

PROGRESS.

The world moves. Society moves. And American Politics moves. All are progressing.

It is but a few days since sixteen of their Congressmen, three from Pennsylvania, coming up to true principles of Democratic institutions noted in favor of submitting the "Amendment of the Constitution" to the states for ratification and following close in their wake we find Cox of Ohio, and Wood of New York City.

Would that they long ago could have laid aside the gaudium of partisan politics, and shown, in the hour of their Country's danger, that whatever disputes of party may divide us in times of peace, we are united in love and devotion to our Country, that while as parties we advocate different measures in the regulation of our national affairs, we all carry, high above all other mottoes inscribed upon our banners "Union and Liberty one and inseparable, now and forever."

The signs of the times indeed augur well, however dark the present hour. Though peace negotiations for the present may have failed, the rebels may well prepare for their last struggle, when they see Sherman and Grant, closing in upon them, while those, whom they have heretofore considered their allies, among us, are abandoning the unholy cause and rallying around the glorious old flag of our Union.

THE COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

The management of this institution has for some time past been under discussion, and it seems to be the prevalent opinion, that very radical reforms are desirable. Quite a number of citizens, think that a removal of the house from the present location near town to some convenient point in the county, distant from this place and the highways of travel, is the first thing to be done in order to effect the proposed reforms, and they have accordingly petitioned the legislature through our members for authority to sell the property now occupied as a poor house and purchase elsewhere.

It is alleged that the abuses complained of grow mainly out of matters peculiar to the present location. This we think is true, only so far as convenient opportunity is afforded to parties to carry on a system of sponging and peculation, which under an efficient and honest supervision would not for a day be tolerated anywhere. It is said that the road paupers congregate at the poor house for lodging, simply because it is convenient. The question to be considered here is: does this convenience of location increase materially, or at all the number of paupers on the road. We presume it will be difficult to show that the number is thus increased, and if not, then so far as their accommodation is concerned, the proposed removal would be detrimental to this community and the county. For of course they must be lodged somewhere at the expense of the county, and no other place is so convenient and economical as the present one. It is alleged that citizens of the county make it a practice to stop at the poor house, with their horses, dogs and rest of their families, partaking liberally of its hospitality (while on their own private business. All we have to say to this, that it is a mean sponging nuisance, that ought to be summarily abated. A thing very easy to be done where there is a will to do it. On the whole we see little or no force in the reasons given for the removal. We believe all the reforms discussed can be effectually accomplished without the necessity of removal.

SOLDIERS VOTING AT THE BOROUGH ELECTION.—Hon. Geo. W. Householder has introduced a bill, allowing soldiers to vote at township and borough election in Fulton, Bedford and Somerset counties. The measure we think a just one, and presume it will become a law. Mr. Householder has also introduced a bill modifying the present method of selecting jurors, by which the prevailing practice of packing juries with partisans, will be broken up. His bill provides for the election of two jury Commissioners, neither of whom would belong to the same party. These Commissioners would each draw an equal number of jurors, thus keeping a political equilibrium in the jury, whatever might be the politics of the county.

HEROIC INFANTRY.—It seems that the solid opposition with which the Democratic members of our Legislature doggedly confronted the Constitutional Amendment to abolish slavery was the result of a solemn caucus, in which they deliberately resolved that the party of Copperhead Democracy should stick by slavery to the last, and go down with the black flag flying. Perhaps they are right. If they must be infamous, there is some satisfaction perhaps in making their infamy heroic.

PAY OF OUR SOLDIERS.—It is stated that Senator Wilson's bill to increase the pay of officers and soldiers actually in the field will give the men thirty cents a day more, and officers eighty cents and freedom from taxation. Lieutenants and captains in front of the enemy will get about \$330 a year more than they now do. Generals and officers on detached service serving in the rear are excluded from this benefit. We hope the bill will pass speedily.

The Norristown Herald has commenced the issue of a semi weekly edition. The paper looks very handsome, and exhibits talent and enterprise. The Herald is among the most acceptable of our exchanges, and if it would only come a little more regularly, we should like it all the better.

