



ALTOONA, PA.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25, 1862.

"The Task Before Us."

We were amazed on reading the leading column of the "Clearfield Republican," of its issue of the 17th. Ranker secession sympathy, and aid so far as words go, never seems displayed. The aim of the editors seems to be to show that it is "ruin" to go ahead in this war—a war on our part to sustain our government, to maintain our constitution, and execute the laws of the land. Can it be that at this hour of our danger, when almost every day we hear of some desperate battle in which brave men die for their country's sake, that such feeling is exhibited as this article shows? Surely the editors of that paper reflect the sentiments of but few of the citizens of Clearfield county. Will they inform us whether their candidate for Senator, Mr. Wallace, endorses their views on this war?

That we may not do him injustice, we copy the article just as it appeared in their paper. Our readers will see the base use sought to be made out of the earnest appeal of the brave Col. Wilcox, to his countrymen, to rise in their strength and subdue this unholy and causeless rebellion.

THE TASK BEFORE US.—Col. Wilcox of Michigan, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Bull Run in 1861, and who was fellow prisoner with Col. Corcoran, until the late exchange, made a speech at Detroit a short time since, in which he is reported as saying that the Confederates, even when it is necessary, raise from "one million to fourteen hundred thousand fighting men," and that, counting the advantages an invader would possess over the invaders, it would require us to raise "five times as many" if we expected to whip and conquer them.

Col. Wilcox is an army officer, an intelligent man, and has had the very best means of judging the character and strength of the rebels—and he made this declaration in a cool, unexcited, and fellow-citizen to fill up the broken ranks of the Michigan regiments.

If he is correct we have no difficulty in seeing exactly the nature of the task before us. Taking the rebels even at the lowest estimate of Col. Wilcox, and we must send to the field of battle five millions of men. This might possibly do. But it would take all—leaving not a single man at home. The plow would stand in the furrow, the workshop be closed, and famine and desolation surely cover the land; but if his higher figure of one million four hundred thousand men can be raised by the rebels, an army of seven millions will have to be raised by us, if we expect to put down the rebellion by the sword. This is simply beyond our reach. It is not in the wood, and Col. Wilcox ought to have been arrested for "discouraging enlistments."

In the face of such evidence, what must the people think of such declarations as that "Not until there has been a general and complete victory will the government and the people make up their minds to wage this war as it should be waged"—that is, we presume, emancipate the negroes; or that "the man who talks of yielding to a compromise is a traitor." Such yielding is declared, without "disgrace and ruin."

In such a strait, what, in the name heaven, are the people to do? Col. Wilcox proves that it is certain ruin to go ahead; and the Journal tells us that it is "ruin" to stop.

MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR.—On Wednesday last, the Governor of all the loyal States, with the exception of the Governor of Minnesota, who was detained by the Indian difficulties, and Governor Morgan, of New York, were present either in person or by proxy. Their sessions were secret, and although a number of reporters have given sketches of their proceedings we incline to the opinion that there was considerable good work about the reports. The convention adjourned to meet again in Washington City and the Governors have gone thither.

MILITIA DISBANDED.—The emergency which induced the calling out of the militia, for the defence of the border of this State, having passed away, the regiments are being recalled to Harrisburg, mustered out and sent home as fast as transportation can be provided for them. They have accomplished all that was intended—that of deterring the rebels from making a raid into the Cumberland Valley.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED.—The Surgeon General of Pennsylvania appeals to the Ladies for the immediate contribution of blankets, lint, arm-slings, towels, pillows, plain shirts or night-gowns, sheets, slippers, preserved fruits, jellies, &c., for the wounded Pennsylvanians in the late battles.—All packages should have the contents marked outside, and addressed to Gen. Hays, Harrisburg.

THE STATE FAIR.—The State Agricultural Fair, which was to be held in Norristown the latter part of the present month, is postponed until next year "on account of the unhappy military condition of our country."

The draft has been postponed until the 16th of October, to enable those who volunteered in the militia service an opportunity of claiming their exemption from a draft, should they desire to do so.

