

BEDFORD INQUIRER.



BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning, Feb. 7 1862.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

D. OVER—Editor and Proprietor.

PRINTING OFFICE FOR SALE.

As the editor and proprietor of this paper is anxious to settle up his business...

The Bedford Inquirer Printing Office is one of the best paying country establishments in the State...

This is a rare chance for one or two persons who wish to engage in a good, profitable business...

MONEY! MONEY!—Next week being Court, will afford an excellent opportunity for persons owing us to pay up...

BATTLE OF WEBB'S CROSS ROADS.

The place where Gen. Zollicoffer was defeated and killed, is known through southern Kentucky as Webb's Cross Roads...

The official statement made by Gen. Thomas that one hundred and fourteen rebels had been buried up to a certain hour...

The winter of this region has just commenced, and the roads are frightful. A piece of hard ground upon which to manoeuvre 25,000 men can scarcely be found between this and Richmond.

The latest reports make the results of this battle still more important than the previous ones. The killed of the rebels must have reached to four or five hundred...

An interesting letter from a correspondent on board the flag-ship Niagara, which forms part of the Gulf squadron...

North. Certainly the Bull Run panic is outdone. At that battle General McDowell had eighteen thousand men of all arms...

ACCIDENT.—This has been an open winter, but with more sleet and ice than for many years—and the pavements and streets have been very dangerous for pedestrians...

We are sorry, however, to have to record one of a serious character. As our estimable fellow citizen, Hon. W. T. Daugherty was returning home some evenings since...

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK.—This excellent Magazine for February has been received. It is one of the best in the country.

PERSON'S MAGAZINE for February, is on our table. All who don't take this excellent work, ought to subscribe for it at once.

The Richmond Dispatch, of Friday, shows that the rebels are much perplexed at their defeat in Kentucky. It says: We regret to say that the report of the Federal victory in Kentucky conveyed to us on Wednesday night...

A Washington correspondent of the New York Express, in a letter dated Jan. 22d, says: "Your readers may set their minds at rest about any advance movement of the army of the Potomac. Officers and their regiments and divisions may receive orders to be in readiness to move at a moment's notice."

Bishop Ames and Hon. Hamilton Fish have been appointed by the War Department as Commissioners to visit Richmond and elsewhere, to make arrangements, if possible, for the relief of those unfortunate persons who are prisoners among the rebels.

The Charleston Mercury of a late date admits that the Cedar Keys, in Florida, have been captured by a Union expedition. By this movement we have gained possession of the western terminus of the Florida Railroad...

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SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

The apportionment of the Representatives for this State is made every seven years. In the year 1850 Bedford and Cambria Counties were made to form one district...

through the public voice, if not a nice one, of reaching the point at which he was driving. It appears from the decision of the committee, that the constitutionality of the apportionment allowed him a small knot-hole through which he could reach a seat in the Legislature...

Granting, then, for the sake of the argument, that the apportionment was unconstitutional; did Mr. Cessna act as a fair, candid and honest man should have done during the last campaign? Did he then inform the people, whom he was asking to vote for him, that they could not legally do so?

MR. CESSNA.

Mr. Cessna, the Member from Bedford County, is lucky, and Mr. Cessna, as a general rule is sharp. But Mr. Cessna in an address just issued to the people of Bedford county, has proven that he, Mr. Cessna is a most consummate demagogue, as witness the following:

"You are not, for the present session, at least, mere servants of the citizens of Somerset county, and bound to comply with their demands."

Parties are very nearly assimilated in strength, in Bedford county, and with a nominal democratic majority of one hundred and fifty, the Republicans very frequently elect a portion of the county officers.

The following is Hon. EDWARD McPHERSON's letter to Quartermaster Gen. MEIGS in regard to the letting of the Horse Contracts:

GENERAL:—Accompanying your letter to the Secretary of War, of Dec. 31, 1861, transmitting a reply of Brig. Gen. Van Vleet to the resolution of the House of Representatives...

A VERY LITTLE TRICK.

The counties of Bedford and Somerset elect their Representatives by a joint vote—that is, the candidate presented by Bedford and the one by Somerset are voted for in both counties, and then elected.

LETTERS FROM OUR SOLDIERS. CAMP CURTIN, Jan. 27th, 1862. MR. EDITOR:—Our company has been for some time firing spontaneously as a consequence of a most extraordinary treat from the citizens of Colerain Tp., in the shape of a number of boxes, seemingly about bursting with the luxurious dainties which they contained.

A SMALL TRICK.

