

The Watchman.

G. T. ALEXANDER, Editor. JOE W. FURRY, Editor.

BELL' FONTE, DEC. 5th, 1861.

Salutatory.

The readers of the Watchman, will no doubt, be somewhat surprised to see another change in the editorial department of this paper. It is extremely unfortunate that so many changes have occurred within so short a period of time, for there can be no doubt that the interests of the paper have been, in some degree, injured by them. But it is to be hoped that these changes are now about over, and that no occasion may hereafter arise, when it will be considered necessary that the editorial conduct of this journal should be transferred to other hands.

In the present unsettled condition of our national affairs, we assume the pen editorial with "fear and trembling," conscious that, at this time, the task we have undertaken, becomes one of no ordinary magnitude. This is the third time during our short life, that we have been called upon to fill the position of an editor, and if we may only be enabled to get through as safely as we have done heretofore, we shall, indeed, be gratified.

In connection with Mr. ALEXANDER, we hope to be able to make the WATCHMAN a firm and reliable exponent of Democratic principles; and shall labor with our whole heart in the work, for the overthrow of that odious, sectional party, whose detestable principles have been, to so great an extent, the cause of our present unhappy difficulties with our Southern brethren; and whose bitter denunciations of them and theirs, have been the fruitful source of so much contention and ill feeling between the inhabitants of the two sections of our beloved country, which, but for them, might, perhaps, have remained forever bound together in fraternal affection, by the silken cord of love and union.

But we have no wish to cast reproaches. God knows it is not a pleasant task. We believe that the "abomination of desolation"—so far as this country is concerned—has been set up in our midst; and may Heaven forgive those evil minded men in all parts of the country, who have been instrumental in bringing it to the very doors of the inhabitants of the fairest land the sun ever shone upon.

One year ago, and nothing was heard in our then happy land, but the hum of peaceful industry and the joyous laugh of a prosperous people. And though even then, the political horizon was darkened with portentous clouds indicative of the approaching storm, yet peace was hugg'd to our bosoms, grim forebodings were driven away, and all went "merry as a marriage bell," while we serenely hoped and prayed that Almighty God would avert the awful calamity which seemed to be impending over us. But we had disregarded too many warnings, and "He who doth all things well" withdrew the shield of his protection, leaving us to our fate. And now, how changed the scene! The North and South, hitherto so peaceful and happy, are put over against each other in hostile array, and the mighty tread of a million of armed men shakes the earth to its centre. Nothing is heard throughout the length and breadth of the land, but the roar of the deep-mouthed cannon, and the sharp rattle of musketry, while they who should have been sought by friends and brothers, stand ready to plunge the dagger to each other's hearts.

What a spectacle for a Republican Government! What a sight for a people who have always boasted of the power and security of their institutions.

And the cause of all this? "aye, the cause! Go ask Henry Ward Beecher, who turns his pulpit into a hustings from which to make Abolition speeches! Go ask William Lloyd Garrison, who proclaims that the "Constitution of the United States is a covenant with death and a league with hell!" Go ask Horace Greeley, who cries "No union with slaveholders!" Go ask Wendell Phillips, the hoary headed traitor, who contends for the equality of the races! Go ask Anson Burlingame, who declares for an anti-slavery Constitution, an anti-slavery Bible, and an anti-slavery God!" Go ask Salmon P. Chase, whom the negroes of Cincinnati presented with a silver pitcher in 1845, for his advocacy of abolitionism! Go ask Hinton Rowland Helper, the greatest villain of them all! See if they can look you in the face, and tell you the cause—aye, the cause!

Alas, that it should be so! But we fear that the cause of all this contention is too much among ourselves. We very much fear that Abolitionism is at the bottom of it all—that it is the primary and main cause of all our woes. For while we look upon secession as the immediate cause of the war, we cannot but think that had it not been for abolitionism, secession could never have had an existence.

We are no apologists for secession. No, God forbid! On the contrary, we look upon secession and abolitionism as twin evils, both born of their father—the Devil. And as such we think it the duty of every patriot to avoid both extremes.

But we have no desire to trespass any longer upon the indulgence of our readers. We have already spun out our introduction to a greater length than we had intended; and, begging pardon, we shall endeavor to close as briefly as possible.

How long the present condition of things is!

