

# TRIBUNE'S VOICE IS NATION'S VOICE IN CRUSADE TO WIN THE CIVIL WAR

## Conflict Acclaimed as Agent to Destroy 'Accursed' Evil

To THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, the Civil war was "the Second American Revolution." It entered into the war with the spirit of a holy crusade, lamenting the blood which must be shed, but realizing that this newspaper was the voice of a great national cause—the preservation of the Union and extinction of the "accursed" institution of human slavery.

The policy of THE TRIBUNE during the period of the war which began with the surrender of Fort Sumter was that of a radical and aggressive newspaper—radical in that it was ultra-Republican and continually urged upon the administration the more extreme Republican views," wrote Prof. Tracy Elmer Strevey of Northwestern University's history department, who has made the most exhaustive historical study of THE TRIBUNE and its great editor and publisher, Joseph Medill, during this period.

"It was aggressive in its support, but never hesitated to disagree when it thought the administration was wrong.

**Optimistic View of Future**

"THE TRIBUNE entered the war with enthusiasm and an optimistic view of the future. The war was not regretted, rather was it welcomed as a cleansing force which would purge the nation of evil and settle once and for all the sectional issues which had been sowing strife and national discord for a generation.

"People were told that the rebellion must be crushed out with fire and sword and, even if years were required for the task, it must be accomplished."

The first Sunday after the fall of Fort Sumter was called by THE TRIBUNE "the first Sunday of the second American Revolution," and it inspired one of the most famous Tribune editorials:

"Lent and forbearance have only nursed the viper into life—war has begun. It may not be the present duty of each one of us to enlist and march to the sound of bugle and drum, but there is a duty not less important which is in the power of every man and woman in Chicago and in the north to perform—it is to be loyal in heart and word to the cause of the United States.

**"Of God Against Baal"**

"From this hour, let no northern man or woman tolerate in his or her presence the utterance of one word of treason. Let expressed rebuke and contempt rest on every man weak enough to be anything else in this crisis than on the side of the country against treason—of Lincoln and Scott against Davis and Twiggs, of God against Baal.

"We say to the Tories and lickspittles of this community, a pa-

## CHICAGO'S GUARDIANS IN 1847: 9 CONSTABLES AND 8 FIRE COMPANIES

Neither Chicago's police or fire department had the chance or the need to solidify by 1847. During that year the number of constables was increased to nine, but their principal accomplishment was to combat a cholera epidemic. There had been no serious fires in the city, and the eight volunteer companies were devoted particularly to social life and to outgrooming one another.

William B. Ogden helped finance the first hook and ladder company in 1835 after the city's first fire consumed a building on Lake st., the previous fall. A fire warden was appointed in each ward, and citizens were required to have buckets available for use in fighting fires.

Later that year the Fire King engine company was organized and held the spotlight until 1852, when the rival Red Jacket company outgroomed all comers, the New York department included, during a gala contest.

Friction between the companies during a fire in 1857, however, resulted in the loss of 23 lives, and a paid department was created the next year. D. J. Swenke became its foreman in 1861 and remained as chief for 50 years. The department now contains 3,250 men and spends 15 million dollars a year.

The year 1835 also saw the appointment of the city's first constable, but his duties were to enforce court orders rather than prevent crime; instead each ordinance provided that the fine, in case of violations, should go to the informer. Riots attending a speech by Stephen A. Douglas in 1854 caused the creation of a regular force of 23 men in 1855. Cyrus Bradley became the first chief, and retained this position after a reorganization in 1861. The force now numbers 6,750. Its salary payments total 19 million dollars compared with \$6,344 in 1847.

and biographer, as well as perhaps the most outspoken pacifist of his time, said the final word on this subject:

"The American Civil war was 'the only war in modern times of which we can be sure, first, that no skill or patience of diplomacy would have avoided it; and second, that preservation of the American union and abolition of Negro slavery were two vast triumphs by which even the inferno of war was justified.'"

