

The Columbian and Bloomsburg Democrat

BLOOMSBURG, PA. FRIDAY MORNING DEC. 31, 1869.

THE COLUMBIAN has the largest circulation of any paper published in Northern Pennsylvania, and is also a much larger sheet than any of its contemporaries...

Edwin M. Stanton.

In our last issue we spoke with regret of the appointment of Mr. Stanton as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States...

Cushing in his very elaborate work on Parliamentary Law, at page 704 sec. 1813, says: "According to the practice of our [those of Great Britain] legislative assemblies, a member may change his vote at any time before the decision is finally announced..."

Again, at page 706, sec. 1828: "According to the practice in our Legislative Assemblies, therein agreeing with the ancient rule and practice of the House of Commons, a member may change his vote after he has once given it, provided he does so by communicating the change to the tellers, if the vote is taken in that manner..."

At page 708, sec. 1828, he makes reference to the practice in the House of Representatives in this particular and says: "Until the calling of the roll is completed, and the decision of the House on a member, members have a right to be called again and change their votes..."

The previous question has been demanded, the main question was put and taken by yeas and nays. After the roll was called the speaker announced the state of the vote; but before he had pronounced the decision of the House, a member rose and declared his wish to change his vote. The speaker decided that the member had that right, and he changed his vote.

The speaker decided "that it was the right of a member to change his vote at any stage of proceeding before the decision of the House thereon should have been finally and conclusively pronounced from the chair."

An appeal was taken on this decision and the House sustained the speaker by a vote of 122 to 49. This was on the 28th Feb. 1829, and has not since knowledge been in any instance since then reversed.

Your next inquiry—Is it not the fixed practice of the U. S. Senate to allow members to change their votes at any time before the result is announced from the chair, I can with very great confidence answer. It is the fixed practice of the Senate; nor have I ever known, during now a pretty long experience, that right questioned, and it is one of almost daily assertion. If any principle of parliamentary law could be established by the unbroken usage of the Senate alone it would be this right of a member to change his vote before the announcement of the decision from the chair.

The first broke out on Christmas night at No. 14 North Fourth St., near Market, occupied by Reeder & Thacher, hardware dealers. This building was completely destroyed and the three buildings adjoining occupied by various firms badly damaged. Loss, \$200,000.

The same night a large warehouse Nos. 110, 112 & 114 North Broad St., was destroyed. Loss, \$80,000.

The following day the large sugar refinery of Rodgers & Mitchell 3rd & Vine Sts., was destroyed. Loss, \$220,000.

The cause of either of these fires is not yet known. Doubtless an investigation will be made, and some information elicited.

The Radical Press, claim great credit for the late Edwin M. Stanton, because he retired from public life, a poor man. We fail to acknowledge the justice of this claim. It is possible that credit is due to a public man who retires from office without filling his pockets with public money.

There is a strong and determined opposition to the confirmation of Sickles as Minister to Spain, and there seems to be a probability of his rejection. "A consummation devoutly to be wished." The Senate record shows that he was made a Brigadier General by only one vote, a proof that there were some who doubted his possession of all these splendid graces and virtues afterwards discovered by that eminent student of Human Nature, Tariff, and Free Love, the Hon. Horace Greeley.

The Parliamentary Law on Changing a Vote.

OFFICE SECRETARY, SENATE, U. S. WASHINGTON, NOV. 16, 1869.

DEAR SIR:—I proceed at once to answer the questions contained in your letter of Oct. 28th; and to your first inquiry, whether under general parliamentary law, independent of any special rule, a member has not a right to change his vote at any time before the decision is finally announced by the Chair, my answer is: That within the limitation contained in your question, he has. The right to vote carries with it under parliamentary law, every other right incident or necessary to its intelligent and just exercise; and where not specially restricted or limited in the particular mentioned in your question, by some rule of the body in which the right to vote is exercised, there can be in my opinion no question of the absolute right of a member in his discretion, for any reason satisfactory to himself, to change his vote at any time before the decision is finally announced; until which his judgment as to how his vote shall be cast is his own, and is not concluded against him until such announcement, which then becomes the judgment of the body by which he with the rest is bound.

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Again, at page 706, sec. 1828: "According to the practice in our Legislative Assemblies, therein agreeing with the ancient rule and practice of the House of Commons, a member may change his vote after he has once given it, provided he does so by communicating the change to the tellers, if the vote is taken in that manner, before they announce the result; or if taken by yeas and nays, have his name called again before the decision is announced, though the numbers be declared. The same principle seems applicable to oral suffrage, and all other forms of voting, except by ballot."

