

The Watchman.



C. T. ALEXANDER, Editors. JOE W. FURRY.

BELLEFRONTE, PA. Thursday Morning, June 5, 1862.

Democratic State Convention.

In accordance with a resolution of the Democratic State Executive Committee, THE DEMOCRACY will meet in STATE CONVENTION, at HARRISBURG, on FRIDAY, the 4th day of July, 1862, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to nominate candidates for Auditor General and SCRIPPS GENERAL, and to adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the welfare of the Democratic party and the country.

WILLIAM H. WELSH, Chairman of the Democratic State Ex. Com.

A few weeks ago, in the Central Press, we found an endorsement of the late Douglas as being one of the truest and best statesmen that ever lived, all of which we were very willing to admit; in fact, we always believed him to be not only the greatest but the best man that lived in his day, and who, if he were now upon the Senate floor, would stem the tide of fanaticism that rules the hour, and harmonize the conflicting political elements at war within our borders.

But we do not now intend to pass a eulogy upon the dead; our object being merely to call attention to a paragraph of a speech made by the living Senator, when concluding his radicalism at the time the Crittenden compromise was pending within the halls of the United States Congress. Said Douglas:

"If you of the Republican side are not willing to accept this, nor the proposition of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Crittenden) pray tell us what you are willing to do? I address the inquiry to the Republicans alone for the reason that in the committee of thirteen, a few days ago, every member from the South, including those from the Cotton States, Messrs. Toombs and Davis, expressed their readiness to accept the proposition of my venerable friend from Kentucky (Mr. Crittenden) as a final settlement of the controversy, if tendered and sustained by the Republican members. Hence the sole responsibility of our disagreement, and the only difficulty in the way of an amicable adjustment, is with the Republican party."

It was not tendered nor sustained by the Republican party, and they failed to agree. The war began in consequence. Who, then, is the responsible party for the war? The Central Press says the Democratic party—Douglas, that whom a better and truer man never lived and whom the Press has endorsed for his truthfulness, said the Republican party was responsible, and he spoke truly.

Great Battle Near Richmond.

Since our last issue a portion of Gen. McClellan's forces, under command of General Morris, has fought the battle of Hanover Court House, in which our troops were victorious, having succeeded in routing the enemy with heavy loss. Our loss is set down at about 379 in killed and wounded while that of the enemy is estimated at about 1000.

Since the battle of Hanover Court House, however, dispatches received on Sunday and Monday last, make it very evident that a battle has been fought near Richmond, with enormous loss on both sides.

On Monday our citizens were much depressed, owing to a rumor that Gen. McClellan had been defeated, caused, we suppose, by the fact that one of the divisions under Gen. Casey, ingloriously fled, leaving their baggage, arms, &c., in the hands of the enemy. Later and more definite intelligence, however, states that reinforcements under Gen. Heintzelman and Keyes soon arrived to the support of Casey's division, and retrieved the fortunes of the day.

Although there has been as yet, no particulars received it seems to certain that McClellan has achieved the greatest victory of the war, not, however, without great sacrifice of life. The General's dispatch to the Secretary of War states that "our loss is heavy, but that of the enemy must be enormous."

This is the substance of all the news that has been received from the field of battle, up to the present writing (Wednesday morning). Should we receive anything more before going to press, we will make a note of it.

ONE OF THE "BRECKINRIDGE SECESSIONISTS."

A Democrat named Thomas Donahoe, residing in Kittanning, Pa., is the owner of six houses occupied by families of soldiers in the war. For some time past he has collected no rent from his tenants, and intends to permit them to remain until the war is over. And yet Mr. Donahoe is a Democrat who voted for Breckinridge! Will the editor of the Watchman be continually harping upon the disloyalty of "Breckinridge Democrats," be kind enough to point out an Abolitionist capable of such patriotism?—Exchange.

Nonense.—The Abolitionists have their hands full just now in staying at home to abuse others as traitors for not going to the war.

The Press Again.

