

The Columbian Bloomsburg Democrat BLOOMSBURG, PA. FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 1860.

The Columbia County Invasion. CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT.

Within a few days after the general arrests were made (Aug. 31st, 1861), some of the prisoners' friends in Bloomsburg sent Col. East down to Fort Mifflin to confer with them and ascertain if possible the charges against them, the line of their defence, and the names of their witnesses. He performed his mission with diligence, but not one of the prisoners could tell why he had been arrested. One of them had been in the military service, many of them had just subscribed money to assist in raising volunteers in the pending draft, and others had sons and other relatives in the army. They were not conscious of having committed any offence or of having done any act which should render them obnoxious to the military power, and they knew that the general vague reports of "insurrection" in their neighborhood would be put down upon some slight investigation fairly conducted. They could not therefore prepare for defence against unknown charges nor anticipate that they would be long detained in prison. The character of Gen. Cadwallader also, as a gentleman and honorable officer, gave assurance that there would be fidelity and promptness of investigation in their cases and that the day of relief and of vindication for them would soon arrive. They did not understand that political malignity in the Radical breast is utterly relentless, and that, united to self-interest, it will disregard all law and all justice—the most sacred obligations of duty and the most imperative demands of humanity itself! Nor did they understand that officers of the army (in high command) were under a duty to political leaders and constrained to perform the bores of party as the indispensable condition of their continuance in command and of their promotion in the public service; that command, rank, pay and constant favor were for the subservient officer and embarrassment and reprimand if not dismissal and disgrace to the independent and just one. Nearly all the prisoners were continued in confinement throughout the whole of October and beyond the election in description and without notice of charges against them. Meantime as Gen. Cadwallader could report nothing sufficient or definite against them and as Lt. Col. Stevens, the next commandant of the forces in this county, was equally unsuccessful, Col. Charles Albright was sent up to do what they had failed to accomplish—make up a case. How his work was performed—with what baseness, violence, injustice, treachery and party malice—we may choose to describe hereafter, what we are now concerned with is the result of his labors—a bundle of affidavits and statements which by an aid-de-camp of Gen. Couch were labelled as "trash," which the General himself spoke of subsequently with contempt, and which when subjected to deliberate examination and answer before a Military Commission were found to be in their essential features wholly false or worthless. These papers however furnished a pretext for the continued imprisonment of our citizens. Though they had been taken in secret and by most disreputable means, though they were afterwards withheld from public inspection and their contents unknown to the prisoners, they were proclaimed to be most damning upon the accused, a complete revelation of iniquity in Columbia county and a full vindication of the Invasion and all its works. This was the speech of the Radical Press at Philadelphia, at Harrisburg and at Bloomsburg, along the West Branch and in Luzerne, wherever interest could be felt in the affairs of this county or political capital be made by the calumny of our people.

At the instance of Col. Freeze, however, and of two of the prisoners were acted upon favorably by Gen. Couch. They were shown by certificates to be sick and suffering from confinement and an order was made for their discharge upon parole to appear and answer when called for. The interview closed with an appointment for another at a later hour of the same day. That second interview was had but without any definite result. During the latter part of it Col. Alex. K. McClure was present and interposed some remarks in favor of the prisoners or of their discharge. Though a Republican leader he was sagacious enough to see that arbitrary arrests and political persecution could not in the long run be advantageous to his party, and he seemed to be short-sighted, petty and vindictive policy which inspired the Invasion and dictated the outrage upon our people.