At page 708, sec. 1828, he makes reference to the practice in the House of Representatives in this particular and says: "Until the calling of the roll is completed, and the decision of the House on a member, members have a right to be called again and change their votes..."

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The Columbia County Invasion.

XXVII THE RANTZ MEETING.

DRAFTED MEN PRESENT:—These, as distinguished from other citizens, were in a position of contempt to the conscription laws, for they had not responded to the draft. Their number was not large nor was there any formed association to resist their arrest as was falsely pretended; but some of them were no doubt disposed toward violent counsels or at all events to continued evasion of their duty under the law. They constituted, therefore, the objectionable precedent of the meeting and to all of the advice given by Daniel M'Henry upon another occasion was most appropriate, to wit, that instead of "skeddaddling around" they should report for duty. But it is to be remembered that not one of the drafted men present at the Rantz meeting (so far as we can learn) was ever tried or punished by the military authorities, although some of them were subsequently in their power. On the contrary two of them were produced as notable witnesses for the government upon the trials at Harrisburg and were treated rather as objects of favor and commendation than of censure or punishment. We allude to Edward M'Henry and Silas Karns whose testimony, though given under some degree of coercion and imperfect in quality, was used with fatal effect against innocent and upright men.

THE FORMING OF SQUADS:—Karns (who was the fairer witness of the two) stated in his testimony, that at the meeting "they formed into companies and squads to be placed in different places to protect property. Nothing was done during the day until some time in the afternoon." "There were different companies or squads of men formed; could not tell how many. I belonged to one of these squads. My Kline commanded it. We proposed to go on the mountain and stay there to see what the result was. This company was mostly composed of drafted men. We went to the mountain to see what the soldiers were going to do; to see the result of the soldiers coming up." "I am drafted in first three years' draft—in the fall of 1863."

From other parts of the evidence it clearly appears that most of the squads never met afterwards, and that not the slightest attempt was made in any quarter to resist or annoy the soldiers when they came into the neighborhood. The squad movement which was foolish, improper and wrong was abandoned or given up without any overt act, and resulted only in the exodus of a small number of whom the witness Karns was one) to the North Mountain.

WHO WERE ARRESTED:—The men at the Rantz meeting who were open to censure, as we have already remarked, were not held responsible for their conduct. They escaped, or nearly all of them escaped, the stroke of power. But with innocent men or those little liable to blame, the case was different, and it will now be our business to point out particular instances of arrest and punishment for alleged participation in the Rantz meeting, which were beyond all question unjust and outrageous.

John Rantz:—We have already called attention to the fact that Mr. Rantz was absent from home about noon, two or three miles distant, the evidence of E. J. M'Henry on this point as given in our last number, was distinct and complete. Besides upon the Rantz trial, John O. Dilline, a reputable gentleman, also testified as follows:—"I saw Rantz coming home about 4 p. m., on Sunday, Aug. 14th. He has a farm about five miles from where he lives, in the direction whence he was coming. I live three-fourths of a mile from him. He has a son in the army who is a minor."

As Karns and others, testify, that there was nothing done in the forenoon, and as Rantz appears to have been absent from noon until about the time the meeting adjourned, he can hardly be held responsible for any proceedings which took place. Independent of the fact that this meeting was held on his premises, there was very little evidence against Mr. Rantz on his trial, except that he had made excited or extravagant remarks on several occasions, which were pretty well accounted for by Richard Stiles, (a witness examined against him,) who said:—"I consider Rantz a man who talks considerable." His loose talk however (supposing it to be correctly reported) was accompanied by very distinct acts which gave it an innocent complexion. He furnished a minor son to the army, he subscribed \$100.00 to raise a bounty fund for his district, he declared the "boys," (or volunteers, must be assisted,) and he waited upon the soldiers and informed them that "they could hunt up all the drafted men and arrest them, and they would not be disturbed." Rantz was however arrested and severely punished. He was convicted (as we have heretofore shown) after an imperfect and unfair trial before the Military Commission at Harrisburg, and underwent more than eight months of dungeon life. But his prisoners were at last opened by Andrew Johnson shortly after he succeeded to the duties of the Presidential office. We are informed that the cases of Mr. Rantz and of several of the other prisoners were pending before President Lincoln, for consideration, at the time of his death, and that they were taken up, acted upon and disposed of by his successor without any new application or solicitation. Very promptly all the prisoners remaining in custody were pardoned and discharged.