The Central Press, instead of answering the arguments we advanced a few weeks ago in opposition to the emancipation policy of ultra Republicans in Congress, dissects an extract from our article, which, garbled and disconnected from the rest, gives President Lincoln more credit for honesty than he deserves, and certainly more than was intended, or is given by our article taken as a whole.

We have striven all along to avoid a personal encounter with our neighbor up street as our readers do not and can not take any interest in the trifling articles of the Press, to which we must in such a counters always allude.

If the Press would take a manly stand some where, and advance any political principle or theory, or at least attempt a fair and honest refutation of arguments advanced by us, the conflict between us might prove advantageous to our readers. But the Press will not do, as the past fully demonstrates, and we cannot expect anything better in the future.

The editor of that paper, never having had any settled political creed, it is folly to expect that he will adopt one now, and argue it before the public. So the only advantage to the public that can follow our allusions to him as an editor, would be the amusement his political gymnastics would occasion.

From the strenuous supporter and incalculator of the principles of the Buchanan, or, as he calls it now, Breckinridge Democracy, at one time in the year 1856, we might follow him through all the varied changes that have come over the spirit of his dreams, during the days of Know Nothingism down to modern Republican Abolitionism, showing to the public that the grandest and most lofty political tumbling ever witnessed upon this continent. All of which might amuse but would not be of any real benefit to our reading public.

The Press, too, would be sure to reply with its usual very interesting retort of Breckinridge Democrat, traitor, secessionist, &c., which would only tend to increase the contempt the people now have for those Republican editors in this State, including the Press editor, who have adopted such epithets as their standing reply to everything that is said or done, that does not meet with the approval of the abolition idea of the cause and cure of this rebellion.

If we should denounce the enormous robberies that have been perpetrated by officials in and around Washington city, upon the tax paying people, why the reply would be "traitor." If we should denounce the President Lincoln on the constitutionalism of his suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, why the reply would be, he is crippling the energies of the government, he is certainly a traitor.

If we denounce the "covenant with hell and agreement with death," abolitionists who acknowledge that they have for thirty years been striving to dissolve the Union, they would certainly meet with the retort, "you are a sympathizer with the rebels." If we should say that President Lincoln is not the wisest man that ever lived, and that Banks is not the best general in the world, we would be called a Breckinridge Democrat, certain. If we would oppose emancipation as a war measure, and should even intimate that we could not emancipate all the slaves before we get them, the reply would be, traitor. If we would say that the war will not be over in thirty days that would be proof positive, that we would feel rejoiced at the defeat of the Union forces, and so on their out, no difference what we might say, the only reply would be the significant word, traitor, &c.

Now we rather feel disposed to pass by in contemptuous silence all of the silly slurs that week after week the man without a principle hurls at us and everybody else that does not endorse abolitionism.

We appreciate the public understanding this cry of slurs of the Press, and know full well where to class the editor of this journal—among those who love and those who do not love their country.

"Every traitor who utters a disloyal sentiment on the streets of Bellefonte, shall be held down by a loyal man. The same practice would have a beneficial effect in parts of Central Pennsylvania."

—So says the editor of the Central Press, Chief Burgess of the Borough of Bellefonte. It will be seen, in another column, that this same Chief Burgess has issued his Proclamation placing the Bellefonte, for the time being, under a sort of martial law, and threatening the most condign punishment to those who may hereafter be found disturbing the peace and comfort of our citizens. Riotous and tumultuous assemblages are particularly threatened with the severest penalty of the law, which is all right and proper—but it seems to us a little strange that a town officer, whose duty it is to punish all offenders according to the laws of the land, should counsel the knocking down of Abolitionists (the only traitors that we know of in this community) upon our streets, and the next week follow it with a Proclamation threatening such offenders with his authority as an officer of the law.

We can hardly think that the "knocking down" argument was intended to make business, because the laws of the land, if he is his province according to his oath of office, and not in his summary "knocking down" method.

SECURITY.—Mrs. Melinda, wife of Mr. Levi Presscott, a Watchman on the Hamilton corporation, at Lowell, Mass., commented on the war by drowning in the northern canal, Monday afternoon. Nothing unusual was noticed in her action that day, excepting that when she set down to dinner, she commenced crying, and left the table without eating. She had been only three weeks married, and the cause of her suicide is a mystery to her husband and friends.

