

The Bedford Inquirer.

BEDFORD PA. FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1864.

Notice.

We shall continue to furnish the Inquirer for \$1.50 a year in advance, until the first week of May next; after that time the terms will be \$1.75, in advance.

This small increase is necessary to meet the large advance in the cost of printing material of every description. The Inquirer is now considerably larger than it has been, and will require a good deal more work and expense to print it.

Editorials on the State Convention, "Democratic" meeting Monday evening, and the impending battle, are this week omitted, because of unusual delay in putting them in type in season to issue our paper Friday morning. If they do not become too "stale, flat and unprofitable," they will appear next week.

Gen. A. H. Coffroth called at our office last Monday, on his way to Washington. We have hopes that the General may yet become an enlightened and useful citizen, as he has subscribed for the Bedford Inquirer and paid in advance for one year.

Col. Francis Jordan, from Washington, paid us a visit last Tuesday. He gives an encouraging representation of affairs at the National Capital and in the army.

Letter from President Lincoln.

His Policy on the Slavery Question.

The Frankfort (Kentucky) Commonwealth publishes a correspondence between Governor Bramlette and Colonel Hodges, who accompanied the Governor to Washington, with the following letter addressed to Colonel Hodges by Mr. Lincoln:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Washington, April 4. "A. G. Hodges, Esq., Frankfort, Ky. My Dear Sir: You ask me to put in writing the substance of what I verbally said, the other day, in your presence, to Governor Bramlette and Senator Dixon. It was about as follows:

"I am naturally antislavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I cannot remember when I did not so think and feel. And yet I have never understood that the Presidency conferred upon me an unrestricted right to act officially upon this judgment and feeling. It was in the oath I took that I would, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States. I could not take the office, without taking the oath. Nor was it my view that I might take an oath to get power and break the oath in using the power. I understand, too, that in ordinary civil administration, this oath even forbade me to practically indulge my primary abstract judgment on the moral question of slavery. I had publicly declared this many times and in many ways. And, yet, to this day, I have done no official act in mere deference to my abstract judgment and feeling on slavery.

"I did understand, however, that my oath, to preserve the constitution to the best of my ability, imposed upon me the duty of preserving, by every indispensable means, that government, that nation, of which that constitution was the organic law. Was it possible to lose the nation, and yet preserve the constitution? By general law, life and limb must be protected; yet often a limb must be amputated to save a life; but a life is never wisely given to a limb. I feel that measures otherwise unconstitutional, might become lawful by becoming indispensable to the preservation of the nation. Right or wrong, I assumed this ground, and now avow it. I could not feel that to the best of my ability I had even tried to preserve the constitution, if I save slavery, or any minor matter, I should permit the wreck of government, country and constitution, altogether. When early in the war General Fremont attempted military emancipation, I forbade it, because I did not then think it an indispensable necessity. When a little later, General Cameron, then Secretary of War, suggested the arming of the blacks, I objected, because I did not yet think it an indispensable necessity. When still later, General Hunter attempted military emancipation, I again forbade it, because I did not yet think the indispensable necessity had come.

"When, in March, and May, and July, 1862, I made earnest and successive appeals to the border States to favor compensated emancipation, I believed the indispensable necessity for military emancipation and arming the blacks would come unless averted by that measure. They declined the proposition, and I was in my best judgment, driven to the alternative of either surrendering the Union, and, with it, the constitution, or laying strong hands upon the colored element. I chose the latter. In choosing it I hoped for greater gain than loss; but of this I was not entirely confident. More than a year of trial now shows no loss by it, in our foreign relations; none in our home popular sentiments; none in our white military force; no loss by it, anyhow or anywhere. On the contrary it shows a gain of quite a hundred and thirty thousand soldiers, seamen, and laborers. These are palpable facts, about which, as facts, there can be no cavilling. We have the men, and we could not have had them without the measure.

"And now, let any Union man who complains of the measure, test himself, by writing down in one line that he is for subduing the rebellion by force of arms, and the next that he is for taking these hundred and thirty thousand men from the Union side and placing them where they would be but for the measure he condemns. If he cannot face his case so stated, it is only because he cannot face the truth.

