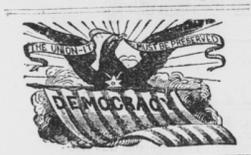


The Watchman.



BELLEFONTE, THURSDAY, MAY 16.

A Significant Sign.

It is not very often that we had anything to commend in the New York Tribune, but the following extract from an article on 'The War and Slavery' is so manifestly the result of a just and general popular sentiment that we quote it with approval.

'This war is in truth a war for the preservation of the Union, not for the destruction of slavery; and it would alienate many ardent Unionists to prevent it into a war against slavery. And, on the other hand, no slaves can be given that slavery shall be preserved, as a class, would only speak and act as they think and feel. We should have the head conspirators before grand juries within three months.'

If northern journals of the anti-slavery school would labor to impress this conviction upon the South, we should not be compelled to wait long for the great reaction in favor of the Union. Let it be clearly understood at the South that this is a war for the preservation of the Union, and not for the destruction of slavery, and secession will have lost its most powerful motive. The maintenance of the Union is the one great object of the North, and those journals which represent the war to be for the destruction of slavery do not represent Northern sentiment. Even the Tribune is compelled to take the back track.

Western Virginia.

The Convention of Western Virginia, now in session at Wheeling, is represented to be largely attended, and the feeling enthusiastic in favor of maintaining the Union, even at the cost of separation from Eastern Virginia. The Federal Government has promised to protect the Convention against any attempt that the Secessionists may direct against it; and we are also informed that the Governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio have given assurances that the whole available military power of these States shall, in case of necessity, be used to protect the Union men of Western Virginia against every effort of the Secessionists to crush them.

We shall know in few days what course the Unionists of Western Virginia, propose to pursue—whether they will fight secession within Virginia, or determine upon the erection of a separate State. The latter course is open to many objections. At all events the Government is bound to protect its loyal citizens, and when the Union men of Virginia are free to act according to their convictions, secession will soon be brought to an end. The position of Maryland at this day is due, in a great degree, to the determined attitude of the Government with her borders—and the same encouragement to the Union men of Virginia would, in all probability, be followed by the same result.

Pennsylvania.

No State has more nobly responded in men and money to the call of the government than the noble old Keystone State. The people of Pennsylvania are both military and patriotic people, and will assist themselves on the field with distinguished honor. We doubt whether any State in the Union will furnish more or better soldiers for this war than the "Old Keystone State."

We cut the above from the Chicago Times as evidence that the exertions of Pennsylvania in this crisis are appreciated by the people of other States. It is only in trying that the nation learns the great worth of the Keystone State. Without disparagement to our sister loyal States which have one and all given the most ample evidence of their devotion to the Union, it may be truthfully affirmed that Pennsylvania, the most moderate and forbearing in time of peace and willing to go furthest to avoid war, is correspondingly active and efficient in support of the Government against armed rebellion.

The Forces in the Field.

From the latest advices we feel authorized to state that there are now about twenty-three thousand troops at Washington, nearly four thousand at Annapolis and the Junction, twenty-six hundred at the Relay House, and one regiment at Perryville and along the line of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. But these forces are being constantly swollen by fresh arrivals from the North, and a heavy force is preparing along the Pennsylvania line to advance to the seat of war. The rebels are distributed between Harper's Ferry, Alexandria, Dumfries, Richmond and Norfolk. Their strength is estimated at about thirty thousand men, generally well-armed and equipped. They are under the command of Major General Robert E. Lee, late of the United States Army, and an officer possessing great energy and ability.

Correspondence from the Oil Region.

Mr. Editor:—As I have seen several distorted and very incorrect accounts of the recent fire and loss of life in the Oil Regions, and as a correct and full description of that terrible casualty has not yet been published, I have concluded to send you one which you may either commit to the flame of your columns as suits your humor.

In order that your readers may fully understand it, it will be necessary to briefly describe an oil well.