Prentice on the President's Proclamation.

The President, as appears from his proclamation of the 19th inst., officially repudiated the Order of General Hunter without so much as stopping to ascertain whether it was authentic or not. This proclamation, assuring as it does the President's strong sense of the illegitimacy of the Order and of evils it was adapted to inflict upon the cause of the country, is a source of satisfaction and of confidence to the loyal public. It is exactly what the action of the President in previous exigencies of this description authorized us to expect in the present one. It is worthy of his former pledges and of his former conduct in this relation. Sincere patriots everywhere will hail it with a qualified approbation.

The President, indeed, reserves to himself the liberty of determining at any future time whether he as Commander in Chief has the power to do what his subordinate has just sought to do, and if he has the power, whether the necessity for the exercise of the power exists in any case; but while we recognize this reservation as ill judged and impolitic we cannot believe that it signifies practically anything whatever. The President, in reality, so far from believing that the necessity for the exercise of this power will ever arise, believes that the necessity for abstaining from the exercise of the power, if he possessed it, is and must ever be imperative and vital. Such is the conviction that lies plainly at the bottom of his avowed policy in respect to slavery in the States.

His avowed policy necessarily presupposes this conviction. So does his actual conduct. Nor are we left alone to necessary inference on this head. "If," said Colonel Blair of Missouri, declaring authoritatively in Congress a few weeks ago the rationale of the President's policy, and vindicating it against the assaults of the friends of the policy now espoused by General Hunter, "the rebellion was made by two hundred and fifty thousand slaveholders, for the sake of perpetrating slavery, then it might be a complete remedy to extirpate the institution; but if the rebellion has grown out of the abhorrence of the non-slaveholders for emancipation and amalgamation, and their dread of 'segregation,' how will their discontent be cured by the very measure the mere apprehension of which has driven them into rebellion? No wise man desires to increase the number of enemies to the state within the hostile regions, or divide its friends outside. Mr. Lincoln knew that a decree of emancipation simply would not certainly have this effect. Such an act he knew was calculated to make rebels of the whole of the non-rebels of the South, and at the same time to weaken the sympathy of a large number of the workmen of the North, who are not ready to see their brethren in the South put on an equality with manumitted negroes." Here is the undisputed ground of the President's policy, and this ground obviously excludes the necessity of proclaiming emancipation in any contingency; nay, it makes emancipation considered as the dictate of military necessity, a fixed and lasting absurdity. And as such we have no doubt, the President actually regards the measure.

We confess we are sorry the President did not see fit to say this in direct terms, and thus break openly with his fierce abolition supporters, in lieu of appealing them by the vague and unmeaning reservation in question. We, in truth, do not believe the President could kick these zealots from his support. If he kicked them ever so righteously, for if they stood apart they would at once reveal their numerical insignificance, and become relatively powerless. They will know that isolation would be the death of them. The President couldn't scourge them away from him. But if he couldn't, the mere fall of the lash upon their backs would be worth treasure and blood to our cause; and if he could, he would be the savior of the country and for him. The support of such fanatics, instead of strengthening the Government, weakens it, and strengthens the rebellion. The President, therefore, in cherishing a desire to keep in with them, and in making even empty concessions by way of satisfying this desire, acts with a singular lack of sagacity and prudence, though not, we are sure, without the most patriotic motives. His faith in the case, grave as we deem it, is, we are persuaded, a fault of judgment not of purpose. Moreover, it is a fault which is every day serving to disclose him, and which, accordingly, he must ere long see in its true light. When he does, we are confident that he will correct it, and correct it, too, with a decision and completeness that will go far to do away with the evil effects it will have wrought.

Meanwhile, we can assure the loyal men of the slaveholding States, that we ourselves believe, that the reservation in the President's proclamation signifies thus much and nothing more. It is simply another bluff thrown out to the radical wilds, which, if the President did but realize the truth, is no whole after all. Unquestionably the reservation has no practical significance whatever.—Louisville Journal.