A Speech from Gen. Patterson to the Company of the 16th Regt. of the 1st Div. of the Army of the Potomac.

At Philadelphia, on Saturday afternoon, the 16th inst., the members of the First City Troop met in commemoration of the formation of the company in 1774. After assembling at their armory, the Troop proceeded to the Continental Hotel, where they partook of the anniversary dinner.

Upward of eighty members in their hands some uniforms, were seated around the table. At the further end of the room hung the old flag of the troop, which was borne through the battles of Trenton and Princeton.

After these had been ably discussed, Gen. Patterson, in response to a toast and three cheers, made a forcible speech explaining his reasons for not intervening. Gen. Johnson previous to the battle of Manassas Junction. He said that he was not in the habit of giving orders for anything he did or did not do, but in the presence of men of so much intelligence—a part of his command in the short campaign in the valley of Virginia, he considered it due to them as well as himself, to give a short statement of facts.

THE SLANDERS AGAINST GEN. PATTERSON. During the latter part of July, all August and part of September, there was no slander against him so gross that it could not be asserted and reiterated with impunity and unswerving avidity. The gentlemen of the Troop knew how false these slanders were. He had submitted to them in quietude, and had the courtesy to his session to prove that he did all that he was ordered to do, and no other than any one had a right to expect under the circumstances in which he and his command were placed, and he did not mind high or low, to put his finger on an order disobeyed.

NO FALSE STEP MADE. The gentlemen of the Troop were witnesses of what was done and he asserted what they knew to be true, that the column was well conducted. There was not a false step made, nor a blunder committed. The skirmishers were always in front, and the flanks well protected. They were caught in no trap, and fell into no ambush. They repeatedly offered the enemy battle, and when they accepted it they were beaten. There was no defeat and no retreat with his column.

A FULL INVESTIGATION DEMANDED. It might be asked why have you not made this statement sooner? Because the publication of the documents would be a violation of the laws of the Government, which he preferred bearing the odium so liberally bestowed on him, rather than clear himself at the expense of the cause in which we were all engaged. The time had arrived when the matter could without injury to the service, be inquired into; and he was determined that it should be done, and that before long all the "demons" referred to should be published, and spread before the American people, unless those whose duty it was to do so should in the meantime do him justice.

SOME OF THE FACTS. On the 23d of June he took command at Chambersburg. On the 24th he was ordered to march to the front, and he considered the addition to his force of a battery of artillery and some regular infantry indispensable. On the 8th of June a letter of instructions was sent him in which he was told that there must be no reverse; a check or a drawn battle would be a victory to the enemy, filling his hearts with confidence and his own with despair. He was to take his measures accordingly, and to attempt nothing without a clear prospect of success. This was good instruction and in all respects to be followed. Good or bad he was to obey; and he did.

IMPORTANT ORDERS. On Friday, the 13th, he was informed of the report that he had been ordered to make a demonstration on Manassas Junction. He was surprised at the order, but promptly obeyed. On the 15th he received orders to march to the front, and he considered the addition to his force of a battery of artillery and some regular infantry indispensable. On the 8th of June a letter of instructions was sent him in which he was told that there must be no reverse; a check or a drawn battle would be a victory to the enemy, filling his hearts with confidence and his own with despair.

On the 20th of June he was asked by the General in Chief to propose without delay, a plan of operations. On the 21st he submitted to the General in Chief his plan which was to abandon the present line of operations, move all supplies to Frederick, occupy arched Heights with Major Doubleday's heavy guns and brigade of infantry to support them, and with everything else, horse, foot and artillery, to cross the Potomac at Point of Rocks, and to unite with Col. Slocum's force at Leesburg from which point he could operate as circumstances should demand and the Gen. in Chief's orders should require. No reply was received; but, on the 27th, the General telegraphed him that he supposed he was that day crossing the river in pursuit of the enemy.

On that day the enemy was in condition to cross the river in his pursuit. He had over fifteen thousand men and from twenty to twenty five guns. Gen. Patterson had about ten thousand men and six guns, the latter unmovable for want of harness. On the 23d he informed the General of the strength of the enemy and of his own force; that he would not, on his own responsibility, attack without artillery, but would do so cheerfully and promptly if he would give him an explicit order to do so. No order was given. On the 31st he received the harness for his single battery of six guns, and on the 29th he gave the order to cross. On the 21st of July he crossed met the enemy and whipped them.