WASHINGTON CITY, September 17, 1862. MESSRS. EDITORS:—Once more do I turn my attention to Altoona. Neither is it my native place or that of adoption, yet by a strange coincidence I have acquired an affection for it and a deep reverential respect for its inhabitants, that I rejoice in its welfare and prosperity, and shall ever desire it, even as I would that of my own native town. As an evidence of this avowal permit me to convey to your citizens, through the columns of your paper, a few inklings of news pertaining to the army. You are aware that we were called back from the Peninsula and the safety of Washington once more placed within the keeping of Gen. McClellan. He was at once placed in command of the fortifications and defenses of Washington. After remaining a short time, in the city, in order to prepare himself for the responsibility assigned him by the President, he placed General Banks, a tried soldier, in immediate command, he again took the field, and set out after the enemy, who had already crossed the Potomac into Maryland, and severely threatened an invasion of Pennsylvania, even to its very capital. This was a bold and daring move of the enemy but quite characteristic of the traitors. They have a wily foe to contend with, one fully equal to this as he has proven himself so on previous emergencies. There is no occasion in all the history of this war, where Gen. McClellan was permitted to carry out his own original plans that he did not prove himself equal to the task before him. Take for instance, the siege of Yorktown. There the most determined resistance was offered him. Having previously fortified themselves the rebels looked out from behind their strongholds with defiance at our little army. But our noble leader, nothing daunted, but firm and secure in the confidence of his men and the consciousness of his own superior ability, proceeded quietly to work, determined to drive them hence. And was he not successful? There was anticipated a most bloody and terrific battle, yet they were compelled to evacuate this apparent stronghold without a general engagement, and but comparatively slight loss of life. Gen. McClellan followed up the ascending rebel, engaging them fiercely at Williamsburg, driving them thence, on and on even to within sight of the rebel capital. Here he was compelled to remain, only falling to march into Richmond through a series of men to contend with overwhelming numbers of the enemy. Those who are posted in the matter, have repeatedly remarked that had Gen. McClellan received the reinforcements he asked, and which might have been sent him, Richmond would long since have been in our possession. No, he must remain there for the present. A "big talk" was had about the matter and the enemy getting all around him he determined to attempt the greatest and most daring feat ever accomplished in modern warfare. He succeeded, and during its accomplishment fought several desperate and bloody battles against fearful odds. During all those trying scenes the army maintained unshaken confidence in their General. He was permitted to remain for a time at Harrison's Landing, where he kept the enemy at bay, and within their own territory. Being called hence for the avowed protection of Washington, the enemy soon followed him and in turn commenced the invasion of Pennsylvania. His superior qualifications as a General were again called into requisition in this last extremity of our prostrated country, and witness the success! In the course of two short weeks he has driven the enemy out of Frederick, as witness his most triumphal entrance into and through that town. There he was received by the people with the most unbounded demonstrations of joy and enthusiasm, hailed as their deliver from Southern tyranny. The ladies in the height of their enthusiasm decorated his horse with miniature flags, and finally carried him from the saddle. He is driving the foe frantically before him, engaging them in every quarter with success. And now they are completely surrounded and out of ammunition. True, it has cost the lives of several brave officers and no less brave soldiers, as also the evacuation of Harper's Ferry, yet the sacrifice has been necessary in order to accomplish so magnificent results. For very apparent reasons the enemy have abandoned the invasion of the Old Keystone State, and the final subjugation of the North, and earnestly desire and endeavor to retrace their steps into Virginia, now little better than a desert. I have spoken this about the man in order that the public out of the army (the army are satisfied to a man) and more particularly his few slanderers, especially Horace Greeley, of the N. Y. Tribune, may know who the hero of this war really is. To-day has been fought the most bloody and murderous fight of the war, fearful to witness. The enemy are flying in all directions, perfectly panic-stricken scattering their arms in every direction, so eager are they to escape the vengeance of "Little Mac." I have it from the highest authority that to-day has been most murderous in the annals of warfare. It is said the rebel Gen. Hill is killed, Gen. Lee wounded, and Gen. Longstreet and Howell Cobb wounded and prisoners. I have no information whatever from the 62d regiment and company M., but confidently believe they are nobly doing their duty in the great and final struggle. I may possibly write you again very soon should anything important transpire.

I remain, Yours, very respectfully, BLAIR.