**Volunteers Offer Services**

Just as vigorously and avidly as THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE urged the full prosecution of the Civil war, in the same measure did it contribute to it. Forty-three volunteers offered their services and joined the Union armies from THE TRIBUNE's establishment, by actual count, and THE TRIBUNE of 37 years later said the number might possibly have reached 50. This was a

## THE WESTERN SEAT OF WAR.



Showing the Position of Somerset, on the Cumberland River, where Zollicoffer was Beaten, Jan. 19, 1862.

First map printed in THE TRIBUNE on a Civil war battle, accompanying the news of a federal victory by forces under Gen. Thomas over the confederate army of Gen. Zollicoffer. Zollicoffer died in battle. This map, an early forerunner of the full page maps in color thru which Tribune readers followed World War II progress, has one glaring error—the name Missouri is in reverse.

tient and reluctant, but at last an outraged and maddened people will no longer endure your hideous. You must keep your venom sealed or go down.

"The gates of Janus are open, the storm is on. Let the cry be 'The Sword of the Lord and Gideon!'"

It is interesting to contrast the attitude of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE at this time against that of a large segment of the eastern and New York press. Patriotism there was tempered with venality and alienism, as it is today.

**A Stronger Platform**

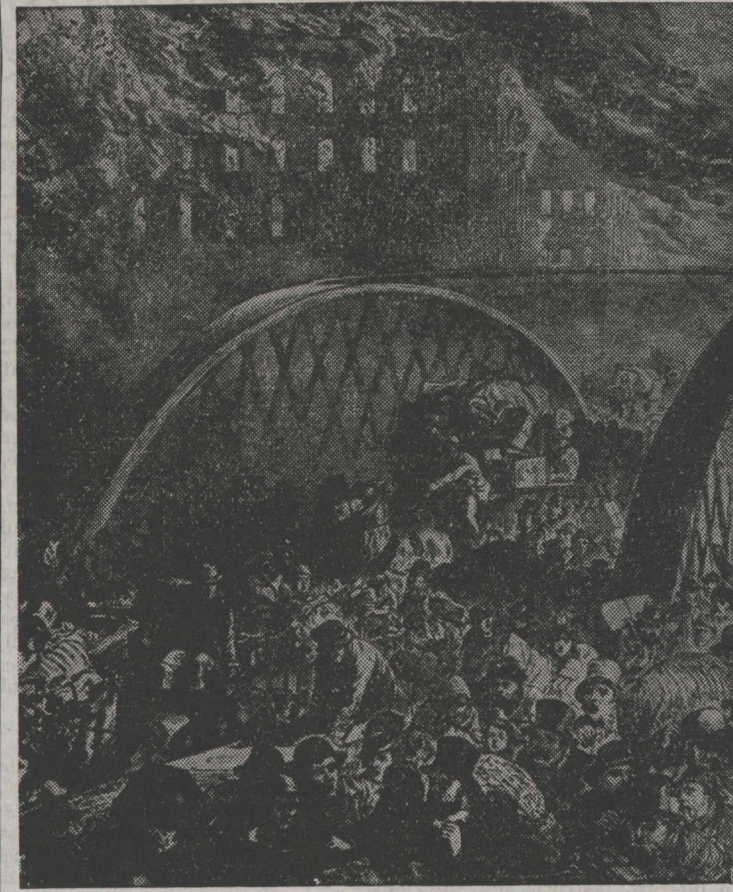
Abraham Lincoln had been elected the first Republican President of the United States. His nomination had been chiefly the work of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE and its editor and publisher, Joseph Medill. Lincoln pledged himself to carry out the 1860 Republican platform—preserve the Union; halt the spread of slavery; THE TRIBUNE's platform was the same, only more radical—preserve the Union; wipe out the institution of slavery, totally.

The attitude of the eastern newspapers, particularly in New York, still was one of compromise. Some of them, like THE New York Times, Thurlow Weed's Albany Evening Journal, and on occasions Horace Greeley's New York Tribune, wanted to compromise with the slaveowners, to recognize the Confederacy, or to take any other course to avoid war. They were influenced by rich New York merchants who did not want to lose valuable southern markets thru war.