PROPOSALS. On the 9th of July a Council was held at

which all the commanders of divisions and brigades, and chiefs of staff were present. Col. Stone, the junior lieutenant, spoke first and decidedly against an advance and a direct movement to Washington and Charleston. All who spoke opposed an advance, and all voted against one. On the same day he informed the General in Chief of the condition of the army, and of the fact that he had proposed and intended that Manassas should be taken on Tuesday, the 16th. On the 13th he was telegraphed: "Are not strong enough to beat the enemy early next week make demonstrations so as to detain him in the valley of Winchester." He made the demonstrations, and on the 16th, the day Gen. Scott said he would attack Manassas, he drove the enemy's pickets into his entrenchments at Winchester, and on the 17th, he crossed the river at Leesburg.

On the 18th he telegraphed the General in Chief that Johnson was in a position to have his strength double; just as he could reach him, and that he would rather lose the chance of accomplishing something brilliant than by hazarding his column, to destroy the fruits of his campaign by defeat, closing his telegram thus:—"If wrong let me be instructed." But no instructions came. This being the case, he telegraphed to the General on the 17th, General Scott telegraphed: "McDowell's first day's work has driven the enemy beyond Fairfax Court House. To-morrow the Junction will probably be carried." With this information he was happy—Johnson had been detained the appointed time, and the work of General Patterson's column had been done.

On the 18th at half past one in the morning, General Scott telegraphed: "The condition of the enemy's force and his own, referred to in your letter of the 16th for full information, and closed the 'e-p-a-c-h' by asking, 'Small attack?' This was plain English and he answered, 'No.' He expected to be attacked where he was, and if Manassas was not to be attacked on that day, as stated in General Scott's despatch of the day previous, he might as well have retired forthwith to join in the battle, and the attack delayed until he came. He would have been there on the day the battle was fought, and his assistance might have produced a different result.

On the 20th he heard that Johnston had marched with thirty five thousand Confederate troops and a large artillery force, in a southerly direction. He immediately telegraphed the information to General Scott and knew that he received it the same day. In accordance with instructions he came to Harper's Ferry on the 21st, which place he held until relieved by General Patterson, during the course of his remarks, was repeatedly applauded, and closed amidst repeated cheers.

Jeff. Davis' Message to the Conf. States Congress.

WASHINGTON Nov 23. The Richmond papers of Wednesday received here, contain the message of Jeff. Davis to the Confederate Congress. After the usual congratulations, he says:—"That the operations of the army, soon to be partially interrupted by the approaching winter, have afforded a precious opportunity, and shed a lustre upon its arms through the trying vicissitudes of more than one arduous campaign, which entitled our brave volunteers to our praise and our gratitude."

Further on he says:—"After more than seven months of war the enemy have not only failed to extend their occupation of our soil, but new States and Territories have been added to our Confederacy, while instead of their threatening march of unchecked conquest, they have been driven at more than one point to assume a defensive, and upon a fair comparison between the military and financial condition of the Confederate States, and the more powerful Union, we are fully justified in our confidence in the success of our arms."

He speaks in high terms of the people of Missouri who have conducted the war in the face of almost unparalleled difficulties, with a spirit and success alike worthy of themselves and of the great cause in which they are struggling.

He says:—"I find that the Confederate States were about to be invaded through Kentucky, and that her people after being driven into a mistaken security were unmindful and in danger of being subjected by the Federal forces, our arms were marched into that State to repel the enemy, and to secure the State to certain strategic points, which would have given them great advantages in the contest—a step which was justly not only necessary to our defence, but also a part of the Confederate States, but also by the desire to aid the people of Kentucky."

It was never intended by the Confederate States to conquer or to occupy that State. The advantages of intercourse are mutual among nations, and in seeking to establish diplomatic relations we were only endeavoring to place this intercourse under the regulations of law. Perhaps we had the right if we had chosen to exercise it, to ask to know whether the principal that blockades, to be binding, must be effectual, so I firmly announced by the great powers of Europe at Paris, is to be generally enforced or applied to particular parties."