"I add a word which was not in the verbal conversation. In telling this tale, I attempt no compliment to my sagacity. I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me. Now at the end of three years' struggle, the nation's condition is not what either party or any man devised or expected. God alone can claim it. Whether it is tending some plain. If God now wills the removal of a great wrong, and will also show the North, as well as the South, that pay fairly for our complicity in that wrong, impartial history will find therein new cause to attest and republish the justice and goodness of God.

"Yours truly, A. LINCOLN."

It seems to be pretty well settled that the letters produced in the House of Representatives some days since by Gen. Garfield, purporting to have been written by J. S. Davis and D. R. Eckles, of Indiana, were spurious forgeries. The Indiana Sentinel states that they were written at the desk in the office of a hotel in that city, and that they were fabricated for the spy Rankin in the hopes that they might protect him in case he fell into rebel hands. The late time Rankin's friends heard from him was three days before the battle of Chattanooga, when he was at Bragg's headquarters, and they now suppose him to be dead.

Joseph Gordon has been appointed Post Master at Dry Ridge, in the county of Bedford and State of Pennsylvania in place of John Metzgar deceased.

CONGRESS.

TUESDAY, April 26. SENATE.—Mr. Hale introduced a bill providing that no officer shall be re-elected until the age of sixty-two, and whose name shall not have been borne upon the Navy Register forty-five years after he had arrived at the age of sixteen. Mr. Wilson introduced a resolution appropriating \$25,000,000 for arming, equipping, clothing, &c., volunteers that may be received for any time not less than one hundred days.

Resolved, That the resolution of inquiry relative to the amount of debt, incurred by the several States, to aid in suppressing the rebellion was referred to the committee on military affairs. The resolution offered by Mr. Harding in December last, during which the Union is not dissolved, and at which the rebellion in any State shall be put down, such State shall be restored to all its rights and such State shall be restored to all its rights and such State shall be restored to all its rights.

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RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNION STATE CONVENTION.

Resolved, That the vindication of the national honor, and the enforcement of the national authority, against the aggressions of a desperate and wicked conspiracy, are the only objects which should govern the efforts of those who represent the Government. Until that authority, which is the supreme law of the land, is recognized in all its borders, there cannot and dare not be any terms of peace offered to traitors. Until peace elicits unqualified and entire submission to the national authority, war must be waged while there is an arm left to strike a blow, and a dollar in the national treasury to support a soldier.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the policy of the national Administration, and the means employed for the suppression of rebellion, the punishment of traitors at home and abroad; a policy which, if carried out, will end in the speedy triumph of our arms, and the security and permanency of the Government.

Resolved, That we regard the re-nomination and election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency as essential not only to the complete overthrow of the slaveholders' rebellion, but as necessary to the full organization and operation of that policy which alone can secure the future peace and prosperity of a restored Union. The purity of his character, the liberality of his views, the independence of his action, and the regard which he ever manifests for justice and right, fit him preeminently for the direction of the affairs of the nation until its authority is recognized, received and respected in all the States of the American Union.

Resolved, That in response to the sentiment of the citizens of Pennsylvania, and in honor of a tried and faithful public officer, the thanks of the convention are hereby tendered to Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of the Commonwealth. His manly defence of the honor and dignity of the State, his unwavering adherence to its credit, and his vigilant care of its interests, have had their influence upon the political character of his citizens, and the prosperity which now marks its trade and enterprise, and demands a people's highest admiration and applause.

Resolved, That the alacrity with which the Governor of Pennsylvania has contributed, through the aid of our fellow-citizens, to the national defence, is in keeping with the character of loyalty ever borne by the Keystone State. Through the active energy of Governor Curtin, Pennsylvania has had the satisfaction of knowing that her State flag has floated in almost every battle fought for the Union, while no commonwealth has given more of its material means in aid of the government than the wise and frugal measures of Andrew G. Curtin have enabled this State to extend to the national government.

Resolved, That the highest rewards of the nation are due to the brave men who are now in the field, periling their lives in a struggle with a base and wicked conspiracy; that we will ever hold in grateful recollection the memory of those who have fallen in the defence of the Union; and that we extend to those who survive to return once more to their homes, the honor which their valor has fairly won, and the peaceful rest which their labors so eminently deserve.

Resolved, That we thank the loyal members of the Legislature for the steady and persistent course which they have maintained for the honor and credit of the commonwealth, and the stern patriotism with which they have resisted the revolutionary schemes of the minorities in the Senate and House. The attitude of the majority in both branches of the Legislature on the interest question, and on the enfranchisement of the soldier, are particularly worthy of regard for economy and determination to recognize the defenders of the Union, citizens deserving the highest rank and franchises; while the course of general legislation has been such at least as to deserve for the Legislature, during the session about to close, our frank approval.

Resolved, That the thanks of the whole people are due to the gallant men who are now in the lead of our armies, and that we hold ourselves in readiness, at a moment's warning, to second the efforts of these to render the summer campaign against reason, the friend of the struggle for the peace of the country, and the full recognition of the authority of the government in all the States.

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THE LATEST NEWS.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The information from the Army of the Potomac, received to-night, is that the troops that went to Madison Court House Thursday burned the town to ashes. It is not known whether this was done by order.

General Burnside visited General Meade to-night, and spent some hours in his quarters. Deserters who came in yesterday report that Lee's army is 80,000 strong, with 22,000 effective cavalry. All were in good condition, with his supplies distributed to them, and that the railroad trains are running night and day bring more.

Beauregard Reinforcing Lee. WASHINGTON, May 1.—A dispatch was received to-day by the government, from Fort Monroe stating that the rear of Beauregard's army passed through Petersburg yesterday morning. His force is estimated at from 18,000 to 20,000 men.

Nothing of especial note has transpired at the front to-day. Pickets of both armies extend a mile and down the Rappahannock and Rapidan. A considerable rebel force is reported to be at Fredericksburg, at work throwing up more earthworks on the heights. The rebels are also reported to be withdrawing from the vicinity of Madison Court House, and concentrating in front of our left flank.

General Banks Retreated to Alexandria.—Communication Opened Between Banks and Steele. CHICAGO, May 2.—The Tribune publishes a telegram from the mouth of the Red River, dated April 24th, stating that Banks' army has fallen back to Alexandria without fighting. The gunboat fleet is at the same place. Some boats above and some below the falls. The Red river is low and still falling. The Ouachita and Texas rivers are filling up from Lake Providence. The papers here are not allowed to publish any more Red river news, excepting the official dispatches in which Gen. Banks claims a victory.

The guerrillas are becoming more troublesome on the eastern bank of the Mississippi. Gen. Steele has opened communication with Gen. Banks.

Washington Evacuated. BALTIMORE, May 2.—Little Washington, N. C. was evacuated by the Federal forces last Thursday, the troops being wanted elsewhere.

The flag of truce steamer arrived at Fort Monroe last night with four hundred of our exchanged prisoners. No papers were allowed to be brought down by her for the press.

FROM EUROPE. The Archduke Maximilian left Miramar on the 14th of Rome, where he expected to arrive on the 20th. On the following day, he intended to embark for Mexico. A convention between Louis Napoleon and Maximilian has been concluded, which provided for the reduction of the French army of occupation to 25,000.

Gairbald continued to receive the most brilliant ovation in London. At a banquet given in his honor by the Duchess of Sutherland, only two foreign Emassies—the London Conference on the Schleswig-Holstein question was to be opened on April 20.

The private Florida has been refused admission at Portogues port, but was well received in a Spanish port. The English Government still retains possession of the gunboat Alexandria, but was ready to deliver her up to the owners on application.

A GOOD MOVE OF THE LADIES. The New York Times says that a movement is on foot among the ladies of New York City to diminish somewhat the drain of gold from the country, by agreeing among themselves not to use any of the expensive fabrics imported from abroad, which enter so largely just now into the consumption of the country. They propose to confine themselves, so far as possible, to the use of home fabrics, while the war lasts.

Such a movement among the ladies, if it becomes at all general, will do good in many ways. It will relieve their husbands from paying a good many very heavy bills. It will thus keep gold, not only within the country, but within their private purses. And it will tend to build up and encourage the manufacture here at home, of a great many articles which are now imported. Few persons probably are aware of the extent to which the manufacture of a great many things supposed to come exclusively from abroad, is already carried on here at home. This can and will be very much enlarged by such action as the ladies propose to take.

We are told that already a great many of the silk fabrics sold here as of foreign importation, are actually made in Connecticut, and so far as to quality is concerned, nobody could tell the difference.

Up to the present time the movement referred to has been only a matter of conversation; but we presume some public demonstration will take place in regard to it before long.