The mode of making these differ in different localities, it depends on the nature of the earth which is to be penetrated in reaching the rock. In some sections the rock is usually reached by digging, but on Oil Creek it is covered by a very deep deposit of alluvia, which is so filled with water as to render digging impossible. They therefore, are compelled to drive iron pipes of 5 or 6 inch calibre to the rock. In some instances they have been driven 100 feet, but usually from 30 to 60 feet. When the rock is reached, and the pipe firmly driven into it, drilling commences, and is carried on until 'oil is struck,' or a fissure containing petroleum is reached, and the pipe is then worked, and the quantity of gas which is identical with that used in lighting cities, was so great as to be distinctly visible. The evening was calm, and it therefore became exceedingly dense in the neighborhood of the well, and in three quarters of an hour it had apparently diffused itself through the whole, as about that period it ignited and exploded with a report louder than the heaviest artillery, and with a shock that shook the earth for miles around. Then followed a second, which entirely beggars description. The ground near the well was full of cavities containing oil, so that it stood knee deep over most of the surface. When recently pumped it contained a large percentage of a volatile explosive and very inflammable liquid called benzole or benzine. Within and surrounded by this mass of inflammable matter, were Mr. Rouse and a number of men, some engaged in burning oil, while others were attracted by curiosity. All these simultaneously with the explosion were enveloped with, and several apparently instantly killed by, the explosion, and others made their way out of the fire with their clothing saturated with oil and flaming high above their heads. Some rushed out and with a shriek fell dead, blackened, charred and burned out of all semblance of humanity. One heroic young man, Mr. Skinner, after escaping himself, rushed back and recovered two, but in returning for the third he unfortunately fell and was burned to death.

Mr. Rouse was one of those rescued by Skinner, and when found it was impossible for his most intimate friends to recognize him. When asked who he was by those who had just parted from him in health, he appeared to be greatly shocked and exclaimed, 'Is it possible that no one knows Rouse?' He himself, rushed back and recovered two, but in returning for the third he unfortunately fell and was burned to death.

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Gov. Curtin's Special Message.

The following message from the Governor in response to the accompanying resolution, was delivered to the Legislature, Wednesday, May 8, 1861:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, May 8, 1861. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: GENTLEMEN:

I received your resolution of the third of May, of which the following is a copy, on Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock:

In the House of Representatives, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1861. Resolved, That the Governor be requested to inform this House how much of the moneys appropriated by the Act of 12th of April, 1861, for the purpose of organizing, equipping and provisioning the militia of this State, has been actually disbursed, and how, and in what manner the same has been expended, what contracts, if any, have been made with whom made, through what agencies, for what articles of supply, in what quantities, and at what prices, and also what number of public agents has been appointed in connection with the Quartermaster or Commissary's department established by the said Act for the purpose of carrying out the objects thereof, and who are the persons so appointed.

E. M. RAUCH, Clerk.

To which I have the honor to reply: I recognize, to its fullest extent, at all times, the necessity of prompt and satisfactory answers of all departments of the government to the requirements of the representatives of the people; and especially where they are entrusted with the disbursement of public money. When the call was made upon Pennsylvania to arm a part of her people in the service of the General Government, to meet a sudden and extraordinary emergency, we had not such an organization of our military force as was ready to answer a call into active service. Your resolution of inquiry comes to me, when all the departments of the government, and all persons called into its service, are entirely engaged in the organization and equipment of the quota of militia from Pennsylvania under the requisition of the General Government.

In answer to your interrogatory as to what agencies have been employed, I have the honor to reply that I have appointed E. M. Biddle, Adjutant General, R. C. Hale, Quartermaster General, and Wm. W. Irwin, Commissary General; and that all purchases and disbursements have been made through their various Departments. I have also appointed R. B. Roberts to have immediate supervision. The reports of these officers, made to me on a request for that end, which accompany and are made part of this communication, will present to you the details of the administration of their offices, so far as practicable; and it is due to these gentlemen to declare that their conduct of their respective Departments meets my unqualified approval.

I called to my assistance Col. Thomas A. Scott, whose valuable labors I am much indebted. He continued to assist me until he was called into the service of the Federal Government. I then invited Col. John A. Wright and R. B. Roberts to have immediate supervision. The reports of these officers, made to me on a request for that end, which accompany and are made part of this communication, will present to you the details of the administration of their offices, so far as practicable; and it is due to these gentlemen to declare that their conduct of their respective Departments meets my unqualified approval.

