



Our Flag Forever.

A lamp of no mode in which a loyal citizen may so well demonstrate his devotion to his country as by sustaining the flag, the Constitution and the Union, under all circumstances, and under every administration, regardless of party politics, against all assailants, at home and abroad.—STEPHEN A. DOUGLASS.

"Revolutions never go backward."

The Cincinnati Daily Times quotes this maxim, and then adds that other sublime declaration, "Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make mad." In connection with the great rebellion, this madness of people who desire to do wrong, is peculiarly applicable. It was sheer madness that drove the slaveholders of the South to rebellion, without any just cause, and the destruction of slavery is now beyond all manner of doubt.

We are just about to enter upon the Spring campaign. That it will be the most important one of the war, is certain; that it will be the bloodiest there can be little doubt. How many of our young men it is to lay in bloody graves none can tell. One cannot but tremble at the very thought of it. But important as must be the campaign that we are about to enter upon in the field of war, we are about to enter upon another in the field of politics, that will be still more important. In the latter no less than in the former, we will have to fight the enemies of the Union, and in the latter they will be far the most dangerous, because there they will be at liberty to practice all their villainies with impunity. What will it avail us to defeat the Southern traitors in the field of battle, if we let their brethren in the North defeat us at the ballot box. With a Copperhead Administration in Washington, Lee will never need to fight his way into that city. He may enter it with flying colors, to embrace his reptile brethren and rejoice with them over the downfall of liberty and its supporters.

In the field of war we have a large number of brave, skillful, devoted leaders, all acting together, with one heart, for the overthrow of the rebels. Is the same case in the field of politics? Are our party political leaders all acting together, with one heart, for the overthrow of the Copperheads, in the coming Presidential election? Who will, who can, say that they are? Is not the contrary the fact? Have they not permitted their selfishness to rise above their patriotism, and to another it? Have they not set their own individual interest before the public weal? Can any one, with his eyes open to the manœuvring that is going on in Republican high places, conscientiously say no to these questions? Do not these things threaten to split our party into fragments? Did ever any company of men need more some friendly Joseph to warn them not to fall out by the way, than we Republicans do at the present time? Why should it be so with us? What can we gain by it? If we suffer ourselves to be divided nothing but defeat can await us. This must be apparent even to the most peribund of party hacks. If it was now, as at most elections it is, merely a question whether those in office shall remain in or others take their place, our success at the coming election would be of but little moment. But that it is not the issue involved in this election. The issue now is whether our government is to rest hereafter on slavery or freedom, liberty or bondage, as its foundation. The southern rebels boast that under their constitution slavery is the corner-stone of their government, and while no northern copperhead has a word to say against a government so constituted, many of them openly approve of it. The slaveholders will be content with no other government; the copperheads stand prepared to give them all that they ask in this respect. That which is to be decided by the coming election, then, is whether this great war is to result in the establishment of human liberty or human bondage; freedom for the working man or slavery. Can it be possible that our leaders are going to prove themselves base enough to jeopardize our success in such an issue by a petty scrambling among themselves for office? If they are, they will deserve in this world, the bitterest curses of all coming generations, and

Let us not Quarrel.

When the sons of Jacob were about to return from Egypt to Canaan with food for their families, the last thing Joseph said to them was, "See that ye fall not out by the way." It would be superfluous to say that the advice was a good one. Every one's instincts would tell him that it was. It was good for Jacob's sons who were about to start on a journey together, and it is still good for any and all persons who are, or are about to be, associated together for any purpose whatever.—All such persons ought to keep ever before them the injunction, "See that ye fall not out by the way," and the more ought they to do so, the more important the purposes to which their joint energies are to be applied.

We are now in the midst of a war which is more gigantic and terrible than any other that the world has ever seen. Already it has cost us hundreds of thousands of lives and thousands of millions of dollars. It is a death struggle between freedom and slavery, liberty and bondage—a struggle which can know no truce, no peace—but in which one of the combatants must perish while the other triumphs. It is a mistake to say that one of the parties to the war is entirely in the North and the other altogether in the South. It is not so. The spirit of liberty is not found exclusively in the North, it imbues many a heart in the South, the spirit of slavery is not confined entirely to the South, it ripples in many a bosom in the North. The party of freedom, of civilization, of progress is the strong one in the North, but the party of slavery, of barbarism is not extinct there, it is only cowed into silence; it is only biding its time, only waiting for an opportunity to lift its head and join its fellow in the South in a crusade against liberty, against justice and everything else that holds out a ray of hope to the down-trodden masses, either in the new world or the old.