Davis also says:—"I have caused the evidence to be collected which proves completely the utter inefficiency of the proclaimed blockade of the Southern coast, and shall direct it to be laid before such government as shall afford the means of being heard."

But although we should be benefited by the enforcement of this law, so solemnly declared by the great powers of Europe, we are not dependent on that enforcement for the successful prosecution of the war. As long as hostilities continue, the Confederate States will exhibit a steadily increasing capacity to furnish their troops with food clothing and arms. If they should be forced to forego many of the luxuries and some of the comforts of life, they will at least have the consolation of knowing that they were thus daily becoming more and more independent of the rest of the world."

He concludes his message in the following manner:—"While the war which is waged to liberate us from the grasp of a Government, can never attain that end, it remains to be seen how far it may work a revolution in the industrial system of the world, which may

carry us to other lands as well as our own. In the meantime we shall continue this struggle in humble dependence upon Providence, whose all-wise and all-powerful arm cannot conceal the secrets of our hearts, and to whose will we confidently submit our destinies—for the rest we shall depend upon ourselves. Liberty is always won where the oppressor will be free to exist, and we have reason to know the strength that is given by a conscious sense, not only of the magnitude, but of the righteousness of our cause."

BOOK CLAD SHIPS IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE AND THEIR ARMOR.—The success of the French floating batteries La Derivation, Le Tonnerre, and Le Lave, at Kinburn, Crimea, has been the signal of a revolution in the great navy of Europe which does not seem to stop short of a complete transformation. No sooner was La Gloire built by order of the Emperor of the French, than England, seeing her superiority over wooden vessels, set her self to work, and tried to outvie her powerful rival.

The result of that competition, produced the D'Almeida, the Resistance, the Warrior, and the Black Prince, four steel-clad vessels, now afloat. Eleven vessels of that description, now said to have been ordered by the Admiralty within the last sixty days, and an amount of twelve and a half millions of dollars has been voted by the English Parliament, for that purpose. But as every one of these vessels cost about two millions, and as the amount voted is merely sufficient for the construction of five of them, an additional appropriation of about five millions is necessary for the six remaining vessels.

The activity displayed by France in renewing her navy is not less remarkable. In a late English paper, we see that she has now eleven iron clad vessels afloat, or in commission, and seventeen building. The construction of these vessels has been distributed to the yards of Toulon, Brest, or Rochfort, and if their power of resistance is as great as it is now supposed, France will soon have on the ocean a fleet of unconquerable floating fortresses. The construction of this iron navy is due mainly to the fact, that the British Empire or by the British naval review held at Spithead, between five and six years since and by the boasting of the English, on this occasion, that they would beat all the combined navies of the world.

When Oliver Cromwell first coined money, an old cavalier, looking at one of the new pieces, read this inscription on one side, "God be with us," and on the other side, "The Commonwealth of England." "I see," said he, "that God and the Commonwealth are all on different sides."

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At Camp Pierpont, in the hospital, on the 23d inst., Mr. H. M. LUCAS, of Snowshoe township, this county.

Mr. ENTON—I herewith transmit to you the death of Mr. H. M. Lucas, who died in the service of the United States. He enlisted on the 25th day of July last, for the term of three years. He was in Company E, 5th Regiment P. V. R. C., under command of Col. Simmons. After an illness of two weeks, he died in the hospital at Camp Pierpont. His remains were brought home to his family in Snowshoe, on the 28th of November, by his brother, T. B. Lucas, a Volunteer in the same company, and were interred in the Snowshoe graveyard, on the 29th, followed by a large concourse of people. The Deceased was born on the 8th day of March 1823, and died on the 23d of November 1861, leaving a wife and three small children to mourn his loss. He was greatly lamented by all who knew him.

The following is an extract from a letter, written by a couple of his comrades, to the wife of the deceased dated Nov. 24th 1861: "Mrs. LUCAS—We do sincerely sympathize with you in your distress at being bereaved of a dear husband, but we humbly trust that he has gone to the better land above, freed from all this earthly care, where he can take up the cross that his heavenly Master has prepared for him and all his followers at that day. Truly, it is lamentable that you have one consolation, as you were Church members, live for God, and if you live for him, you will, after you are done with this unfriendly world, only go to join your companion where your family will make an undivided one around God's throne in heaven, where there will be no more tears to be shed; and notwithstanding, though his heavenly Master has called him, and has taken a noble hero from our side, to be lamented by the whole Company, truly, it may be said of him, far from hundreds of others, though dying far from home but not without his friends in this just cause, that he was helping, truly it may be said of him, he did a hero for his country, while engaged in this glorious contest in trying to uphold this great and good Government that our fathers fought long and hard for."