How historically right THE TRIBUNE was on these issues is told by the noted biographer, Burton J. Hendrick, who describes the whole plot in detail in his book, "Lincoln's War Cabinet."

"John Morley, English historian

## 1871 Fire Threatened City; Left Ruins in Wake



This scene of the great Chicago fire of 1871 appeared in the London Illustrated News for Nov. 11 of that year. It is the Illustrated News artist's conception of the fleeing of the terrified multitudes over the Randolph st. bridge.

## Chicago Land a World Pawn Before U. S. Gains Possession

The land on which Chicago now stands changed hands in eight treaties before the United States obtained undisputed possession. After seven acts of congress it finally became part of the state of Illinois. It has belonged to France, Britain, several Indian nations, and has been claimed by Spain and Portugal.

These various claims were strengthened or transferred on the following occasions:

**Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494**—Spain and Portugal divided the new world. Between them, Spain receiving, on paper, all but part of Brazil. Settlement of the midwest was left to France, however, and in 1712 Louis XIV. granted the Illinois country to Antoine Crozat of New Orleans. In 1732 Crozat's grant became the crown colony of Louisiana.

**Peace of Paris, 1763**—France ceded to Britain, as a result of the Seven years' war, all that part of Louisiana east of the Mississippi river. Quebec Act, 1774—The land thus acquired by Britain was attached to the province of Quebec.

**Treaty of Paris, 1783**—Britain conceded the independence of the thirteen colonies, the western limit of

man of the Union cause, everywhere; the fact that it was distributed to the troops in the field as well as the home-folk, and became the "Bible" of the Union veteran. THE TRIBUNE sent its own correspondents into the field at the very start of the war. It scored an historic "scoop" with first news of fighting at Island No. 10. The first major battle—the first battle of Bull Run—was observed and chronicled by THE TRIBUNE's brilliant editor, Dr. C. H. Ray.

"Dr. Ray of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE reached here [Washington] after leaving Bull Run at 4 p. m.," wrote the first correspondent to give even a hint of the size of the engagement. "He says the day's battle exceeds everything of the kind in the history of the country."

The next day, THE TRIBUNE printed Dr. Ray's full, eyewitness account. It began "The battle is lost," and it was an exact account of what had happened.

**Names of Illinois Men**

On the same day, a Tribune correspondent, "Northwest," described the action on Laurel mountain, in Barbour county, Virginia, detailing the names and numbers of Illinois regiments which took part. Another correspondent, "G. C. C.," was with the Illinois troops at Rolla, Mo.

In all, THE TRIBUNE had 29 war correspondents in the field and at Washington during the war. It was an unparalleled example of initiative in news coverage. Gettysburg was typical.

"How will the London Times take the Vicksburg and Gettysburg victories?" THE TRIBUNE asked editorially of its arch-foe, which supported the south.

"All that our great unseen enemy, the master of the Times, could do, has been done to damage us with the English people. It was only on April 29 that the Times said the northwest must give up hope of seeing the Mississippi open again. All that is now smashed like a dream. There will be bitter mourning in Printing House square, and by the Times' lying correspondent in New York."

**Foremost in Recruiting**

THE TRIBUNE was foremost in recruiting volunteers for the Union cause, and foremost in urging the institution of a draft as the most fair and successful means of obtaining men. It was the leader among all the nation's newspapers in urging and sponsoring the Union Defense committee, Union leagues, and the Sanitary corps—Red Cross in a later day—which did so much to aid Union soldiers.

It was fair, penetrating, but frequently merciless in its criticism of Union generals. It was among the first to find great merit in Gen. Grant.

"Grant, by his action at Forts Henry and Donelson, won the favor of THE TRIBUNE," Prof. Strevey wrote, "and in comparing McClellan and the western commander, THE TRIBUNE found the comparison favorable to Grant."

**Reliance Upon Grape-shot**

"He, at least, had accomplished something and McClellan was advised to follow the lead of the westerners and go forward, relying upon the use of the bayonet and grape-shot, instead of wasting his time in useless strategy."