THE TRUE REASON.—If we had no slavery in this country we should have no rebellion.—Republican Paper.

The correct reading of the above is this:—If we had no abolitionists in this country we should have no rebellion. What would the South have rebelled for if the abolitionists had not meddled with their institutions.

NEW DEFINITIONS.—LOYALTY—means Abolitionism, and implicit faith in Wendell Phillips, Thaddeus Stevens, Owen Lovejoy, and Horace Greeley as sound Union men.

DISLOYALTY—means to stand by the Constitution and the Union, and be in favor of the writ of Habeas Corpus, Free Speech, a Free Press, &c. &c.

The Springfield Republican gives ex-Secr. retary Cameron the following affectionate leaving-taking:—O Simon, go along, go to Russia, you are a hussar, go away and let people forget you, Jayward Taylor will do your work for you, and do it right. Pay him well for his job, if you have made any money lately, and by no means forget to pay him well for his job in anybody's cabinet again. Every President will do you wrong, so long as you will stand it. Go, Godby. We wave our hand. We blow our nose. We cease, go.

Liquor's Proclamation.

Last week we published Lincoln's Proclamation repudiating General Hunter's proclamation by which Hunter declared all the slaves in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina "free forever." To show that Lincoln himself entertains views similar to those of Gen. Hunter, we need but make a few quotations, the only difference being that he reserves that right and power for himself.—He says:

"I further make it known, that whether it be competent for me, as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy to declare the slaves of any State or States free, and whether at any time, in any case, it shall have become a necessary indispensable to the maintenance of the Government to exercise such a supposed power, are questions which, under my responsibility, I reserve for myself, and which cannot be justified in leaving to the decision of commanders in the field.

He does not deny the right of doing what Hunter did, but he wishes to reserve it for himself, and then he goes on to say that when "it shall have become a necessity," to exercise this power he will do so himself, "for which he can justly be held accountable at some future day he expects to use such power. As to his right to do so under the Constitution, he has not a word to say; he simply comes down to this and this is what Lincoln means, that unless they now agree to sell their slaves, the time is not far distant that they will be forced to give them up, and probably never to see them again. This is what he means by telling them that now they can do it "gently as the dew," and "without rendering us wrecking anything."

"Be blind to the signs of the times!"—Now a man must be blind who cannot at once see what course the Administration means to pursue toward the Border States if they do not sell their slaves. It simply comes down to this and this is what Lincoln means, that unless they now agree to sell their slaves, the time is not far distant that they will be forced to give them up, and probably never to see them again. This is what he means by telling them that now they can do it "gently as the dew," and "without rendering us wrecking anything."

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PEN, PASTE & SCISSORS.

Approaching—The Fourth. O. K.—Gen. M'Clellan. Not O. K.—Gen. Hunter. For good ice cream, go to Soubecks. Clear the way for the "Spreet Stink" editor. Let her rip. Troubles the Press man—The Breckinridge editor. They will trouble him worse after the election. Temper is so good a thing that we should never lose it. Persons often lack courage to appear as good as they are. Fortune makes friends, adversity tries them. It is well to be a man among men, and not a dreamer among shadows. Talent and virtue are less frequently hereditary than the gout. He who says he can neither stand nor move probably lies if he tells the truth. Unhallowed desires often prove to be like the Grecian fire, which consumes, but cannot be extinguished. An independent man can see nothing to revere or respect in a title when it is but the nickname of a fool. It takes nine days to starve a woman as good as a female fanatic in France who tried the experiment. Gov. Sprague, of Rhode Island, has been elected United States Senator, by a vote of 92 out of 105. A common arm chair is a more comfortable seat than a throne, and a soft beaver hat a lighter and more pleasant piece of head gear than a crown. The following sign on Western Row, Cincinnati, is original.—Raisers, Krackers, Kandyes, Konfessionaries, Hollisal and Bettle.