The National Union Committee met at the residence of Hon. Edward D. Morgan on to-day, and was called to order by that gentleman as its chairman. The Hon. Edward M. Pherson, of Pennsylvania, was elected Secretary of the committee in place of Hon. G. G. Fogg, of New Hampshire, who is absent from the country. Upon consultation, a call was unanimously adopted for a national convention of the rebellion with the appointment of subsequent delegates to fill vacancies, constitute the executive committee created by the National Convention held at Chicago on the 16th day of May, 1860, do hereby call upon all qualified voters, who desire the unconditional maintenance of the Union, the supremacy of the Constitution, and the complete suppression of the rebellion with the cause thereof, by vigorous war and all apt and efficient means, to send delegates to a Convention, to assemble at Baltimore on Tuesday, the 7th day of June, 1864, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of presenting candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States. Each State having a representation in Congress shall be equal to twice the number of electors to which such State is entitled in the Electoral College of the United States.

A resolution was also adopted, inviting the territories and the District of Columbia to send delegates, subject to the determination by the Convention of their right to vote. The undersigned, who, by original appointment or subsequent designation to fill vacancies, constitute the executive committee created by the National Convention held at Chicago on the 16th day of May, 1860, do hereby call upon all qualified voters, who desire the unconditional maintenance of the Union, the supremacy of the Constitution, and the complete suppression of the rebellion with the cause thereof, by vigorous war and all apt and efficient means, to send delegates to a Convention, to assemble at Baltimore on Tuesday, the 7th day of June, 1864, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of presenting candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States.

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"PRESERVE THE TORY PAPERS."—A paragraph under this head has been extensively circulated. Calls upon every one to label and lay by, for after reference, copies of the papers in the Free States which have been most notorious in helping the rebellion, by obstructing and denouncing and belittling the Government. To this has been added another hint:—Write down in black and white what the Copperhead speakers have said, so that they cannot deny it. Many of them will hereafter claim to have been friends of the Government and of the War in this crisis. Just jot down, while fresh in memory, the very words they used and keep the paper among your choice documents.

The Indiana State Union Convention has introduced her delegates to the National Convention, to cast their votes for Abraham Lincoln. Geo. W. Coffey, Esq., died in Philadelphia on Saturday, the 27th, February.

WAR FOR THE UNION.

Great News from Sherman's Expedition.—The Boldest Movement of the War.

Fortress Monroe, Monday, Feb. 22, 1864.—The Richmond Examiner of the 20th has the following: An official dispatch to the War Department of the 18th inst., announces General Sherman's arrival at Quitman, on the Ohio and Mobile Railroad, without opposition, but he will not be allowed to take Mobile without a desperate battle.

The enemy's advance was, without comparison, the boldest movement of the war. Sherman has from 25,000 to 30,000 men. They tear up the Bridge and Railroads in their rear. He meditates no step backward.

MONTE, Feb. 19.—Farragut has not renewed his attack on Grant's Pass. His fleet lies in the Sound, the weather being too bad for action.

No landing is reported yet in the direction of Pascaoula.

The Richmond Examiner of the 7th, publishes the following: MONTE, Feb. 15.—Meridian was evacuated yesterday. The Government property was saved.

Capt. Adair, of Forrest's staff, has arrived. Forrest was at Oxford on the 9th. He was confronting a column of infantry of 6,000 strong, from Memphis via Hernando, and twelve regiments of cavalry via Colliersville.

Sherman's forces, 35,000 strong, and marching in close order, with Lee's cavalry harassing their flanks, and picking up stragglers.

PASCAOULA, Feb. 15.—The enemy's fleet, including the flag ship, have gone eastward, through the Sound, in the direction of Pascaoula. Four more gunboats have just appeared steering the same course.

MONTE, Feb. 16.—Gov. Watts this morning issued a proclamation to the citizens of Mobile, that the city is about to be attacked, and exhorting non-combatants to leave.

New York, Feb. 26.—The steamer Evening Star has arrived, with New Orleans on the 22d, via Havana on the 22d.

Two Union soldiers, named Wells, of the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, and Ferguson of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry, and who were captured on the 6th of December at Moscow, Tenn., had arrived at New Orleans. They escaped from Prison at Cahawba, Ala., and walked through the country at night, being without food for six days.