Some of them, I know, will not accept of any; and I cannot too highly commend their patriotism and fidelity. Although your resolution of inquiry was directed to me, and it might have been sufficiently answered by my referring you to the details of the administration of their offices, for particulars of expenditure, I have obtained through the kindness of the Auditor General, copies of all his vouchers for disbursement and a statement from the State Treasurer of the amount paid by him to the various departments of the government; and the prices of articles furnished have only been settled in the case of those articles which are now on hand. Those unpaid will be supervised, and if necessary, corrected by the Commissary General and Auditor General before paid, under a system to which I adverted in my message presented to the Legislature at the opening of this special session, as being calculated to protect the interests of the State in these transactions. For the number of persons employed, and other details, I refer you to the reports of these officers.

It was necessary that the Quartermaster General Hale should transfer the largest and most extensive of his operations to the city of Philadelphia, and for that purpose he opened an office in that city. He was furnished with rooms rent free by Singleton A. Mercer, Esq., President of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank, and as fully set out in his report, accepted the voluntary services of a number of patriotic gentlemen, whom, by their names, he has properly commended. During the time he was in Philadelphia he was, from necessity, discharging the duties of Commissary in that city, as well as those of his own office.

I am happy to say that the transactions of that Department are fully before you in the report of General Hale, and bearing in mind the necessity for immediate action, and the absence of previous organization, I cannot too highly commend the conduct of these patriotic gentlemen who left their private affairs and devoted all their time and energies to the service of the State. No arrangement has yet been made to compensate the gentlemen referred to. Many of them refuse to receive any compensation. Some of them ought to be reasonably paid for their services, and if I have the power, compensation will be made to them.

In answer to your interrogatory which I put to the Secretary of War, and which answers were contained in a former message to you, I learned from the War Department of the United States that the accounts of the Commissary and Quartermaster's Department of this State would be mainly reimbursed by the United States Government. To a large extent these claims have already been formally recognized by the officers of the National Government. And the accounts have been, and will be, kept, and audited, as to establish their validity beyond all question. I deem it proper to communicate at this time to the Legislature, as an opportunity may be afforded, the fact that the Cincinnati Society of Pennsylvania have sent me a check for five hundred dollars, to be used towards arming and equipping the volunteers of Pennsylvania. It is proper that some official notice should be taken of this patriotic munificence; and if it should be the pleasure of the Legislature, I will be much pleased to be directed in its appropriation.

I take this occasion to say that the period of time has arrived for prompt and decisive action; and the Government should be equal in alacrity and zeal to the spirit which animates the people. We are now called upon to meet the most senseless and wonderful conspiracy recorded in history; in the name of constitutional liberty and for the progress of civilization and Christianity, this great people are to vindicate before the world that our government has inherent strength for its own perpetuity, and that we have the power and the will to transmit to posterity its blessings. The unity of the millions of our free and loyal people, presents to the world a fact without a parallel in moral sublimity and devoted patriotism in the history of man or of his present. Let us all act in harmony, and so administer the State Government, that our brave people may go to the field organized, armed and equipped, and in such numbers as to assure the speedy overthrow of this atrocious conspiracy and rebellion, and the prompt and courageous action avoid the culpability of seeming to compromise with the rebels, and the full preparation which the future will inevitably require. Gentlemen, you represent a loyal constituency; you are called upon to legislate in a trying emergency for a State whose history in the highest degree commends our traditions exhibit rich and rare examples of true Christian heroism, and leaving the honor of the State in your hands, I pledge to you the full performance of every duty imposed upon me by the Constitution and the laws.

The Blockade of the Chesapeake.

BALTIMORE, May 11.—An arrival from Old Point Comfort brings information that that post is now considered fully prepared to resist any attack that may be made upon it. The Cumberland, Parvenc, Monitor, Harriet Lane and Live Yankee were off Fort Monroe, enforcing the blockade. The steamer Live Yankee, pursued an armed schooner up the York river, but after proceeding a short distance was fired upon by a concealed battery and compelled to return.