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A large amount of it may be circulated in such a medium. It is a matter of course that these notes shall be convertible into Confederate scrip bearing 8 per cent interest at the pleasure of the holder, and that a depreciation of the value of that stock and no convertible scrip will be made, so long as the interest shall be ultimately paid. The payment of this interest has been secured by the act passed by you at the last session imposing such a rate of taxation as must provide sufficient means for that purpose.

For the successful prosecution of this war it is indispensable that the means of transporting troops and military supplies be furnished, as far as possible, in such manner as not to interrupt the commercial intercourse between our people, nor place a check upon their productive energies."

In another part of the message he says:—"We have already two main systems of transportation from the North to the South—one from Richmond, along the seaboard and the other through Western Virginia to New Orleans. A third might be secured by completing a link of forty miles between Danville in Virginia and Greensborough, in North Carolina. The construction of this comparatively short link would give us a through route from north to South, in the interior of the Confederate States, and give us access to a population, and in many resources from which we are now in a great measure debarred."

And further on he says:—"If we husband our means and make a judicious use of our resources, it would be difficult to fix a limit to the period during which we could conduct a war against an adversary who we now encounter. The very efforts which he makes to isolate and invade us must exhaust his means, whilst we, by a complete circle and diversify the production of our industrial system. The reconstruction which he seeks to effect by arms becomes daily more and more impossible. Not only do the causes which induce us to separate still exist in full force, but they have been strengthened, and whatever doubt may have lingered in the minds of any, must have been completely dispelled by subsequent events. If, instead of being a disunion of a large empire, it were indeed a rebellion in which we are engaged, we must have ample vindication for the course we have adopted in the scenes which are now being enacted in the United States. Or people now look with contemptuous astonishment on those with whom they have been so recently associated. They shrink with aversion from the mere idea of renewing such a connection. They are not in peace, but the separation is final, and for the independence we have asserted, we will except no alternative."

President Davis characterizes the nature of the hostilities on the part of the United States as "barbarous and revolting in its character." If they convert their soldiers into irregulars and robbers, and involve us in a series of wars which shall exhaust our resources, women and children, as victims, they must expect to be treated as on laws and enemies of mankind. There are certain rights of humanity which are entitled to respect, and which he who refuses to be considered as a prisoner of war, but must expect to be dealt with as all offenders are against all law, both human and divine. We do not count with victims as victims, but we extend the laws of nations at home, to our her jurisdiction. The distinguished general, who with your approval at the present time, I commissioned to represent the Confederacy at certain foreign Courts, have been recently seized by the Captain of a United States ship, on board a British steamship, on an espionage from the neutral Spanish port of Havana to England.

The United States have claimed a general jurisdiction over the high seas, and by entering a British ship, sailing under its own country's flag, violating the rights of an embassy, for the most part held sacred even amongst barbarians, by seizing our ministers whilst they were under the protection, and within the dominions of a neutral nation. These gentlemen were as much under the jurisdiction of the British Government upon that ship, and beneath its flag as if they had been on its soil, and a claim on the part of the United States to seize them in a British ship, or on a British soil, unless well founded as that to apprehend them where they were taken. Had they been malefactors or even citizens of the United States, they could not have been arrested on a British ship, or on British soil, unless upon the express provisions of a treaty and according to forms therein provided for the extradition of criminals."

Davis speaks of Faulkner as having been perfidiously arrested, and says:—"In conducting this war we have sought to do as we would be done by, in a defensive, should we have asked for a recognized place in the great family of nations, but in doing so we demanded nothing for which we did not offer a fair equivalent, but on the contrary we have been made among nations, and in seeking to establish diplomatic relations we were only endeavoring to place this intercourse under the regulations of law. Perhaps we had the right if we had chosen to exercise it, to ask to know whether the principal that blockades, to be binding, must be effectual, so I firmly announced by the great powers of Europe at Paris, is to be generally enforced or applied to particular parties."

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