When Gen. Fremont, in Missouri, ordered emancipation of the slaves,



The fire-scarred building of The Chicago Tribune, only two years old, after the conflagration of 1871 had swept the city. The building then stood at Madison and Dearborn sts.

## 1847 an Eventful Year Both in This Country and Abroad

History records the following events which took place in 1847:

- Jan. 7—Oporto captured as Portuguese insurrection spreads.
- Jan. 13—Mexican Gen. Pico surrenders California to Gen. John C. Fremont.
- Feb. 23—Gen. Zachary Taylor with 4,750 men defeats Santa Anna with 22,000 at Buena Vista.
- Feb. 25—Rockford [Ill.] college founded.
- March 3—Congress passes postage stamp bill. First stamps issued in 5c and 10c denominations. Another bill provides for lighting Capitol grounds at night by gas.
- March 4—Chicagans subscribe \$2,600 at Irish relief rally.
- April 18—Gen. Winfield Scott defeats Mexicans under Santa Anna at Cerro Gordo.
- April 28—Columbia stops importation of slaves. Slavery abolished in 1852.
- May 4—Jenny Lind, Swedish nightingale, makes debut in London.
- May 15—Daniel O'Connell, Irish revolutionary leader, dies.
- May 19—Canadian brig. Carrick, wrecked in St. Lawrence, 170 dead.
- May 25—Cossack wins Epsom Derby.
- June 8—Factory act limits working day for British women and children to 10 hours.
- June 11—John Franklin dies in arctic after discovering northwest passage. Entire expedition perished, no clues found for 10 years.
- June 26—Portuguese insurrection falls after England and Spain send assistance to royalists.
- July 21—Spain finally recognizes Bolivian independence, giving up last claim in South America.
- July 22—Mormons, expelled from Illinois in 1846, settle at Salt Lake City.
- July 22—Imperial act gives Canada control of own taxation; reduces duties on United States goods to same level as British.
- July 26—Freed United States slaves establish republic of Liberia under British protection.
- Aug. 3—First telegraph service in Canada.
- Sept. 4—Santa Fe Republican, first English language paper in New Mexico, founded.
- Sept. 14—Gen. Winfield Scott occupies Mexico City. Mexicans still refuse to surrender.
- Oct. 24—Surveys begun on tracks of Galena and Chicago Union railroad.
- Nov. 4—Felix Mendelssohn, composer, dies.
- Nov. 19—Talisman of Pittsburgh sinks in Ohio river, 100 dead.
- Nov. 21—Phoenix sinks in Lake Michigan, 240 dead.
- Nov. 29—Dr. Marcus Whitman, leading settler of Oregon, massacred by Indians.
- Dec. 11—International Congress of West Coast South American Republics opens in Lima, Peru.
- Dec. 23—Abd-el-Kader, Moslem chief, surrenders and acknowledges French annexation of Algeria.

Lincoln's failure to issue an emancipation proclamation until late in the war brought forth Tribune denunciations bordering on fury.

Twice Lincoln's generals had ordered emancipation in their departments, Gen. Fremont in Missouri in September, 1861, and Gen. Hunter in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina in May, 1862, and twice the President had rescinded it.

"Why can't he [Lincoln] rise above the trammels of mere policy always shortsighted and time-serving?" THE TRIBUNE asked.

When, finally, Lincoln issued the Emancipation proclamation, THE TRIBUNE called it the "greatest ever penned by man."

On the soldier-vote, THE TRIBUNE

in 1863 took a stand it has held historically ever since—that American soldiers in the field must be given the right of franchise.

Caustic as THE TRIBUNE had been of Lincoln—its own candidate in 1860 and its most favored President—it supported him for reelection to his second term, and its weight and influence with the Union army is credited by historians for a large part of Lincoln's second victory at the polls.

The Confederacy gave up on April 9, 1865, when Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant at Appomattox. THE TRIBUNE carried the joyous news in full triumph.

## FIRE ENGULFS CITY, BUT TRIBUNE CALL RALLIES IT TO LIVE AGAIN!

## Medill's Classic Account Tells the Terror of 1871 Disaster

Oct. 9, 1871! Here is what Horace White, editor of THE TRIBUNE, saw as he trudged toward THE TRIBUNE office thru the darkness early that morning.