FRID.—The Duaneville correspondent of the Standard, under date of the 20th inst., says that at about one o'clock of that day, a fire broke out in a large frame building, in the east end of town, owned by Mr. Christian Kephart, who occupied a portion of the house, together with two other families. Mr. Thomas Hammell and his father occupied the back part of the house, in which it is supposed the fire originated, from a bad fire. When first discovered, an effort was made to extinguish the flame, but the fire spread so rapidly that all efforts to stop it proved fruitless. Mr. Kephart succeeded in getting nearly all his household furniture saved, while the other families were less fortunate, having occupied the second story, it was not deemed prudent to venture so near the falling timber, and they consequently lost everything in the second story. An adjoining building owned by Major Lee, and occupied by Mr. Jacobson, was also damaged, the fire having communicated several times, but by the extraordinary exertions of the excited crowd it was extinguished before doing much damage.

By the President of the United States of America. A PROCLAMATION. I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States of America, and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy thereof, do hereby proclaim and declare that hereafter, as heretofore, the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the Constitutional relations between the United States and the States which have seceded therefrom, in which States that relation is or may be suspended or disturbed. That it is my purpose, upon the next meeting of Congress, to again recommend the adoption of a practical measure tending to peace, and subject to the free acceptance or rejection of all the States, to secede, the people whereof may not then be in rebellion against the United States, and which States may then have voluntarily adopted, or thereafter may voluntarily adopt the immediate and gradual abolition of slavery within their respective limits, and that the effort to colonize persons of African descent, with their consent, upon this continent or elsewhere, with the previously obtained consent of the Governments existing there, will be continued.

That on the 1st day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or Territory which shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall then be, thenceforth and forever free, and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act to recognize, support, or defend in any effort they may make for their actual freedom.

That the Executive will, on the 1st day of January aforesaid, by proclamation designate the States or Territories in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day, be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States, or in either House thereof, shall not be deemed to constitute such State or Territory as aforesaid, and the people thereof shall not be deemed to be in rebellion against the United States.

That attention is hereby called to an act of Congress entitled "An act to make an additional article of war," approved March 13th, 1862, and which act is in the words and figures following:— "Article 1. It shall be the duty of every representative of the United States in either House of Congress assembled, that hereafter the following shall be promulgated as an additional article of war for the government of the Army of the United States, and shall be observed as such:— "Article 2. No soldier or sailor of the military or naval services of the United States are prohibited from employing any of the forces of their respective commands for the purpose of returning fugitives from service or labor, who may have escaped from such command, or for the purpose of labor is claimed to be due; and any soldier or sailor who shall be found guilty by a Court-martial of violation of this article, shall be dismissed from the service.

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect from and after the passage of the Ninth and Tenth Sections of an Act entitled "An act to suppress insurrection, to punish treason and rebellion, to seize and confiscate property of rebels, and for other purposes." Approved July 17, 1862, and which sections are in the words and figures following:— "Section 9. And be it further enacted, That all slaves of persons who shall hereafter be engaged in rebellion against the Government of the United States, and who shall be found within any territory, or in any place occupied by the forces of the United States, shall be deemed captives of war, and shall be forever free of their servitude, and not again held as slaves.

Section 10. And be it further enacted, That no slave escaping into any State, Territory or the District of Columbia from any other State, shall be delivered up, or in any way impeded or hindered in his liberty, except for crime or some offense against the laws, and that any person who shall be found guilty by a Court-martial of violation of this article, shall be dismissed from the service. And I do hereby enjoin upon and order all persons engaged in the military and naval services of the United States to observe and enforce within their respective spheres of service the acts and sections above recited. And the Executive will, in due time, recommend all citizens of the United States who shall remain loyal thereto throughout the rebellion, shall, upon the restoration of the Constitutional relation between the United States and the States which shall then have seceded or been expelled, be compensated for all losses by acts of the United States, including the loss of slaves. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

By the President: WM. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

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Done at the city of Washington, this 22 day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

By the President: WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

THE SURRENDER OF HARPER'S FERRY.—The surrender of Harper's Ferry, after a brief and indignant and disgust. There is no doubt that it could have been held. Three officers are accused of this shame—Col. Miles, who was in command, and Col. Ford, who was in command of the Maryland Heights. Ford publishes a card saying he can prove that in evacuating the city to the president, he obeyed the orders of his superiors; if he can prove that, it will clear his skirts; if not, on him must fall the odium. Gen. White has been heard from.