Samuel Appelman:—This gentleman is recorded as having undergone an imprisonment for 63 days. It appears in the evidence that he resides in the immediate neighborhood of Rantz; that he went to the meeting in the afternoon, and was there only about 15 minutes and then returned home. He does not seem to have taken any part in the meeting, or to have given any other pretext for his arrest.

Joseph Coleman, another of the victims, a surviving soldier of the war of 1812, was at Mr. Appelman's house on the 14th of August when Daniel M'Henry arrived there, accompanied by his wife, child, and a niece, on a visit to a relative. Mr. Coleman spoke to M'Henry and referring to the Rantz meeting asked him to go up to it and induce the people "to go home to their business." In this request he was joined by Mr. Absalom M'Henry who was there at the time. Upon D. M'Henry's remarking that they themselves should go up, they replied that

he had better go; that he was more competent than they were and could accomplish more. Thereupon D. M'Henry went up to the meeting accompanied by Absalom M'Henry. He left his people at Appelman's and abandoned the visit he had intended to make. These facts are fully set forth in the testimony of Absalom M'Henry and of Samuel Appelman given before the Military Commission on the 16th day of December 1864.

It will, then, be seen that Mr. Coleman was instrumental in sending a gentleman to the meeting to discourage and disperse it. We next hear of him as an arrested man. He was seized and thrust into Fort Mifflin without any regard for his years or his innocence, and was kept there for a period of six days, when he was discharged without trial, under an order issued by Gen. Couch. Meanwhile, his farm was occupied for a military encampment and extensive depredations were committed upon his property. For these no compensation has ever been made.

David M'Henry's arrest is the only additional one we will mention, in this particular connection, although many others, outrageous in character, might be named. The testimony of Absalom M'Henry, to which reference has already been made, explains clearly the circumstances under which D. M'Henry went to the Rantz meeting, and also what was said and done by him while there. We shall therefore give it in full, adding the testimony of John Baker given at the same time.

Absalom M'Henry, sworn:—"I live in Jackson township, Columbia County; a farmer, I know Edward M'Henry; he is my son; I know Daniel M'Henry; he was on the 14th of August. He came to Samuel Appelman's where I was; I was there a little before him. Joseph Coleman was present. I asked Daniel M'Henry if he was going up to the meeting; he said he had not intended to go, he was going another course. He then got out of his wagon and turned it. I told him I would like him to go up and see what they were doing there; they might go up to measure that I did not consider right and I would like him to go up and speak and discourage them. He went into the house and he said no word about going up, I again asked him and we went. We talked as we went along that we should advise them to disperse and not do anything contrary to law, and he advised me to speak to them as I was older. We walked up to the Rantz barn. He made a speech; his speech was short. He talked very much as we had spoken. He told them they had better go home and if the soldiers did come and burn their houses they had the law to fall back on and the neighbors would not leave them suffer. I think I heard the whole of his speech distinctly and that was the leading point. I was pretty sure to him. He did not advise the men to stand together. If he had said I would have remembered it. There was some conversation between us and he wanted drafted men to pay or report. Edward M'Henry said the drafted men should stand together and he would be with them.

Cross-Examined:—Daniel M'Henry did not say he believed the people were unanimous in what they had undertaken. The object of the meeting at Rantz's—they met to consult what they should do if the soldiers should come upon their property they should stand out and defend themselves as they should injure them. There was a good many drafted men there. Ed. M'Henry was at the further end of the barn and I could not hear all he said and I would have rather he would not have spoken. He advised the drafted men to stick together if the soldiers came to carry out their plan. I did not understand that they intended to rebel against the laws unless it was in self-defense. The drafted men intended to resist if the soldiers came to arrest them; so I thought.

Re-Examined:—Daniel M'Henry advised the people to disperse and go home. John Baker, sworn:—"I reside in Benton township; a wagon maker. I was at the Rantz meeting on the 14th of August last. I saw Daniel M'Henry not there long. I do not see him now. A little while could not tell the words he talked to persuade the meeting to disperse. He thought they might be very cautious, that some malicious person might commit some depredations. His remarks were not in favor of his speech; the substance of his speech was against the meeting. I saw Edward M'Henry there. I can't word his speech. He said they would have trouble and as for his part he would not go. His remarks were in favor of resistance. Daniel M'Henry is a true and loyal man I think."

Cross-Examined:—I started from home after dinner; got back at early supper time. The people were forming before they got to the barn. Daniel M'Henry was not there long. I do not see him now. I saw him come to the barn. I do not remember seeing him after he made his speech.