The apportionment of the Representatives for this State is made every seven years. In the year 1850 Bedford and Cambria Counties were made to form one district, allowing those two counties two Representatives.

At his privations. Then, too, these feasts contrast so beautifully with the usual crackers and bacon. Do not infer for an instant that we wish to enter a complaint against our rations, not by any means; it is not that we love our crackers and bacon the less, but because we love turkey &c., more.

Be this as it may, we as a company, shall ever look back on the citizens of Colerain with the happiest remembrances. Perhaps the only return we will be able to make for all these favors is, to do our duty studiously in the service of our country, which we shall endeavor to do with promptness.

It would perhaps not be out of place here to notice an error in a former article as to the number of our regiment. It is the 101st, and not the 107th. Please note the error as it may be of consequence to persons writing to the company.

Investigation of Horse Contracts, &c.

The Government Contract Investigating Committee are now engaged upon the subject of alleged frauds in the vicinity of Washington. They discover that the same horses have been twice sold to the Government, and superintendents and inspectors bribed to certify the soundness of horses, and sometimes selling them to private persons.

The resolution introduced by Hon. E. McPherson to inquire into the contracts which had been awarded for the board of disabled horses during the winter, has shown that the report of General Meigs, Colonel Rucker had made a contract with George Ramsdell to feed them twelve pounds of oats per day at 45 cents per day.

Unfortunately, however, an investigation shows that this contractor had let them at 25 cents per head and stipulated that they were to have eight pounds of oats per day, instead of twelve.

The Horse Contract.

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I have before me a letter from Samuel Darborow, Esq., one of the most intelligent and respectable citizens of Adams county, Pa., who has some of these horses, and who, in reference to this point, states that the receipt he gave Ramsdell, requires him to give the horses a peck of oats, and (15) fifteen pounds of hay, each, per day, at a compensation of 25 cents per day for each horse.

Gen. Van Vleet, in his letter to you, Dec. 22d, defended himself for making this contract, without giving public notice thereof, by the consideration that he desired to avoid having these horses taken by a person who would make money by "starving the animals."

THE REBELS BEGINNING TO GROWL.

The late Memphis Appeal contains the following significant editorial—which means a good deal more than they say outright: Price is in full retreat southward. Price will probably continue in full retreat, for there are several—indeed, no less than three—Federal armies, each as large, better armed, and better equipped, converging upon him.

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THE Eruption of Vesuvius.

NAPLES, Dec. 28.—The destruction of a city which numbered 22,000 inhabitants is so startling a fact, that I trust that I shall not have this week gathered on the spot. Covered with snow vomiting ashes still like a teeming horse power factory chimney, with a ruined city lying at its feet, such is the spectacle which Vesuvius at this moment presents.

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The committee begged me to appeal to the British public in their behalf at least to Italian residents in England, and then sent two of their members to accompany me again over the city. I must confine myself to such new features as I have not yet described, and they are of great interest.

My companions took me through a long lane, on either side of which the houses were on the eve of falling, down to an orange garden belonging to one of them, at the furthest extremity of which gaped a crater 20 feet wide and as many deep.

Planks were thrown across, and getting upon them I looked in and saw the walls of a church which had been destroyed in 1798, graves which had given up their dead—for the skeletons had been removed as soon as discovered—and the frescoed walls of the inner chamber of some house. The smell of sulphur was here strong, and yet stronger, almost insufferable, in the streets through which I afterwards passed.

Dead animals lay here and there, and amidst these signs of mortality and sign-posts of danger, which met the eye at every turn, while the soil was still heaving beneath our feet, while Vesuvius was throwing out more violently than ever, and at midnight, only the poor who had returned had fled from their houses, alarmed by another shock, I met some persons coming in with their household goods on their back.

A few steps brought me to the sea, which was boiling furiously for some distance like a cauldron, not the effect, as I thought at first, of springs of fresh water gushing up, but of volcanic action, and the smell of the gases escaping was so intense that I found it necessary for safety to cover my face with a handkerchief.

My friends Capoci, Guisardi, and Palmieri had come over as a scientific commission to make investigations. They bottled up the gases on the spot, which they reported to be carbonic acid and carburetted hydrogen.

DESPERATE FIGHTING WITH LOYAL INDIANS.

OPOTHEYOLOO'S REPORT TO GEN. HUNTER. [From the Leavenworth Conservative, Jan. 23.] The movements of the last few days, as to the course that Gen. Hunter would take in regard to the Union Indians, have been looked to by our loyal citizens with the liveliest interest.