Miles is dead, but his death should not prevent a full exposition of his conduct. There are those who assert that the surrender was deliberate treason, on his part. It is a well known fact that Miles was drunk at Bull Run, and that time dismally, and he should have been taken care of by the military and naval authorities.

STILL RETREATING.—A train of cars crossed the Monocacy on Monday morning. The road is now open to Harper's Ferry, where there is a central depot for all purposes. The rebels between 1,000 and 2,000 were being paroled. Twenty-six stand of colors were taken, and the battle of the Antietam, and have been received at headquarters; seventeen more, known to have been captured, are in the hands of different regiments. Further receipt of the other side demonstrate that there is no considerable force of rebels this side of the Bull Run Mountain.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. BUELL'S ARMY. A Brilliant Cavalry Engagement Under General McCook. LOUISVILLE, Ky., September 24, 11 o'clock, P. M. The intense excitement of the last few days has given place to great rejoicing at the immediate proximity of seven divisions of Buell's army, which are coming up from the direction of Salt River.

The enemy seem to be concentrating at Bloomfield, about 12,000 were seen this morning beyond Salt River on the Bardonia road. Louisville is now considered entirely safe, and though a fight may occur in our vicinity before the arrival of Buell's divisions, nobody has any fears respecting the result.

Gen. Nelson is confident that he can hold this point against any odds until the approaching Federal reinforcements shall arrive.

On the 17th our cavalry captured 450 rebels of rebels. Our forces had skirmishing all along the road hitherwards, and captured numerous small squads of rebels.

He had skirmishes at several points, killing forty-seven of the rebels in the aggregate. And, in conjunction with Kent's command he took fifteen hundred rebel prisoners and twenty-four wagon loads of provisions.

On the 21st, three regiments of cavalry under Gen. McCook, drove eight thousand rebel cavalry out of Mumfordsville without any Federal loss. The rebels lost a Colonel and a Lieutenant-Col. LOUISVILLE, Sept. 24.—Near Midnight.—Gen. Buell has just arrived here.

HOW THEY FIRE IN BATTLE.—An army correspondent says:—You wonder whether the regiments fire regular in volley, or whether each man drops and fires as fast as he can. That depends on circumstances, but usually, except when the enemy is near at hand, the regiments fire only at the command of their officers. You hear a drop, the men form into a square, with the line followed by a rattle and roll, which sounds like the falling of a building, just as some of you have heard the brick walls tumble at a great fire.

Sometimes when a body of the enemy's cavalry are sweeping down upon a regiment to cut it to pieces, the men form into a square, with the officers and the musicians in the center. The rebel ranks stands with bayonets charged, while the second rank fires as fast as it can. Sometimes they form in four ranks deep—the two front ones are loaded with bayonets charged, so that if the enemy should come upon them they would run up against a platoon fence of bayonets. When the fire in this way, the other two ranks load and fire as fast as they can. Then the road is terrific, and many a horse and his rider goes down before the terrible storm of bullets.

CONFECTIONERY AND OYSTER SALOON. THE SUBSCRIBER WOULD INFORM THE CITIZENS OF ALTOONA AND VICINITY THAT HIS CONFECTIONERY, NUT AND FRUIT STORE, IS ALWAYS SUPPLIED WITH THE VERY BEST ARTICLES TO BE HAD, AND IN GREAT VARIETY. HE HAS ALSO AN OYSTER SALOON attached to his store, in which he will serve up OYSTERS in every style during the season.

W. S. BITTNER, 110 N. 4th St., Altoona, Pa.

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT. WHEREAS, It has become necessary to call into service not only volunteers but also portions of the militia of the states, by draft, in order to suppress the insurrection existing in the United States, and disloyal parties are not adequately restrained, by the ordinary processes of law, from hindering this measure, and from giving aid and comfort, in various ways, to the insurrection: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED: First, That during the existing insurrection, and as a necessary measure for suppressing the same, that all rebels and insurgents, their aiders and abettors, within the United States, and all persons discouraging volunteer enlistments, resisting the militia drafts, or guilty of disloyal practices, affording aid and comfort to the rebellion against the authority of the United States, shall be subject to martial law, and liable to trial and punishment by court martial or military commission.