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How TRAITORS ARE TREATED IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Wheeling papers record that Hall of Wetzel county, and woods of Barbour county, delegates to the Virginia Convention, who, against the unanimous Union feeling of this portion of the State, voted for Secession, are being roughly used by their constituents. Hall appeared at Parkersburg a few days ago, on the way home, when a crowd got after him and were about to lay violent hands on him, when he was rescued by General John J. Jackson, who got him away to his own house and sheltered him. Hall after escaping the crowd, tried to get aboard the Albemarle and proceed on up to Wetzel county. But the officers of the boat wouldn't take him, and he had to return up the North Western road and strike out to his home across the country.

A gentleman from Parkersburg says that on its becoming known he was on the way to the depot to receive him and give him a warm reception. No sooner had he landed on the platform than they made a rush for him, and he, discovering what kind of a muss he was in, beat a hasty retreat for a car, and getting in, begged the conductor to lock the door and start the train. The conductor did so, and the enraged and indignant crowd had to content themselves with showering curses and epithets upon the object of their wrath, who succeeded in escaping without bodily harm.

VERMILION. The New Orleans Crescent says:—'We have no intention of "subduing" the North. We do not propose to interfere with the North in any shape or form. Let the Free States have their own Government to themselves, and the Slave States their's without the interruption or molestation this is what the South desires. Is there anything in it unreasonable? Of course you don't mean to subdue us, or interfere with us in any shape or form. Then why don't you pay your honest debts?—Why repudiate what you justly owe?'

NOTICE. S. T. SHUBERT, In the Common Pleas of Chester County, Pa., No. 132 Apr. Term, '61. Al. Ejectment for a tract of land situate in the township of Rush, in the county of Centre, containing three hundred and acres or thereabouts, bounded on the north and northeast by Mosbano Creek, on the east and northeast by a tract in the warranty name of Paul Zantinger, on the south and southwest by a tract in the warranty name of Sebastian Traff, being part of a larger tract which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by letter patent, dated the 6th day of April 1861, granted and confirmed to Frederick Bates, scrivener of Philadelphia. And now to wit: April 23d, 1861, on motion of D. G. Bush, Attorney for Eff. Rule, granted on Def. to appear and plead on or before next Term or Judgment, may be taken out of the left corner of the land in one newspaper published in Centre county for sixty days. Certified from Records the 6th day of May, A. D. 1861. JNO. T. JOHNSON, Prothonotary.

STRAYED. STRAYED from the subscriber about the 8th of May, a young goat, about 6 months old. The same is white, with a black staff ear, and was white. Any person knowing of the whereabouts, or has the animal, will please to give some information, and who will be suitably rewarded. WM. COOK.

NOTICE TO BUILDERS. The Trustees of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania will receive proposals for the Stone and Brick Masonry, Carpenter Work, and Plastering, of that remaining part of their building which consists of Five stories high, one hundred and forty-two feet in front, the end wing extending back eighty-one feet, six inches. The proposals will be received at the Farm School, in Centre county, until Wednesday May 22, 1861, at 10 o'clock A. M., and may be for any part or the whole work. Drawings and specifications of the work may be seen at the Farm School at any time, upon application to Mr. Pugh, the President of the Institution.

Hardware. TO BUY CHEAP FOR CASH. HOFFMAN'S is the store for Blacksmiths. HOFFMAN'S is the store for Carpenters. HOFFMAN'S is the store for Saddlers. HOFFMAN'S is the store for Tinsmiths. HOFFMAN'S is the store for Builders. For Bellows, Anvils, Patents, etc., go to CANDLER'S. To dealers 13 cents per pound. J. J. HOFFMAN, PHILADELPHIA, Pa. Lewisstown Pa. May 10, 61.

EXECUTORS NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the Estate of Mary Kerr, late of Potter Township, deceased, have been granted to the subscribers, who request all those indebted to said Estate, to make immediate payment, and all those having demands against said Estate, to present them duly authenticated for settlement. April, 11-61. WM. KERR, WM. KERR.