To the same purpose with the foregoing was the testimony of James Evans, who was also present at the Rantz meeting and was examined as a witness for the defence. The government witness Silas Karns stated M'Henry's remarks somewhat differently, though substantially to the same effect. He admitted that "Daniel M'Henry did not advise them to resist the soldiers;" and that "he advised them not to go on but to hold on and see what was done in the matter."

Such then are the facts in relation to Daniel M'Henry's connection with the Rantz meeting. If we went to the meeting upon request to oppose all violent and imprudent counsels, and to induce those who were there to disperse quietly and go home, and he carried out his intention faithfully and fully.

THE SPEECHES:—Remarks were made in the barn, as the witnesses inform us, by Samuel Kline, Daniel M'Henry and Edward M'Henry. They were brief but were not all to the same purpose or made with the same object. After some observations by Kline, D. M'Henry spoke in the manner already described and very properly and wisely. Then Ed. M'Henry made some excited remarks as reported by the witness Karns, that "he was not at the meeting that day before him; that some men had promised to protect them and when the trial came refused—some men had done so. He did not name who they were. I could not tell what he did say; I heard what I have stated; some things said I could not recollect to tell here. Some men had backed out."

The meaning of all this is very evident. D. M'Henry's remarks in favor of doing nothing for the day of resisting the soldiers, that they should wait and see what was done and that even if property was burned they had the law to fall back upon, were very unwelcome to Ed. M'Henry and angered him. Hence his bluster and protest; his disagreement with the previous speaker and his accusation that some men had backed out.

Protection of the property and families of drafted men and of other citizens against an apprehended raid upon them had been the topic of consideration, and disperse it. We next hear of him as an arrested man. He was seized and thrust into Fort Mifflin without any regard for his years or his innocence, and was kept there for a period of six days, when he was discharged without trial, under an order issued by Gen. Couch. Meanwhile, his farm was occupied for a military encampment and extensive depredations were committed upon his property. For these no compensation has ever been made.

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NEWS

ROME BRICKS, Dec. 27.—The entire regular Democratic ticket, with one exception, was elected by an average majority of 69. H. A. Smith's majority for Mayor is 88.

A fire broke out at 3 1/2 p. m., Monday last in South Salem street, Syracuse, N. Y., which was not subdued until late in the forenoon. Seven brick stores were destroyed, five being entirely burned out and the others crushed by falling walls. The loss is estimated at \$150,000, and the insurance \$225,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27.—The heavy earthquake & or experienced in Eastern California and Nevada occurred about six o'clock last evening.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The funeral of the late Hon. Edwin M. Stanton took place here yesterday. The service was held at the Presbyterian Episcopal Church and was read by Rev. Dr. Starbuck, assisted by two other divines of the same denomination. The funeral procession, notwithstanding the rain and the absence of everything in the nature of official display, was imposing in the number, the character and the social and official positions of those present. The body was interred at Oak Hill Cemetery.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—A meeting of the friends of ex-Secretary Stanton in this city was held this evening to raise a fund for the family of the illustrious deceased. Strong feeling was manifested. One gentleman, a Senator, subscribed five thousand dollars. Telegraphic despatches received here to-day give assurance of a total of about a hundred thousand dollars will be raised.

Teachers' Institute. CATAWISSA, Pa., Dec. 27.—The Columbia County Teachers' Association met as adjourned, in the Schoolroom of Mr. Snyder, and was called to order by the President, Mr. Wm. Snyder was appointed President, and H. D. Walker, Secretary.

On motion of the County Superintendent, C. G. Arkley, Esq., a Committee of five, to wit: H. D. Walker, Chairman, C. G. Arkley, J. H. Bates, E. J. M'Henry and Emma Clark were appointed. A letter was read by the County Superintendent from Mr. Thomas Miller, of Ego, Pa., in relation to the subject of the dangerous illness of his mother, whereupon Prof. F. M. Bates was appointed to open the Discussion on "Mental Health." Mr. Bates, in favor of marking the scholarship and the conduct of pupils, because, in his opinion, it stimulates the pupils, and in the whole, productive of good results.

He is also in favor of prizes, if awarded judiciously. Miss Fenstermacher opposed marking; because, it tends pupils to deception, is not a true test, and therefore unjust. She is also opposed to offering prizes. The discussion was continued by Messrs. Bates and Arkley until the adjournment.