Second, That the writ of habeas corpus is suspended in respect to all persons arrested or who are now or may hereafter, during the rebellion, be imprisoned in any fort, camp, arsenal, military prison, or other place of confinement by any military authority, or by the sentence of any court-martial or military commission.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

By the President: WM. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

ELEVEN REBELLIONS.—Since the organization of the Federal government, eleven attempts have been made to resist its authority. The first was in 1782—a conspiracy of some of the officers of the Federal army to consolidate the thirteen states into one, and confer the supreme power on Washington. The second, in 1787, called Shay's insurrection in Massachusetts. The third, in 1794, called the whiskey insurrection of Pennsylvania.

The fourth, in 1814, by the Hartford convention. The fifth, in 1820, on the question of the admission of Missouri in the Union. The sixth was a collision between the Legislature of Georgia and the Federal government, in regard to the lands given to the Creek Indians. The seventh was in 1830 with the Cherokees in Georgia. The eighth was the memorable nullifying ordinance of South Carolina, 1832. The ninth was in 1842, in Rhode Island, between Suffrage association and the State authorities. The tenth was in 1856, on the part of the Mormons, who resisted the Federal authorities. The eleventh is the present attempt of secession.

An old bachelor says he used to be terribly bitten by mosquitoes until he got married, when the bloodthirsty villains found out that his wife was much the tenderest, and he has not been troubled since. Talk of the selfishness of the old bachelors.

An exchange comes to us with the notice that "Truth" is crowded out of this issue. This is almost as bad as the country editor who said: "For the evil effects of intoxicating drinks, see our inside."

A German writer observes that in America there is such a scarcity of thieves, that they are obliged to offer a reward for their discovery.

The green turf is the poor man's carpet; and God weaves the colors.

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LINDSEY'S IMPROVED BLOOD SEARCHER. A SURE CURE FOR Cancer, Cancerous Formations, Scrofula, Cutaneous Diseases, Erysipelas, Boils, Pimples on the Face, Sore Ears, Tetter Affections, Scald Head, Dyspepsia, Constipation, Old and Stubborn Ulcers, Rheumatic Disorders, Jaundice, Salt Rheum, Mercurial Diseases, General Debility, Liver Complaint, Loss of Appetite, Low Spirits, Female Complaints, Epilepsy or Fits, Paralysis or Palsy, Syphilitic Diseases and Curies of the Bones.

Together with all other diseases having their origin in a depraved condition of the blood or its culinary system.

CASE OF DANIEL A. BOYD. PITTSBURGH, December 23, 1861. DR. J. H. KEYSER.—I take pleasure in making this statement in favor of a medicine prepared by Dr. Keyser's Blood Searcher. I had suffered for five years with scrofula which broke out on my forehead so as to disfigure me very much, and took the hair when the disease made its appearance; it also broke out on my arms above and below the elbow, and on my skin and flesh so as to expose a fearful sore. The disease on my head went so far that several small pieces came out. I was very weak and low spirited, and had given up all hope of ever getting well, as I had tried several skillful physicians and they did me no good. In September last, 1861, I was induced to try Dr. Keyser's Blood Searcher. I must confess I had not much faith in patent medicines, but after I had used three bottles of Blood Searcher, the ulcers on my head and arms were healed. I have now taken eight or ten bottles, and my head and arm are entirely well except the scars remaining from the sores. I will also state that I had the rheumatic very bad in my arms and legs. The Blood Searcher cured the rheumatism. I am now a well man, and have gained ten years of age, and I feel as supple and young as I did when I was twenty, and have increased in weight twenty pounds. I would also state that the disease in my forehead was healed when I stooped and lifted anything heavy, it bled from the top of the sore. Dr. Keyser had a photograph taken of me by Mr. Cargy, the artist, after I had used in patent medicines, but after I had used three bottles of Blood Searcher, the ulcers on my head and arms were healed. I have now taken eight or ten bottles, and my head and arm are entirely well except the scars remaining from the sores. I will also state that I had the rheumatic very bad in my arms and legs. The Blood Searcher cured the rheumatism. 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