"Billows of fire were rolling over the business places of the city and swallowing up their contents. Walls were falling so fast that the quaking of the ground under our feet was scarcely noticed, so continuous was the reverberation.

"Sober men and women were hurrying thru the streets, from the burning quarter, some with bundles of clothing on their shoulders, others dragging trunks along the sidewalks by means of strings and ropes fastened to the handles, children trudging by their sides or borne in their arms."

**Mounts His Horse**

White lived on Michigan av. south of the loop. William Bross, former lieutenant governor of Illinois and one of THE TRIBUNE proprietors, lived in the same district. He continues the story:

"I mounted my horse and rode south on State st. to see what progress the fire was making, and if it were moving eastward on Dearborn st. To my great surprise and horror, I found that its current had taken an easterly direction, nearly as far as State st., and that it was also advancing in a northerly direction with terrible swiftness and power.

"I knew at a glance that THE TRIBUNE building was doomed, and I rode back to the office and told them that nothing more could be done to save the building, McVick-er's theater, or anything else in that vicinity."

**Tries to Find New Home**

Early the next morning, Bross was out trying to find a new home for THE TRIBUNE.

"On reaching Canal st., on my way to purchase the printing office I had heard of, I was informed that while Mr. White and I were saving our families and as much of our furniture as we could on Monday afternoon [Oct. 9], Mr. [Joseph] Medill, seeing that THE Tribune office must inevitably be burned, sought for and purchased Edwards' job printing office, 15 Canal st., where he was then busy organizing things."

The banks of Chicago had burned with the rest of the city, and nobody would accept bank drafts, checks, or credit. Cash amounting to \$2,130,000 had burned up in the postoffice building alone. Bross had to borrow \$64 from friends to buy four heating stoves to set THE TRIBUNE up in business again.

**Medill's Notable Account**

The most dramatic eyewitness account of the fire was written by Joseph Medill himself. Medill at the time of the fire lived at Washington and Morgan sts., outside the fire belt. He was routed out of bed at 11 p. m. on Sunday night, Oct. 8, by his family, and rushed to THE TRIBUNE.

"I concluded that the danger point was on the roof," he wrote. "The air was like that of a furnace—fearfully hot. With the hot air, the stifling smoke, and a perfect storm of sparks and blazing fragments falling on THE TRIBUNE's 'fireproof' roof, we had a trying time in our efforts to extinguish the incipient fires all about us."

"About 7 o'clock a pressman told me they had attempted to go to press, but the basement was so hot that the rollers had melted into a mass and nothing could be done with them; that there was so much smoke that the men could not live in the basement, and there was only water enough in the tank for a short run, the supply having been cut off by the burning of the water works. So the printing of any papers containing an account of the great fire had to be abandoned."

**Clothes Set Afire**

"Our faces were black. Our clothes had been on fire scores of times. Our hair and beards were singed. Our faces and hands were



Chicago firemen of the 1871 period beside their fire engine.

scorched and blistered. Even our shoes were burned from stamping on the spots of fire on the hot roof. We were a frightful looking set of fellows."

**Leases Temporary Quarters**

Medill soon found and leased the temporary quarters on Canal st.

Almost miraculously, Medill got steam engines, presses, used type from Cincinnati and Milwaukee, workmen, and got a newspaper out.

"We missed only one day after the fire," he wrote. "We indeed began printing that day, and if the water hadn't given out would have issued a 14 column account of the fire about 8 o'clock that Monday morning."

**A Prophetic Voice**

THE TRIBUNE had been a great, prophetic voice, warning people of Chicago of the holocaust which lay before them. Exactly one month before flames left Chicago in ruins, on Sept. 10, 1871, it had said editorially that Chicago had "miles of firetraps, pleasing to the eye, looking substantial, but all sham and shingles."