ATTEST:—The Association met at two o'clock, Dec. 27, at the residence of Mr. Barkley from the Committee appointed to prepare a programme for the next meeting reported as follows: 10 to 12 o'clock a. m.; from 1:30 to 4:30 p. m., and from 6:30 to 9 in the evening; and that the order and time of exercises be as follows: 7 p. m.—Report—Order of Study, by Mr. Thos. B. Miller; 7:45 p. m. Discussion on same, opened by Miss Emma Clark; 8:15 p. m.—Report—Teaching the Alphabet, Primary Spelling, and Primary Reading by Prof. H. D. Walker; 8:45 p. m.—Discussion on same, opened by Miss C. Freese; 9:30 p. m.—Essay—The Terrestrial Vegetation—Subject, Optional; 9:45 p. m.—The Playground and the teacher's relation to it, by Mrs. E. Wynkoop; 10:15 p. m.—Discussion on same, opened by Alfred H. Taylor; 10:45 p. m.—Report—Composition writing, by Miss Sonie Smith; 11:30 p. m.—Discussion on same, opened by Miss Edna Vance; 11:45 p. m.—Lecture—Subject, Optional; by F. M. Bates; 12 o'clock a. m.—Lecture—Subject, Optional; by H. D. Walker.

THE REPORT HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED, on motion of Mr. Barkley, it was ordered, that the next meeting of the Association be held in Ego, on the 12th day of February, 1870. A report on "Protection of the Aim of the Teacher" was read by Joseph Garrison, of Benton township, in relation to the subject was continued by the Superintendent. Prof. F. M. Bates made a verbal report on the same. All resolutions were adopted. The discussion following this subject was participated in by Supt. Barkley and Prof. Walker.

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PUBLIC SALE

VALUABLE REAL ESTATE. In pursuance of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, Pa., made on the 26th day of January, 1869, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.: One lot of land, bounded by the lands of John H. Brown, et al., on the north, by the lands of John H. Brown, et al., on the east, by the lands of John H. Brown, et al., on the south, and by the lands of John H. Brown, et al., on the west, containing one acre and one-half, more or less, situate in the town of Harrisburg, in the county of Adams, State of Pennsylvania.

BRICK DWELLING HOUSE. Brick House attached to Brick House and Spring House, Coal House, etc., a large Frame Dwelling, with a part of the estate of said deceased, situated in the town of Harrisburg, in the county of Adams, State of Pennsylvania.

TERMS OF SALE.—Ten per cent. cash on the day of the sale, the balance to be paid on the day of the sale, with interest on the same from the day of the sale, and the balance of the purchase money to be paid on the day of the sale, with interest on the same from the day of the sale, and the balance of the purchase money to be paid on the day of the sale, with interest on the same from the day of the sale.

AT RENO the shock was preceded by a low rumbling, which lasted nearly two minutes, alarming the inhabitants. The express train bound west was detained about an hour between Washburn and Reno by large rocks and earth thrown on the track by the earthquake.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—A meeting of the friends of ex-Secretary Stanton in this city was held this evening to raise a fund for the family of the illustrious deceased. Strong feeling was manifested. One gentleman, a Senator, subscribed five thousand dollars. Telegraphic despatches received here to-day give assurance of a total of about a hundred thousand dollars will be raised.

MARRIAGES. HERRINGER-ERNST.—On the 23rd inst., by Rev. W. J. Eyer, Mr. Harrison Herringer, of Franklin, Pa., to Miss Maria Ernst, of Lockport, N. Y.

THE WEEKLY WORLD. A large quarto sheet, printed throughout in large type and containing the most interesting and up-to-date news of the world, and through dispassionate of all topics of interest.

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THE GALAXY. A large quarto sheet, printed throughout in large type and containing the most interesting and up-to-date news of the world, and through dispassionate of all topics of interest.

Legal Notices

CO-PARTNERSHIP NOTICE. The undersigned have entered into a partnership for the purpose of conducting a business in Harrisburg, Pa., under the name of the firm of H. H. Baker, to whom all business communications should be addressed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. In pursuance of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, Pa., made on the 26th day of January, 1869, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.:

NOTICE IN PARTITION. In the estate of Elizabeth Linger, deceased, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.:

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. In pursuance of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, Pa., made on the 26th day of January, 1869, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.:

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. In pursuance of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, Pa., made on the 26th day of January, 1869, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.:

SHERIFF'S SALE. In pursuance of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, Pa., made on the 26th day of January, 1869, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.:

AUDITOR'S NOTICE. In pursuance of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, Pa., made on the 26th day of January, 1869, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.:

NOTICE IN PARTITION. In the estate of Elizabeth Linger, deceased, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.:

AUDITOR'S NOTICE. In pursuance of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, Pa., made on the 26th day of January, 1869, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.:

NOTICE IN PARTITION. In the estate of Elizabeth Linger, deceased, the following real estate is offered for sale at public sale, on the premises, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m.: