this thing I may not do. And the messengers departed, and brought him word again.

And Benhadad sent unto him, and said, The gods do so unto me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me. And the king of Israel answered and said, Tell him, Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.

And it came to pass, when Benhadad heard this message, as he was drinking, he and the kings in the pavilions, that he said unto his servants, Set yourselves in array. And they set themselves in array against the city.

And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord.

And Ahab said, by whom? and he said, Thus saith the Lord, Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then said he, Who shall order the battle? and he answered, Thou.

Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty-two; and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand.

And they went out at noon, but Benhadad was drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him. And the young men of the princes of the provinces went out first; and Benhadad sent out, and they told him saying, There are men come out of Samaria. And he said, Whether they be come out for peace, take them alive; or whether they be come out for war, take them alive.

So these young men of the princes of the provinces came out of the city, and the army that followed them. And they slew every one his man; and the Syrians fled; and Israel pursued them; and Benhadad the king escaped on an horse, with the horsemen.

And the king of Israel went out, and smote the horses and chariots, and slew the Syrians with a great slaughter. And the prophet came to the king of Israel, and said unto him, Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest; for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee.

And it came to pass at the return of the year, that Benhadad numbered the Syrians, and went up to Apheh to fight against Israel. And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them: and the children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids, but the Syrians filled the country.

And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the Lord, Because the Syrians have said, The Lord is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And so it was, that on the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day. But the rest fled to Apheh, into the city: and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Benhadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber. And his servants said unto him, behold now we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings; let us, I pray thee, put sackcloth on our loins, and ropes upon our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; peradventure he will save thy life. So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and put ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, Thy servant Benhadad saith, I pray thee let me live. And he said, is he yet alive? he is my brother.

Now the men did dilligently observe whether any thing would come from him, and did hastily catch it; and they said, Thy brother Benhadad. Then he said, Go ye, bring him. Then Benhadad came forth to him, and he caused him to come up into the chariot.

And Benhadad said unto him, The cities which my father took from thy father, I will restore; and thou shalt make streets for thee in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria. Then said Ahab, I will send thee away with this covenant. So he made a covenant with him, and sent him away.

And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbor in the word of the Lord, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him.

Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the Lord, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him and slew him.

Then he found another man, and said, smite me, I pray thee. And the man smote him, so that in smiting he wounded him. So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with ashes upon his face. And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king, and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man; if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life. And, as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be: thyself hast decided it.

And he hastened, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he was of the prophets. And he said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I have appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people." 1st Kings xx. 1 to 42.

Now, as you are well acquainted with much of the evil that Jefferson Davis and others have inflicted upon this nation in support of slavery; should God be pleased to appoint him, them and it, to utter destruction, take heed that you fall not into the same snare as Ahab, by sparing the accursed system, and calling the vile being or beings brother or brethren, who have wantonly caused the destruction of so much life and property.

For it is written, "As righteousness tendeth to life, so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death. They that are of a froward heart are an abomination to the Lord: but such as are upright in their way are his delight. Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished. Pro. xi. 19, 20, 21. And again, "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished. Pro. xvi. 5.

Then, how shall these proud and hard hearted men be able to stand against the indignation of the Almighty? They have been acting all along worse than common thieves, robbers and murderers. Because they only take a portion of a man's property; but these take all, and himself to boot, starve his family, or drive them from their homes.

If common plunderers, robbers and murderers, kill one person, they seldom kill a whole family, excepting to screen themselves from detection. Whereas, these vile rebels afflict, torture or kill whole families, whole neighborhoods, and whole communities, merely for sport, or to satisfy their wicked inclinations and devilish propensities, burning and destroying at the same time. They have thrust some into prison for no crime, and forced others into the rebel ranks, to be shot down by their friends, or die of disease and famine.

Thus many inoffensive union people, who are lovers of their country, and have forfeited nothing to the government through bad conduct, have been deprived of everything that is near and dear to them, by fiends in human shape. Yet, up to the present time, many of these fiends, who have forfeited everything to the government for their bad conduct, are still at large, bidding defiance to justice like great villains, and rejoicing in their evil course.

Is it not now time for a turn about? or shall the wicked go unpunished? Should not these abominable rebels, who have forfeited everything to the government, now be deprived of their goods, chattels and estates, or even life itself, as fast as justice or the authority of the government can reach them? I pause for your decision, while I remain with all due respect, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

FREDERICK HASTED.

I consider His Excellency gave a very effective answer to the foregoing in his Proclamation of Emancipation, on the 22d of September, declaring that the slaves should be free, in all the States and parts of States, that should be in rebellion against the Government of the United States, on or after the 1st day of January, 1863. In view of this, a friend in Kentucky, fearing he might be induced to reverse this decree, addressed the following lines to

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

JANUARY FIRST, EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THREE.

Stand like an anvil, when 'tis beaten
 With the full vigor of the smith's right arm!
 Stand like the noble oak-tree when 'tis eaten
 By the Saperda and his ravenous swarm!
 For many smiths shall strike thee ringing blows,
 Ere the red drama now enacting close:
 And human insects, gnawing at thy frame,
 Conspire to bring thy honored head to shame.

Stand like the firmament, upholden
 By an invisible but almighty hand!
 He whomsoever JUSTICE doth embolden,
 Unshaken, unsecluded, unawed shall stand.
 Invisible support is mightier far,
 With noble aims, than walls of granite are;
 And simple consciousness of justice gives
 Strength to a purpose while that purpose lives.

Stand like the rock that looks defiant
 Far over the surging seas that lash its form!
 Composed, determined, watchful, self-reliant,
 Be master of thyself, and rule the storm!
 And thou shalt soon behold the bow of peace
 Span the broad heavens, and the wild tumult cease:
 And see the billows, with the clouds that meet,
 Subdued and calm, come crouching to thy feet.

W. D. GALLAGHER.

Kentucky, December, 1862.