A school girl was married lately when one of her schoolmates, a little girl of eleven years, told her mother—"Why don't you think Susan is married, and she hasn't got together fractions yet."

"Never hope to make the fair sex forego their hearts worship or give up their reverence for cassimere, for such a hope will be as bootless as the Greek Slave, and as hollow as banister."

A learned young lady, the other evening astonished a company by asking for the loan of a diminutive, agestuous truncated cone convex in a summit, and semi-perforated with symmetrical indentations. She wanted a thimble.

It is reported that twelve of the Shamokin company, including Capt. Strouse, are missing and are supposed to have been taken prisoners at Winchester. They were in General Bank's command under Colonel Knipe.

Scene—Cabin of the new world. Lying on the floor with a "letter in the past," a little old gentleman in blue and yellow, and with a large mouth. "Who made that slit under your nose, old man? Did you get it from Sir you are impudent." Little boy, "can't you see it was a cut? A little deeper he'd had your head off."

"Then the Hon. Truman Smith, Senator from Connecticut returned to Washington with his youthful, accomplished and handsome Alabama wife, some one asked her how she liked the "Old Union." She said he bowing low, and placing his hand upon his heart: "only one who is proud to be her slave."

The killing of Abel by Cain was the first criminal case, said a lawyer to a medical friend. "Sure enough replied the doctor 'but before that happened a rib was taken from Adam's side, and constituted the first surgical operation."

Parson Brownlow is a nice man. The Louisville Journal says, he has repeatedly assured us that he never swore an oath, never played a card, never took a drink of liquor, never went to the theatre, never attended a horse race, never told the Democratic ticket, never voted a Democrat, and never kissed any woman but his wife."

CHIPS FROM PRENTICE. We presume the rebel army thinks its head the weakest part from the way it turns tail. We presume Beauregard should be careful not to get his head for his staff is said to be a very mean one. Floyd's only claim to be considered patriotic rests on the fact that his nose is red, his liver white, and himself generally blue.

Possibly white folks may be able to get some little legislation out of Congress after the 15th inst. We are for the matter, such an appeal so made will beyond all question prove irresistible. Its success is as certain as the rising of to-morrow's sun. In no event will we submit to the execution of such projects; in no event will we secede on account of their adoption. We will neither surrender our rights nor forsake them. We will maintain our constitutional liberty at all hazards, and, as a necessary step toward that end, we will maintain the Union in like manner. We are for the Constitution as it is and the Union as it was. We ask for nothing more we will submit to nothing less. We speak purely as American patriots. Let abolitionists and secessionists alike take heed.

Here we plant ourselves. If the Republican leaders imagine they can dislodge us by "unconstitutional projects" on paper, let them; if they will, try the fatal experiment. The nation, to be sure, will suffer new trials and new perils, but amidst the convulsions of these unnecessary evils, one blessing at least will blossom forth. The Republican party will cease to exist. It will be swallowed up utterly and forever. It will be buried in the same grave with secession.—Louisville Journal.

HORACE GREELY AS A PRACTICER.—Last Sunday week the Universalist Church on Broadway presented the unusual sight of the editor of the Tribune Horace Greeley, in the pulpit. Rev. Mr. Chapin was too unwell to preach, and Mr. Greeley officiated in his stead. It is understood that Mr. Chapin's disease is the gout, and that he is about to visit Europe.

200,000 MORE TROOPS.—Senator Wilson of Mass. has introduced a bill in the Senate to legalize and confirm the acts of the President accepting volunteers under the act of July 22d, 1861, and authorizing the acceptance of 200,000 additional soldiers under the act. The bill was referred.

The Government has given Mr. J. W. Parish of Peoria, an order to purchase 1,500 cavalry and artillery horses to be delivered at St. Louis and Pittsburg Landing within thirty days.

When Gen. Butler first took command at Fortress Monroe, he was stigmatized by the New Orleans papers as a man of negro extraction, who once followed the profession of a barber in the Crescent City. He will now be able to take his old customers to their heart's content.

Gen. James Keenan, of Westmoreland county, ex-Council at Hong Kong, died in N. Y. on Thursday 22d ult. He had been nine years in China, and returned to New York in very feeble health.

A Warning to the Republican Party.

Professor Joel Parker, a distinguished Republican of Massachusetts, and the head of the Cambridge Law School, has addressed the following admonitory letter to the editor of the Boston Journal:

Dear Sir:—Will you permit me to say that the sooner the Republican party cuts itself loose from all unconstitutional projects (whether they relate to emancipation by proclamation, consueing States and holding them as territories, confiscation without trial, or any other measure not warranted by the Constitution) the sooner it will begin to provide for its own salvation. Very truly yours, JOEL PARKER. CAMBRIDGE, May 5, 1862.

The admonition of Professor Parker is as pertinent as it is pithy. Moreover, it implies a very shrewd appreciation of the ambitious motives of the Republican party, which undoubtedly is "its own salvation," rather than devotion to the Constitution and the Union or to either. Professor Parker speaking practically, has touched the core of the question. And it behooves the Republican leaders to take heed of his warning.

Among the sure consequences of disregarding it will be unquestionably the annihilation of the Republican party. We believe indeed, that this event is sure at any rate, but the attempt to carry out any of the projects so prudently deprecated by Professor Parker will put the issue beyond the reach of doubt. Such an attempt would infallibly bury the Republican party beneath the execrations of patriots, and heap upon its memory contempt mountain high. Nothing under Heaven is more certain than this.

If the guilty attempt could be successful, it would indeed seem to overthrow the government permanently; but it could not be successful. So far as direct practical consequences are concerned, the attempt, if made, would be an abortion. A law embodying one of these "unconstitutional projects" could not be enforced. As a law it would be void both in theory and in practice. It would be a dead letter on the statute book. In flagrant violation of the Constitution, and in opposition to the settled and universal sentiment of the people immediately affected, the law as such would be an absolute nullity.

As an exhibition of sentiment however, it would distract and weaken the loyal men of the South, strengthen the rebellion, prolong and embitter the war, check the reviving patriotism of the Southern masses, and render victory itself in a measure barren. And as the agent of these new and throbbing calamities it would stand forth amidst the incalculable evils it was working to impeach and convict the party that enacted it. On this arrangement the popular verdict of the North would be certainly prompt and overwhelming. Without the faintest shadow of doubt the Republican party would be annihilated.

Now, if the Republic's leaders in Congress along with their graceless depravity, are mad enough to lead their party into the jaws of annihilation, let them do it. Let them enact their "unconstitutional projects" if they have the wickedness and temerity. We of the loyal slaveholding States will quietly set the arbitrary schemes at naught, stand firmly by the Constitution as it is, rally to our side the delivered patriots of the South, and, calling triumphantly on the Northern people to sanction our action and to repudiate that of their faithless representatives, will convert the bitter pill and the forest of thorns of the nation into a lasting salivation. Like Prey, out of the nettle danger, we will pluck the floyer safety.

We will not secede, deeming secession a remedy for no evil, but an aggravation of the worst; we will not forcibly resist the assumed laws, holding forcible resistance unnecessary to the defence of our vital rights under the organic law. We will simply plant ourselves behind the ramparts of the Constitution, and appeal from the heated zealots of a faction to the guardians and administrators, of that sacred instrument. Such an appeal so made will beyond all question prove irresistible. Its success is as certain as the rising of to-morrow's sun. In no event will we submit to the execution of such projects; in no event will we secede on account of their adoption. We will neither surrender our rights nor forsake them. We will maintain our constitutional liberty at all hazards, and, as a necessary step toward that end, we will maintain the Union in like manner. We are for the Constitution as it is and the Union as it was. We ask for nothing more we will submit to nothing less. We speak purely as American patriots. Let abolitionists and secessionists alike take heed.

Here we plant ourselves. If the Republican leaders imagine they can dislodge us by "unconstitutional projects" on paper, let them; if they will, try the fatal experiment. The nation, to be sure, will suffer new trials and new perils, but amidst the convulsions of these unnecessary evils, one blessing at least will blossom forth. The Republican party will cease to exist. It will be swallowed up utterly and forever. It will be buried in the same grave with secession.—Louisville Journal.