The following morning, October 16th, a final interview was had with General Couch and the application for discharge of prisoners again urged. He was still sly and chatty but undetermined, and it became necessary at last to bring matters to a point and conclude the negotiation. Mr. Buckalew therefore said to him, "General, we came to you to get relief for our neighbors supposing you had full power over them and would be disposed to act kindly. Even their enemies might now agree to their discharge as the election is over. If you can act so; if you cannot we will go at once to Gen. Cameron and apply through him to the Secretary of War and the President for relief. I believe he will aid us and we cannot go home until this question is settled." The true ground was at last reached. Couch knew that Gen. Cameron was hostile to him and had denounced him, and he had a wholesome fear of Stanton. He therefore came to a quick conclusion and answered with urgency, "Don't go to anybody; I will do what I can for you; I'm sorry there has been so much delay and I will send an officer at once to inquire into their cases. As soon as he can report to me I will discharge all of them but a few to be held for trial." He proceeded to say that he would immediately call in the officer to be detailed for the investigation and give him his directions. And thereupon "the General commanding the Department of the Susquehanna" rang his bell, ordered in his presence one of his officers (we believe a Col. Meredith) and informed him that beside the written order which would be furnished him he would explain to him the object of his appointment. He was to proceed forthwith to Harrisburg and in connection with Capt. Wessels (the Judge Advocate) examine the papers in the Columbia county cases and report to him (Couch) the names of the principal offenders to be held for trial, in order that the rest might be discharged. The report was to be made as quickly as possible. To a question put to the General as to the number to be held for trial, he

replied, "five, seven, nine, half a dozen about that." The officer retired to prepare for his mission and soon afterwards farewell civilities having been exchanged between the General and his visitors, the latter turned their faces towards home.

The result of the expedition to "Head Quarters" already described, is shown by the following letter from Gen. Couch which we copy from the Columbia Democrat of April 1st 1865:—

MEMBERS of the organization known as the "Grand Army of the Republic" have doubted to us that it is political in its principles or tendencies. For the benefit of those Democratic and Conservative soldiers who have joined it under this impression we clip the following from an editorial in the Tribune: "These men combine for political purposes. They mean to control conventions and nominate men to office—to perpetuate in our civil system the bitterness of war. We believe the soldier should receive abundant reward. When a soldier and a civilian apply for office, all things else being equal, we should prefer the soldier. But we dislike this making a privileged class, and especially we dislike this getting into a corner and having permanent grip on the machinery of the State. From this Grand Army of the Republic now parading through political conventions in the west, commanded by the captain of the caucus, the lobby and the bar room, we appeal to the Grand Army of the Republic which carried our banners over a hundred fields under the eyes of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan. We denounce this new secret association as out of sympathy with the true republican party and as inimical to the Constitution and the Union. It will be a sad day for our party when the soldiers find a better work than to crawl over the battle fields of the past and dig up the bodies of the dead. The true soldier wants peace, and rest, and harmony, and justice. These men want a distracted country that they may be gained. They would make America a Mexican peace would be sent to sleep with Turks and infidels, and instead of union, they would 'the woefullest division make that ever fell upon this cursed earth.'"

THE strike among the coal operators, for they are at the bottom of it, has already resulted in loss and stoppage to the iron manufacturers; and to the detriment of the public generally, in raising the price of coal to all the consumers. It is likely to be beneficial however, in opening the eyes of many, to the beauties of the tariff system. People are beginning to inquire why, and business generally should suffer when certain interests, protected by tariffs, choose to deplete the market, and refuse to produce that for which the laws have given them special license for production. Let us have free coal, and a million consumers will not be obliged to await the whim of one producer, who refuses to produce. SOMETHING WRONG.—Evidently all is not peace and harmony in the Republican camp. The following items from the Montour American shows that the "happy family" are not satisfied with the distribution of the loaves and fishes. Hower is out and Knorr is in; hence these fears: MOVING.—We understand that there is a strong feeling among the members of the Republican party, both in Columbia and Montour counties, to have Mr. Knorr removed from the assessors' office in this District. The assessor should be a true Republican and a competent man. CHURCH.—The Columbia County Republican quarterly meeting of our establishment, and calls on the people of Danville to give us the support that enterprise deserves. The editor of that paper evidently reads the American. He cannot speak from observation, as he and his particular friends, by some means, always get into the wrong camp when they visit this place. IT IS the tariff that has made strikes possible; because it has produced an unhealthy condition of the coal and iron trade, by inducing a very much larger investment of capital therein than can be profitably employed. The business is not fostered, it is stifled. IT is admitted that the business is overwrought, and the people must pay for this misdirected capital, in strikes, high prices and a general uneasiness in all business matters. Gold is the thermometer of trade, and a rise in Gold shows a disturbance in the business of the world. This is the result of diverting capital in one direction instead of letting it seek investment.

GRANT, negroes and tariffs are the ignominious fate of this country and are alternating it to destruction. UNCONSTITUTIONAL.—Judge Sharswood, in a case before him has decided the present Registry law unconstitutional. Undoubtedly an appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court, when a full bench may reverse his decision. AGNEW and REYNOLDS are on record in favor of the law, and Williams who is a candidate for election in place of Strong resigned, will probably vote to sustain the law, because his election depends upon it. REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.—The Republican State Convention met at Philadelphia on Wednesday last. The nomination was made by the first ballot, which resulted as follows: Geary 122, Meade 4, Lawrence 6, Porter 1. H. W. Williams was then unanimously nominated for Judge of the Supreme Court. We now know whom we have to fight. We are satisfied with the nominations. LAY REPRESENTATION.—The question of lay representation in the M. E. Church is being submitted to a vote. It is being carried by an overwhelming vote. Hereafter the ministers had had entire sway in the conferences, and their power was as absolute as a Catholic priest's. It is Democratic and proper that the members should be allowed a voice in what so nearly concerns them. THE State Guard, a Republican paper published at Harrisburg has suspended. This looks ominous for the Radicals, especially as they are in the eye of an important campaign. There is now a decent Republican paper published in Harrisburg.

THE Morning Post, of Philadelphia, declares that "one of the best features of Grant's administration is the numerous appointments of colored men, to offices in the South." Exactly so. Who dares dispute it? HON. WARREN J. WOODWARD, of Reading, is spoken of as a candidate for the democratic nomination for Supreme Judge.

RIGHT SENTIMENTS.—The following letter from the Hon. Salmon P. Chase will find a responsive echo in the breasts of all who favor a union of "hearts and hands," as well as an union of States:—

CHARLESTON, S.C., May 29, 1860. DEAR SIR:—Your note inviting me to attend the celebration of desecrating at Magnolia cemetery the graves of the brave men who fell in defense of the Union during the recent civil war only reached me this morning, and very sorry that I cannot be with you on this very interesting occasion; but it is now too late to make the necessary arrangements. The nation cannot too tenderly cherish the memory of her dead heroes, or too vigilantly guard the well-being of those who survive. And may we not indulge the hope that ere long we who adhered to the national cause will be prompted to join in commemorating the heroism of our countrymen who fell on the other side, and that those who were specially mourn their loss, consenting to the arbitrament of arms and resuming all their old love for their country and our country, one and indivisible, will fall fallen brave of the army of the Union? The dead are not dead. They have only gone before, and now we see they may not yet all borrow from their sacred graves oblivion of past differences, and henceforth unite in noble and generous endeavor to assure the honor of their country, the safety of all her States and of all her citizens? Very respectfully yours, S. P. CHASE.

MISCELLANEOUS DISPATCHES. A RADICAL FLANK MOVEMENT. PHILADELPHIA, June 16.—A meeting composed of prominent gentlemen of this city and State was held this evening for the purpose of considering matters relating to the coming canvass for Governor, and as a result, Colonel William B. Thomas, of this city, was placed in nomination as the Independent Reform candidate for governor. It is understood the movement will have the support of strong men and be vigorously pressed. WASHINGTON, Sunday, June 20. President Grant is expected to return here to-morrow, and nearly all the members of the Cabinet will be in the city before the middle of the week. It is stated on good authority that at the Cabinet meeting to be held on Tuesday the Cuban question in connection with the recent arrests of the prominent revolutionary agents in New York last week, will be considered. The general feeling in Administration circles is that some definite policy is required in regard to the island which should be adopted.

WHEELER'S PATENT RAILWAY. The subscriber hereby gives notice that he has purchased the old stock at Light Street, N. Y., Schuyler, where he is now manufacturing. WHEELER'S PATENT RAILWAY. Corrected by Geo. Hughes, J. J. Kelly, Wm. M. Kelly, Directors. WHEELER'S PATENT RAILWAY. Light Street, Columbia County, Pa. June 23rd, 1860.

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