The Rival Accounts of the Peace Conference.

Mr. Jefferson Davis in his message transmitting to the Confederate Congress the report of his Peace Conference, makes no charge whatever of double-dealing or any want of good faith in the action of our Government. He does not even say that he had been led to cherish hopes that his overtures would have been more cordially received or his envoys more successful. His message is more remarkable for what it withholds than for what it reveals; and we cannot regard it as intended to close the door of Peace.

His speech at the mass meeting in the African Church is harsher in spirit, and commits himself fully against any and every form of reunion; yet, while he talks of the "insolence" of Mr. Lincoln's requirements, and pledges himself to stand or fall with the Confederacy, he vindicates Mr. Lincoln's honesty and frankness by stating that

"In the notes which passed between Mr. Lincoln and himself in the matter there was one marked difference. He (President Davis) spoke always of two countries. Mr. Lincoln spoke of a common country. He (D.) could have no common country with the Yankees. His life was bound up with the Confederacy; and if any man supposed that under any circumstance he could be an agent of the reconstruction of the Union, he mistook every element of his nature. With the Confederacy he would live or die."

This is fair to Mr. Lincoln and frank as to his own determination. It settles that any Peace which shall be made in the interest of the Union must be made with some one else than Davis.

The Confederate conferees in their report exhibit a corresponding mixture of candor and reserve. They state that the conference "continued for several hours, and was both full and explicit;" yet they strongly conceal any and every proposition made therein by themselves. Is not this astonishing? These gentlemen sought the interview. They spent two days in efforts to penetrate our lines. They eagerly sought permission to visit Washington. When met by Gov. Seward at Fort Monroe, they insisted on being brought down to meet them. They promptly came together, and had four five hours' free, earnest, familiar conversation. The Richmond Examiner says:

"Roth Lincoln and Seward are described as having been personally, very pleasant in their conversation with the commissioners. * * * In parting, Seward shook hands with Mr. Hunter, 'with effusion.' He said 'God bless you Hunter, and asked to be remembered to all his old friends in the South.'"

So much for the pretense that there was aught of hauteur, or assumption, or insult, in the bearing or language of Mr. Lincoln or Gov. Seward. They stand acquitted of duplicity on the testimony of Jefferson Davis; they are vindicated from all imputation of discourtesy by the evidence of Stephens, Hunter and Campbell.

What excuse is there, then, for the frantic rage, screeching invectives, the Berserker rage and fury, of the Richmond journals? Compare and sift the rival (but not conflicting) reports of this memorable conference, and say whether the frothing at the mouth of the Confederate oracles is not plainly a "fetch"—mere sheet-iron thunder, designed to sour the milk of human kindness in breasts of the Southern Whites, confessedly discouraged, weary of slaughter, and yearning for peace?

To suppose that the Southern masses will not see through these simulated heroics, this 'stagy' performance, is to rate their discernment very low indeed.

Messrs. Stephens & Co. come to hold near Fort Monroe an interview which they had formally solicited. They come avowedly in the interest of Peace. Of course, they tacitly but clearly promised to submit propositions which they honestly thought conducive to the end in question.

Where are those propositions? Why do they not set forth at least their substance? The world has a right to know that they acted in good faith, not crossing the lines as Rebel intriguers or spies, but truly intent on peace, and submitting propositions which they thought should be accepted to.

Mr. Lincoln's Message contrasts favorably in many respects to the counter-revelations; yet we think he has been more reticent than was politic. Better have told all; he could well afford it. We are forced to conclude that the Confederate conferees asked that all that had passed, pro and con, in the way of propositions and counter-propositions should be rubbed out and treated as if it had never been.

It is settled, we presume, that we can have no peace with the Confederacy; but it does not follow that none can be made with the Stars composing it. On the contrary, we believe that a majority of the people of those States are to-day ready for a pacification whereof the Union shall be the corner-stone, with Liberty for All inscribed proudly and truly over its porch. And so, avoiding the ferocity, the frenzy and the bad taste, of our Richmond contemporaries, we shall work on for such a Peace, even though it be attainable only through further War, trusting that its blessed advent cannot be far off.—N. Y. Tribune.