AN APOSTROPHE CONFUSED.—A clergyman was once travelling on board of a western steamboat, when among the passengers was a man who took great pains to make known that he was opposed to religion, denouncing Christ as an impostor, and all forms of religion as delusions. He was a man of ability and education, and great wit, and his remarks seemed to have quite an influence on his hearers. The clergyman refrained from saying anything for a time, but finally determined to silence him. Asking the sceptic if he believed in the immortality of the soul, he received as an answer: "No, I have none. Do you believe in the existence of God?" "No." "Then, sir, replied the clergyman, 'I have heard of you before.' " "Heard of me?" "Yes, and read about you." "Read about me?" "I was not aware that you were published in any way." "In the Psalms of David, sir, where it is said: 'The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.' At this unlooked for turn in the argument, there was one general burst of laughter and hurrah at the expense of the atheist, who, confounded and being unable to rally at being thus unexpectedly called a fool, moved away in another part of the boat. During the remainder of the voyage the wise man was silent on religious subjects; but occasionally some of his passengers were seen to be ely observing "I had heard of you before."

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List of Retailers.

A List of Vendors of Foreign and Domestic Merchandise in the county of Bedford, for the year 1863; as appraised and classified by the Appraiser of Mercantile Taxes.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Class, Tax. Includes entries for Mrs. V. B. Tate, M. & W. Reimann, G. & W. Oster, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Class, Tax. Includes entries for Robert Fyart, M. Shoemaker, Mrs. Stewart, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Class, Tax. Includes entries for Daniel Anderson, Henry Miller, A. C. James, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Class, Tax. Includes entries for G. W. Blackburn, John Heffner, J. H. Blackburn, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Class, Tax. Includes entries for Daniel Stover, D. F. Beagle, Andrew Baker, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Class, Tax. Includes entries for D. F. Beck, D. M. Bare, Samuel Oster, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Class, Tax. Includes entries for Jacob Elton, J. A. T. Felton, John Nye, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Class, Tax. Includes entries for J. M. Barndollar & Son, J. B. Williams, Wm. States & Co., etc.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Class, Tax. Includes entries for Joseph Stoner, John Gibreath, J. W. Barndollar & Co., etc.

GREAT CENTRAL FAIR.

FOR THE SANITARY COMMISSION. OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANDS, INCOME AND REVENUE, No. 118 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 28, 1864.

The Committee on "Labor, Incomes and Revenue," in view of the cooperation with them in the particular work for which they have been appointed, and as no portion of the people are more patriotic than the working men and women of the country, it is but just and proper that they should also have an opportunity to contribute to the object of the Fair. The most equitable plan for accomplishing this, and, at the same time, the easiest one, is to ask for the contribution of a SINGLE DAY'S LABOR from all classes in the community. Many will contribute a day of their labor willingly, who would not contribute their money; to reach every department of industry and art will be a work of great labor, but if attained, will be productive of immense results.

The success of the plan will depend upon the hearty cooperation of every element of influence within our limits, and we invite all the guardians of the industrial interests, and all others, to take hold with us in furthering this great work of humanity.

The Committee is charged with the following duty, to wit: "To obtain the contribution of one day's labor, or earnings, from every artisan and laborer, foreman, operative and employee; president, cashier, toller and clerk of every incorporated and unincorporated company, railroad and express company, employing firm, bank, manufacturing, iron, steel, tin, and other establishments; from every private banker and broker, importer, auctioneer and merchant; clerk, agent and salesman; designer, painter and artist; power, printing and mechanic; from every government officer, contractor and civil engineer; grocer, butcher, baker and dealer; farmer, horticulturist and producer; from every manufactory, milliner and female operative; every individual engaged in turning the soil, tending looms, or in any way earning a livelihood, or building a fortune within the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

"To obtain the contribution of one day's labor, or earnings, from every artisan and laborer, foreman, operative and employee; president, cashier, toller and clerk of every incorporated and unincorporated company, railroad and express company, employing firm, bank, manufacturing, iron, steel, tin, and other establishments; from every private banker and broker, importer, auctioneer and merchant; clerk, agent and salesman; designer, painter and artist; power, printing and mechanic; from every government officer, contractor and civil engineer; grocer, butcher, baker and dealer; farmer, horticulturist and producer; from every manufactory, milliner and female operative; every individual engaged in turning the soil, tending looms, or in any way earning a livelihood, or building a fortune within the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

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