It has been felt that the condition and future course of the loyal Indians was a matter of the most vital importance. With means of information, surrounded by the cunning agents of the hellish conspiracy, they have been easily used as the dupes and tools of the rebellion. But recent events have given us a full knowledge of their feelings and purposes.

THE INTERVIEW.

Yesterday Opotheyoloo, the head chief of the Creek Nation, in company with Col. Wm. G. Coffin and Major G. A. Cutler, had an interview with Major-General Hunter. Opotheyoloo, through an interpreter, told General Hunter the recent terrible events he had gone through.

Messrs. Mason and Slidell. Day follows day, and in lieu of being weakened, we find the Federal armies, at all points, being strengthened, almost every article of manufacturing and domestic necessity quadrupled in price, and our money will soon be exceeding scarce, for lack of paper and pasteboard wherewith to make it.

We pay fifteen cents a piece for sperm candles, and are told we ought to be glad to get them at that. Our twelve months soldiers time will soon be up, and we cannot help asking, as they do themselves, what have they been permitted or led to do? It is an old and over-proven truism, that where two nations are at war, that which has the least means must find success in early and rapid action, for it can gain little by time, while the other finds in time the power to bring into efficient use her more varied means.

Cabinets, cribbed, confined as we were, and evidently would be, our shortest, clearest, and most noble policy was to find in the rapid use of our early Revolutionary enthusiasm an overmatch for the slower and less spirited but more enduring North. Where shall we ask relief? Where should we ask it save in the blood on whom have been lavished our hearts' hopes, our hopes, our wealth, our whole; where but upon the banks of the Potomac? Where shall we see an end of the farce there being enacted at our expense?

Indirectly, every mouthful we eat is taxed; our babies wear taxed caps and shoes, our boys write on taxed paper, our girls wear taxed calicoes, our men do a taxed business, and hopelessly ride in a taxed hearse to a taxed grave, and we, forsooth, are hurrying "the cause" if we dare to turn from Messrs. Mason and Slidell to look at the country we were born and bred in, and, having looked, we are hurrying the cause if we dare to tell what we see.

Our cause is right, it is holy. Our suffering may be God's price of success, but who, seeing what might have been, and knows what is being suffered through its being undone, can refrain from cursing the selfishness or idocy that stopped the conquering Beauregard, that arrested the march of Price, that checked the gallant Johnston.

We have gazed imploringly on the lion, while the fox has been wearing his tinsel. Our press and our people have trusted long enough. We now ask, are we to continue benighted in for another six months, and lack all things, or shall our armies on to Washington, and lack nothing?

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No intelligent man on the Border can now for a moment doubt that the Indians have been with us from the first. But accession was a natured plan with the rebels. They had time to poison the minds of the Indians, before loyal men were aware of the real position and purpose of the dircful leaders of this force disaster.

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The danger of remaining in their own country becoming fearful, John Ross, calling himself a Union man, had told the loyal Indians to go on to the Cherokee lands. They followed his advice, and were attacked the first night after reaching the camping-grounds designated by Ross. When the Union Indians—only 2000—were attacked by the rebel Indians and Texans—more than 3000—they fought like tigers. The Unionists followed the rebels five miles, and slaughtered the villains as they fled.

The Union Indians then changed their camp and again took the position designated by John Ross. The next day, our forces being strengthened and remaining the same, were attacked by rebel Indians under McIntosh and Drew, and Texans and Arkansians under Gen. Cooper, and the rebels were again defeated and driven back, leaving 55 rebels dead on the field. The rebel prisoners taken in these two engagements were "despatched" with arrows.

The Union Indians then fell back to the northern boundary of the Cherokee Nation, and there remained unmolested for two days. On the third day, while a large number of the Union Indians were out seeking provisions, for the destitute families, they were again attacked by an increased force—not less than 4000 in all.

The battle commenced at 10 o'clock in the morning and lasted till night, the Union Indians maintaining their position. Their ammunition being entirely consumed, Opotheyoloo ordered a retreat to Kausas. The Union Indians having a large number of women and children, and all being on foot, the retreat was necessarily slow. The retreat as described by the Chief, was truly heart-rending. They were poorly provided with clothing, all suffered greatly, many were frozen to death, but the fatality among women and children was much the greatest. Since the arrival of these persons a large number of their friends have followed them, and there are now not less than 6000 men, women, and children, on our Southern border. Provisions, blankets, money to buy beef cattle, and rations in large quantities have been sent to them. Replies were made to Opotheyoloo by Gen. Hunter, Col. Coffin and Major Cutler. This brave old warrior was deeply impressed with the interview, and departed fully convinced that the "pale faces" would sustain his people with the full force and power at the command of "the Great Father."