A Terrible fire in Philadelphia.

A Terribly destructive fire, accompanied by loss of life, happened in Philadelphia on Wednesday morning 8th inst. The fire broke out in the coal oil warehouse of Blackburn & Co., Washington Avenue above Ninth street, in which fifteen hundred barrels refined coal oil were stored. The flames spread with rapidity. The rain which had been falling for several hours had flooded the streets, and the burning oil as it ran from the warehouse, through a small alley into Ninth street, was carried along on the top of the water, the flames setting fire to all the dwellings on both sides, down Federal street, and on Federal street a short distance below Ninth, north side. Dwelling houses became surrounded by flames. In one instance, a man and woman, who rushed out of one of the houses into Ninth street, were enveloped in them, and burned to death. They were seen, and their shrieks were heard, but it was impossible to render them any assistance. Capt. J. H. Ware lost his wife and five daughters. They were burned to death. Fifty-one dwelling houses were destroyed. This horrible occurrence will lead to the storing of petroleum beyond the built-up portions of the City.

GEN. GRANT IN WASHINGTON.—A special dispatch from Washington, Saturday, 11th inst., to the Pittsburg Commercial of Monday, says:

"General Grant's appearance on the floor of the House this afternoon, was the signal for a general rush of members to the lobby, in which he stood, finding it impossible to transact any business, the House took a recess for five minutes, to enable members to pay their respects to the General.—Subsequently, on the motion of General Schenck, he was formally presented to the House, the speaker's chair, and introducing him as our heroic defender in the field—the Lieutenant General commanding the armies of the United States. The General blushed like a school girl as the house and galleries resounded with applause, and finally beat a hasty retreat to Mr. Washburne's desk. The demonstration was the most remarkable that has occurred at the Capitol since the outbreak of the rebellion.

Gen. Grant to-day gave his testimony before the War Committee in reference to the first Fort Fisher affair.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

James Lawrence, of Boston, has given two thousand five hundred dollars for the additional equipment of the laboratory of the scientific school at Harvard College, which is in addition to the sum of fifty thousand dollars as a permanent fund for the benefit of the chemical and engineering departments. Mr. Lawrence's father, Abbott Lawrence, founded this school by the gift of fifty thousand dollars, and added a bequest of fifty thousand dollars more at his death.

The State Convention of colored citizens met at Harrisburg on the 9th, Rev. J. Peck, of Pittsburg, in the chair. Speeches were made and resolutions adopted that all restrictions of color should be removed, and every colored person made equal to the white, with several more. The Convention met in the evening, and some Senators and Representatives were present.

A nice young man at Cleveland gave his income to the assessor at several thousand dollars, paid the tax, and had the pleasure of seeing his name in the list among the nabobs of the country. On the strength of this he courted a wealthy man's daughter and married her. Then it was found out he had no money, and had sold his mother's watch to pay the income tax.

There was a dinner party of old people in Providence lately. Three sister, aged respectively ninety, seventy-eight, and seventy years, a cousin aged eighty, and a daughter of one of the sisters, aged seventy-three years, made up the company.

The bishops and archbishops of France are bearing Louis Napoleon, and, what is more serious, Mrs. Eugenie sides against him apropos of the Encyclical.

The Empress Eugenie is very fond of shooting, and has an elegant little rifle, with which she pops away at the game, and sometimes kills it, when it is sufficiently tame.

GENERAL NEWS.

THE STORAGE OF PETROLEUM.—The frightful calamity in the southern section of this city has startled the people and their rulers to such an extent that both houses of the Legislature have at once passed a bill prohibiting the storage of petroleum anywhere in the city between Fifth street and Allegheny street, and west of the city limits. This bill was passed last winter by the House, but failed to pass the Senate. Action also took place on the subject in Councils—a bill being introduced and passed prohibiting the storage of petroleum anywhere in Philadelphia except in the rural districts. The Legislature except in the rural districts. The Legislature except in the rural districts.