HORACE GREELY AS A PRACTICER.—Last Sunday week the Universalist Church on Broadway presented the unusual sight of the editor of the Tribune Horace Greeley, in the pulpit. Rev. Mr. Chapin was too unwell to preach, and Mr. Greeley officiated in his stead. It is understood that Mr. Chapin's disease is the gout, and that he is about to visit Europe.

200,000 MORE TROOPS.—Senator Wilson of Mass. has introduced a bill in the Senate to legalize and confirm the acts of the President accepting volunteers under the act of July 22d, 1861, and authorizing the acceptance of 200,000 additional soldiers under the act. The bill was referred.

The Government has given Mr. J. W. Parish of Peoria, an order to purchase 1,500 cavalry and artillery horses to be delivered at St. Louis and Pittsburg Landing within thirty days.

When Gen. Butler first took command at Fortress Monroe, he was stigmatized by the New Orleans papers as a man of negro extraction, who once followed the profession of a barber in the Crescent City. He will now be able to take his old customers to their heart's content.

Gen. James Keenan, of Westmoreland county, ex-Council at Hong Kong, died in N. Y. on Thursday 22d ult. He had been nine years in China, and returned to New York in very feeble health.

Gen. Hunter's Late Order.

WASHINGTON, May 19, 1862. To the Editors National Intelligencer. My attention has been called to a Washington letter in the Philadelphia Press, which the writer after quoting a passage from one of my letters published in your paper, says:

"Thus it will be seen that even the veteran Democrat, Amos Kendall, while objecting to the course of the Abolitionists, is entitled to the credit of having made the proposition which General Hunter has thus precisely carried out."

Now, I should consider myself a traitor to my country if I were to approve the late order of General Hunter purporting to set free all the slaves within his military district. While exposing to Southern rebels the gulf which is yawning before them, the conception never entered my brain that any military commander or the President himself could constitutionally, by general order or proclamation, confiscate their property and manumit their slaves, or that such an object could be effected otherwise than by conviction for treason by due course of law in the courts of Justice. In the order of General Hunter I see the essence of military despotism, utterly subversive of the Constitution we are fighting to maintain; and it is deplorable that the President does not by the enforcement of a general line of policy, repudiate such assumptions of power by his subordinates. Every such assumption rebuked by him and Congress, subjects itself to the charge of hypocrisy and perfidy in their announcement of the purposes for which the war is waged; it discourages the loyal men in all the slaveholding States, and in an equal degree encourages the leading rebels; it will cost the North thousands of lives and millions of money; it alarms conservative men everywhere and makes them begin to think their own liberties are in danger, it strengthens the loyalty of the loyal States and enables them to embarrass the Government in its legitimate operations. In fine, there is but one safe course for the Government to pursue, and that is to disregard all party affiliations and adhere firmly to the program originally announced, viz: The prosecution of the war for the sole object of preserving the Constitution and the Union with the rights of all the States intact, to be followed by peace as soon as those objects can be attained. It thus binds firmness enough in the Administration to I think we are on a sea of revolution, with scarcely a hope of ever again reaching the haven of unity and peace.

AMOS KENDALL.

The Rebel Retreat From Corinth—What It Means.

As it had become generally known that General Halleck designed moving in force, against Beauregard's lines at Corinth, on Thursday the public interest so long diverted from that remote point, became once more strongly attracted to Corinth, and for two or three days past there has been great anxiety to get news from Tennessee. On Thursday and yesterday this interest was partially gratified, first by the intelligence of a strong reconnaissance in three divisions, and again by the startling news of the Rebel retreat from Corinth. The despatches upon this latter subject, although they do not seem to the retreat itself, and the occupation of Corinth by our forces, are still meagre, as they are not so numerous as they might be. We are uncertain about the distance to which he has removed his army. There are no part culans, either to enable us to form a judgment as to how much of his force has gone off.

The first advice said that the retreating army had gone to Okol