EXECUTORS NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the Estate of Andrew Martin, late of Walker Township, deceased, have been granted to the subscribers, who request all those indebted to said Estate, to make immediate payment, and all those having demands against said Estate, to present them duly authenticated for settlement. May 10, 61-61. WM. MARTIN, Executor.

FARE REDUCED. STATES UNION HOTEL, 606 & 608 Market Street, above Sixth, PHILADELPHIA, Pa. G. W. HINKLE, Proprietor. TERMS.—\$1 25 PER DAY. J. & W. P. MACMANNUS, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, BELLEFONTE, Pa. James Macmannus has associated with Wm. P. Macmannus, Esq., in the practice of Law. Professions about business entrusted to their care will receive prompt attention. They will attend the several Courts in the Counties of Centre, Clinton and Clearfield. Office on Allegheny street in the building formerly occupied by Linn & Wilson.

NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

Passage of the Federal Troops Through Baltimore. The Washington correspondent of the New York Times telegraphs the following, under date of Friday, May 10. The First Regiment of Philadelphia volunteers, under command of Colonel Patterson, were among the troops referred to: Yesterday was one of the most important days since the commencement of the campaign. Baltimore was fully opened to the passage of Federal troops, and that city was fully redeemed from the secessionists, who have so nearly ruined it. One of the officers informs me that he never saw such a demonstration of joy as was manifested by the Baltimore people at the landing of the troops from the steamers. Upwards of ten thousand people assembled, and followed the troops through the streets. Not a hiss nor a sound of disapprobation was heard during the whole march. The people seemed to vie with each other in cheering, and other patriotic demonstrations.

The stars and stripes were thrown to the breeze along the route, while the soldiers responded with army stores and provisions. Captain Sherman's battery was placed, with three guns, in advance, and three in the rear, while the infantry marched with closed ranks, in the centre, and with a file on each side of the street, to keep it clear. They carried their muskets loaded with bayonets fixed. They did not see a secessionist flag, nor hear a word of treason. As they left the depot, vast crowds lined the road and cheered wildly. Bonfires were built along the entire route from Baltimore to Washington. They were saluted by butler's command, under Col. Jones, of the Massachusetts Sixth, at the Relay House and at the Junction. They reached Washington at 2 o'clock and marched immediately to quarters. They were seven hours on the road—the most of the men in freight cars, with the doors closed and locked, to prevent capture. Some of them had nothing to eat for thirty-four hours. All were in good spirits and most of them are ready to serve during the war.

Latest from Fort Pickens—Bragg Disheartened.—By the arrival of the Illinois at New York, we have advices from Pensacola to the 24 of May. There are 1,000 men in Fort Pickens, which is a larger number than is really needed. The officers, who are 'spillin' for a fight,' want about 5,000 more men sent to them, so that they can cross from Santa Rosa to the main land and exterminate Gen. Bragg and his horde of rebels. There was, before the arrival of the Philadelphia, sufficient provisions in the Fort to last the men six months. Every out of the way corner was filled with army stores and provisions from the weather, and from destruction during an engagement, by sheltering sand bags. Sand bags, in fact, are freely used about the Fort, to protect the officer's quarters, sheltering the men while working to strengthen the walls, and conducting to safety and comfort in various ways.

A very effective company of Flying Artillery, under Capt. Berry, is quartered on the island, and preparing for any emergency. Tall shears have been erected within the fort, on the top of which a look-out is stationed. With his spy glass he commands a view of the rebel army, the Navy Yard and the fleet, and keeps Col. Brown posted in regard to their movements. The flag ship Sabine, the Powhatan, Brooklyn, Supply, Water Witch and Wyandotte, lie just outside, ready to run to the assistance of the troops on shore at a moment's notice. Capt. Adams, of the Sabine, who is in command of the fleet, is looked upon as rather a slow coach. He is deemed a trustworthy officer, although his sympathies are known to be with the South. Capt. Porter, of the Powhatan, is quite the reverse, being active, energetic, and anxious for a shot at Gen. Bragg. He is exercising his men at the guns constantly, and they appear to relish it quite as much as he does. Six rifled cannon were put on his vessel by the Illinois. There is any amount of ammunition on board the fleet and also in the fort.

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