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covered in a strong position and in force, four divisions of the army were reported in the vicinity of the city. The rebels were driven back to their original position, and the army was reformed. The rebels were driven back to their original position, and the army was reformed. The rebels were driven back to their original position, and the army was reformed.

A Severe Fight on Monday. PART OF OUR LINE REPULSED. SEVERE FIGHTING BUT NO DESTRUCTIVE RESULTS. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 6, 1865.

The result of yesterday's engagement appeared this morning in our advanced positions beyond Hatcher's Run. The rebels captured about 200 prisoners, a train of wagons and mules, with their drivers and considerable loss inflicted on the enemy in killed and wounded.

The cavalry under Gen. Gregg captured the train at Dinwiddie Court House, while on its way to North Carolina for supplies. The trip taking, the drivers said, sixteen days for its accomplishment.

From this place scouting parties were sent in different directions, one of which went up the Boydton road, where they found a camp which had been deserted only a short time previous, and where they captured a few wagons of the rebels. In the meantime the rebel cavalry stationed at Bellefonte were ordered up to Gregg's advance, but their force was not large enough, and consequently no regular fight took place.

About 100 barrels of whiskey were destroyed in the vicinity, but no stores were found at any place which our troops had reached. An order being issued to the rebels to evacuate the Court House, appealing to the people to come forward and give all the supplies they could possibly spare to the Government, as both men and horses were suffering very severely.

Captain Armstrong, of General Gregg's staff, had his leg badly bruised by his horse falling on him.

In the engagement of the 2d Corps, yesterday, at Hatcher's Run, the loss was about seventy altogether, while that of the enemy is estimated at three hundred.

The heaviest column came up the Vaughn road, on the left part of the line. At the same time an attack in front was made, and part of the division being out of ammunition they commenced to give way, and in a short time the whole line fell back in considerable disorder until they reached the breastworks erected by the 3d Division of the 2d Corps, yesterday. There they rallied and the retreat checked.

The 3d Division of the 6th Corps had crossed the run just previous, and fell back, then, on the Armstrong House, but soon rallied and aided in driving the enemy back.

Three wagons loaded with ammunition were on their way to the division when the stampede occurred, but had got fast in a swamp, and the tongue of one of them broke. When the men fell back the wagons were left outside the line, and although Capt. W. H. Trebley, ordnance officer of the division did all in his power to save them, the wagons had to be abandoned, the men setting fire to their covers before they left.

Shortly after an attack was made on the left of the 2d Corps, near the Armstrong House, on the Duncan road, but the enemy were repulsed with loss.

The 5th Corps are believed to have lost from 300 to 500 men during the day, the others losing very few. The enemy's loss is estimated as much heavier than ours, owing to the fact that they were the attacking party, but no correct statement can be given as yet, even of our own casualties.

General Meade was present on the field. Some of his staff officers made narrow escapes. Major Pearce's horse was shot under him while he was communicating with the 5th Corps. The 1st brigade of the 2d division 5th Corps, is spoken of as having particularly distinguished itself in this fight—Brigadier General Winthrop's staff was horse shot. Brevet Brig. Gen. Irvin Gregg, commanding a brigade of cavalry, was wounded in the ankle while engaging the enemy, early in the day. General Davis was also wounded severely in his shoulder. Major Tremaine, of General Gregg's staff, was badly wounded in the foot. Col. Bookman, of General Warren's staff, was wounded in the hand. Brevet Brigadier Gen. Morrow, commanding the 3d Division, 5th Corps, was wounded in the shoulder. Captain Cowley, assistant adjutant general on Gen. Baxter's staff, was mortally wounded in the leg.

About 1500 prisoners were taken, among whom was Col. Amer. of North Carolina, formerly an officer in the 12th Regulars.

Gen. Sherman's Campaign.—The South Carolina Railroad in his Possession.—Communication with Augusta Cut Off.—The Rebels Fall Back.

WASHINGTON, February 12.—The Richmond Whig of Feb. 10th contains the following:

CHARLESTON, Feb. 8th. A dispatch from Gen. Wheeler, dated Holston bridge, Feb. 7, at 8.20 P. M., says: "My pickets near Blackville this morning were charged by three brigades of cavalry which drove them beyond the village. Debbell's Tennessee brigade being in the vicinity, met and charged them, driving them back into the village. Blackville is on the line of the South Carolina Railroad, 28 miles from Branchville, and 47 from Augusta. It is only 49 miles southwest of Columbia."