"Chicago and the Great Conflagration," a book written by Elias Colbert and Everett Chamberlin and published less than two months after the Chicago fire, tells the story of what THE TRIBUNE accomplished:

"THE TRIBUNE building had not ceased to blaze, or rather to melt, for there was not much about it to make a blaze of, before Joseph Medill, one of its chief stockholders, since elected mayor of the city, had sought out a job office on Canal st.—a locality where nobody had dreamed there was anything of the sort—and bought it out, type, presses, and lease of three spacious floors; so that on the morrow the force of THE TRIBUNE was at work producing a broadsheet for Wednesday morning."

The loss was unparalleled in history. About 300 people perished. A total of 2,100 acres was burned over, destroying 18,000 buildings, of which some 2,400 were the greatest and most valuable stores and factories in the city. More than 100,000 people were made homeless. The property loss amounted to \$300,000,000 or more. Of the 341 fire insurance companies which had to cover more than \$8 million dollars worth of losses in the fire, one account says that 57 went bankrupt.

**A Famous Editorial**

In the face of this terrible disaster, Joseph Medill's editorial in the historic Oct. 11, 1871, edition of THE TRIBUNE was headed "Cheer Up!" Its first paragraph said:

"In the midst of a calamity without parallel in the world's history, looking upon the ashes of 30 years' accumulations, the people of this once beautiful city have resolved that CHICAGO SHALL RISE AGAIN!"

Exactly a year later, when THE TRIBUNE moved into its new, greater building erected on the foundations of the old, it heralded the fulfillment of that prophecy for all the world in a single word—"Behold!"

## Love and a Pea Shooter Give Gem of the Prairie Its Start

Romance tends to spin a golden web of fancy around the greatest of men and their achievement—their stories and fables never tire of hearing, whether they are true or not.

There is such a story about THE TRIBUNE's early days. It deals with Killer K. Jones, a young man of spirit, and how he came to start the Gem of the Prairie, a weekly magazine of literary miscellany and some news, out of which THE CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE grew.

Killer K. Jones was one of Chicago's young intellectuals, a sharp figure in the social whirl of the 1840s, and a dashing favorite of the girls. So was Al Chapin, another high spirited, dandy dressing young chap, who gave Killer Jones a lot of competition.

**Gets the Inside Track**

Jones and Chapin, so the story goes, fell in love with the same young lady, and Jones was on the inside track. Chapin chose the "honorable" approach, and challenged Jones to a duel to the death—with pistols.

The two met in early dawn of the appointed day on the "field of honor," which was on the lake front at the foot of Chicago av. The seconds opened a deadly looking pistol case, shaped like a little coffin, and conferred over it. They offered it to Killer Jones, as the challenged, to make first choice of weapons.

**Stand Back to Back**

The nervous enemies walked over to a mark in the sand. They stood back to back. At the appointed signal—the fluttering of a white handkerchief—they paced off the

allotted number of steps on the sand, wheeled, and fired.

The pistols roared. A cloud of black powder smoke rolled about the head of each assailant. Chapin fell to the ground, screaming and howling that he had been murdered. He was holding the left side of his face.

Killer Jones didn't stop to look. He took off as fast as his long legs could carry him, and they say he never stopped until he got to Lake st. What that young man suffered in the next few hours has never been chronicled, but it was nothing at all to what both he and Al Chapin suffered later when the seconds got back to town.

**They Spread the Story**

This worthy pair were careful to spread the story of what had happened at the foot of Chicago av. And they say that the outrage of it was enough to prompt Killer K. Jones to start the Gem of the Prairie, so that the public might read a more favorable account of the incident.

That this was Jones' reason for starting the new paper May 20, 1844, may or may not be true. He had published one weekly magazine in Chicago before, the Youth's Gazette, which lasted only from May 18 to July 25, 1843.

**What Made Killer Jones so mad?**

Why, it seems, the seconds were wiser, older men, who knew that Killer Jones and Al Chapin really didn't want to kill each other. The seconds had loaded the pistols with blanks.

When Jones fired his pistol, one of the seconds let Chapin have it in the left cheek with a pea-shooter.

## Area of Devastation of 1871 Chicago Fire