The Whig adds: "A dispatch from Branchville this morning says: The enemy have made their appearance along the South Carolina railroad, beyond the Edisto river. They burned a house with a mile and a half of the railroad bridge. About 7 o'clock yesterday evening, our troops were withdrawn to this side of the bridge, and the bridge was then burned. The destruction of this bridge severs communication with Augusta."

CHARLESTON, Feb. 9.—A dispatch from Orangeburg to-day says that the enemy are in front of the Edisto line, from New Bridge to Dunbar Bridge. The main force is said to be near the railroad. There has been skirmishing to-day at Benaker's Bridge. Our troops are guarding the railroad bridge. The enemy show no disposition to force a crossing.

A dispatch from Gen. Wheeler, dated Feb. 8th, 3 P. M., says: "A large column of the enemy's infantry struck the railroad bridge at Blackville and Blackville. Kilpatrick is at Blackville, with three brigades."

The Railroad North of Branchville Cut. All the Railroads Centering in that Place Destroyed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Richmond papers of Monday, the 13th inst., announce the tapping of the railroad by Sherman's forces at Kingsville, and between that place and Kingsville, and destroying every road centering at Branchville.

WASHINGTON, February 13.—The Star of this afternoon says: Richmond papers of Saturday, it is stated, announce the capture of Branchville by Sherman's army, on the 9th inst. They also say that no communication has been had since Charleston for several days, and regard the report of the evacuation of that city as not probable.

Additional Particulars of the Operations near Hatcher's Run.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND CORPS, in the FIELD, February 8.—The day has passed in perfect quietude upon both sides. The rebels between the left of our old line and Hatcher's run show no excellent condition for the moving of trains, and the whistles of the locomotive on Grant's military railroad will soon awaken the echoes in the neighborhood of this now historic stream.

THE NEW POSITION TO BE PERMANENTLY HELD. It is now definitely settled that the line as now occupied, covering Hatcher's run, is to be permanently held. The rebels have for some time past had a line of works a short distance from the run, on the south side, which they will hold. These works were not manned as upon any movement of ours they could easily rush troops down from their left, only a few men being necessary to check our progress until this could be accomplished. In anticipation of this they have always retained both a cavalry and infantry picket on all the roads leading in that direction.

The line as it now exists will compel the placing of a large force of troops in these works and extend the enemy's line for several miles. That the movements which has thus successfully been accomplished may have other and ulterior objects is doubtless true. One thing is certain; it will fully occupy the boasted Army of Northern Virginia, and will prevent General Lee from sending off troops to reinforce the armies opposed to Sherman's operations, and enable that gallant leader to carry out with ease the programme laid down for him.

The advices from South Carolina through the Richmond papers show that General Sherman is pushing steadily forward. It was reported in the papers of the 9th that he had captured Branchville, and that Charleston had been evacuated. Later despatches, published in the papers of the 10th, do not confirm these reports, but they show that General Sherman was close to Branchville, and that his forces occupied the South Carolina Railroad at several points, thus severing railroad communication with Augusta. Our cavalry under General Kilpatrick struck the road at Blackville, twenty miles south of Branchville on the 7th, driving the enemy's pickets back. On the next day our forces moved along the railroad to the Edisto river, five miles from Branchville. The rebels withdrew to this side of the river and burned the bridge. The latest despatches show that our forces were concentrating in front of the Edisto river, skirmishing with the rebels, but no attempt to force a crossing had been made. The occupation of the South Carolina railroad completely severs the Rebel railroad communication with Georgia, Alabama, and States further South. Their other lines of railroad are either in our possession or were so destroyed by General Sherman in his progress through Georgia as to be useless. A Washington despatch states that the Richmond papers of the 11th confirm the capture of Branchville and the evacuation of Charleston. Both are probable events.

A new position of the Army of the Potomac, achieved during the operations of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, proves to be of greater importance than the public at first supposed. Our line has been extended on the extreme left in the direction of the Southside Railroad, a distance of four miles, and is being strongly fortified, and will be permanently held. The Rebel papers admit that we have our position secured, and attempt to depreciate the advantages gained. The amount of our losses in the recent battles on Hatcher's Run to have been less than fifteen hundred.

Valuable Real Estate. Of Virtue of an order of the Orphan's Court of Bedford County, the subscriber will sell at public sale, on the premises, in Napier township, on SATURDAY, THE 18th DAY OF MARCH, 1865, all that

Valuable Tract of Land, of which WILLIAM S. BLACKBURN, dec'd, seized, containing 100 ACRES, more or less, and more or less, of which is GOODE MEADOWS, balance being WELL TIMBERED. The improvements are a Large Log House, Double Log Barn, Tenant House, and other necessary buildings; also an ORCHARD OF CHOICE FRUIT TREES.

This farm adjoins lands of David Lingenfelter, Robert Blackburn, Thomas P. Sudabaker, Nathaniel Caron, and others, and is two miles from Schellburg, and convenient to Mills, Churches and Schools.

TERMS.—One-third of the purchase money at the confirmation of the sale, the balance in two equal annual payments, with interest.

Sale to commence at 10 o'clock of said day. EDWARD S. BLACKBURN, Trustee for sale of real estate of William N. Blackburn, dec'd, Feb. 17, 1865.

SOMETHING NEW. The subscriber takes pleasure in announcing to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Bedford and vicinity, that he has just returned from the East with a full and complete assortment of Ladies', Misses and Children's

BOOTS, SHOES, GAITERS, & BALMORANS of every description, to which he respectfully invites their attention.

For Gentlemen, Boys and Youths, he has everything in their line, together with a splendid stock of GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.

Of the latest and most approved patterns; consisting of Collars, all Styles, Scarfs, Scarf Pins and Rings, and beautiful styles of NECK TIES.

Underwear, Shirts, Socks, Suspenders, Handkerchiefs, (ready made), &c.

Also, the best brands of TOBACCO and SEGARS, all of which will be sold at a very small advance to net and prompt paying customers.

The undersigned comes among you to gain a livelihood after the casualty which has befallen the business of his native place (Chambersburg), and hopes by strict attention to business, and a desire to please; all to merit a liberal share of the public patronage. Being a practical shoemaker, he feels confident that he fully understands his business, and has purchased his goods accordingly.

TO THE LADIES he takes pleasure in saying that he has devoted particular attention to goods in their line, his stock being

City and Home-made Work, BY COMPETENT WORKMEN.

He has fitted up a separate apartment for the Ladies, and has A LADY TO WAIT UPON THEM, and cordially invites them to give him a call.

BEDFORD, Feb. 17, 1865. J. HENRY HUTTON.

NEW GOODS JUST RECEIVED AT MRS. STEWART'S. CALL AND SEE THEM.

WHISKERS! WHISKERS! Do you want Whiskers or Moustaches? Our Grecian Compound will force them to grow on the smoothest face or chin, or hair on bald heads, in Six Weeks. Price, \$1.00. Sent by mail anywhere, closed sealed, on receipt of price. Address, WARNER & CO., Box 138, Brooklyn, N. Y. Feb. 17, 1865.

WE call the attention of customers to our "CRYSTAL" No. 1 in the market. It costs more per gallon than any other oil, but we are determined to sell a good article of coal oil, and not charge any more for it than our competitors, and we will hold it for as long as we can.

We have also No. 1 BENZOLE, and will warrant it equal to the best Turpentine for painting.

Our stock of HARDWARE is complete, and we are selling our goods as low as they can be sold, and we would invite customers to call and examine our prices. GEO. BLYMNER & SON. Jan. 25, 1865.

COAL OIL. WE call the attention of customers to our "CRYSTAL" No. 1 in the market. It costs more per gallon than any other oil, but we are determined to sell a good article of coal oil, and not charge any more for it than our competitors, and we will hold it for as long as we can.

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