On reaching East Escambia Bay, Florida, they were taken on board a schooner bound to Pensacola, and thence were sent to New Orleans. They report the woods full of refugees with bloodhounds were on all the principal roads. The Rebel papers report General Sherman's march through Mississippi at night, and the condition of the Rebels being badly whipped wherever they attempted a stand. No returns of losses on either side are made, except that Adair's Rebel Cavalry lost two hundred at Jackson.

Two thousand loyal citizens had written to General Banks, asking him to speak in public on politics. He declined on the ground that he did not wish to be seen to throw military aid into a triumphant affair. The Rebels have been badly whipped wherever they attempted a stand. No returns of losses on either side are made, except that Adair's Rebel Cavalry lost two hundred at Jackson.

Disastrous Union Repulse.—Our Troops Driven to Jacksonville, Florida.—One Thousand Killed, Wounded and Missing.

New York, Feb. 27.—Letters from Hilton Head state that the steamer Cosmopolitan had arrived there with the report that the Rebels had driven the Union troops from Jacksonville, Florida, and bringing the report that the Union troops which advanced toward Lake City had been repulsed and driven on Jacksonville.—Three hundred wounded men were on board.

It is reported that we lost in all one thousand in killed, wounded and missing. The enemy outnumbered General Seymour's troops heavily. Other reports say that the Rebels were 15,000 strong, commanded by General Hardee.

Reinforcements are on the way to Florida. The following intelligence was read at Fort Royal, S. C., from the blockading fleet off Charleston, announcing the loss of the sloop of war Housatonic Captain Pickens, on Thursday, 18th inst., at nine o'clock, P. M.

The circumstances are said to be as follows: The watch on deck perceiving something floating with the current, which to him at first resembled a porpoise, reported the same to the officer of the deck, whereupon Captain Pickens was notified, and he being suspicious of the object, immediately gave orders to slip the cable and get under way, which order was put into execution, but all to no purpose, for the rebel propelled torpedo (the New Ironsides old friend) struck her on the starboard quarter, and in a short space of time she sank off Beach Inlet.

Two officers and three men were lost. The remainder of the officers and crew were saved by clinging to the rigging until rescued by the boats of the fleet.

GENERAL THOMAS' ARMY. A Reconnaissance to Dalton.—Troops Back at Tunnel Hill.—Longstreet on Route for Atlanta.

Cincinnati, Feb. 27.—The Gazette's Tunnel Hill despatch of the 26th, says: On Thursday night our troops fell back to Tunnel Hill, which place is to be held. The reconnaissance was entirely successful, and developed the fact that the enemy was in force at Dalton. Cleburne's division, which was sent to reinforce General Polk, was recalled, and got back in time to participate in the fight. This was an important result accomplished. Our entire loss was 300, but the Rebels suffered more severely.

The Confederates at Huntsville (Ala.) dispatch say that reliable information shows that Longstreet is falling back to Atlanta. Part of his force reached there on the 25th. A large portion of his forces are without shoes, and many nearly naked.

WAR FOR THE UNION.

Expedition to within Five Miles of Savannah.—Capture of Twenty Rebels.

On Sunday last, 21st February, a small force of troops, under command of Colonel Howell, left Hilton Head in transports and proceeded up the Savannah river, to Williams Island. Arriving at that place about dark, a company of men, under Captain Greenleaf of the 5th New Hampshire, landed in small boats and made a reconnaissance, in the course of which they met a small body of the enemy, and a smart musketry firing ensued.

We had four men of the 85th Pennsylvania volunteers wounded. The enemy's loss greatly outnumbered our own. On Monday morning Col. Howell withdrew his force, arriving at Hilton Head on Monday night, 22d inst., bringing with him twenty of the captured on the island. The reconnaissance was highly successful, and reflected much honor upon those who participated in it.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

The Rebel Army in Virginia Numbers only 25,000—Discontent Among the Soldiers.—They Refuse to take their Ray.—Interesting Details of Facts.

Washington, Feb. 25.—One of Gen. Lee's orderlies, private Taylor, of the Fourth Virginia cavalry, came into our lines yesterday, and arrived here to-day. He has been in the rebel army about fifteen months, and the last three months has been on duty at General Lee's headquarters as orderly to General Lee, whose winter quarters are upon the road from Orange Court House to Verdiersville, about 2 miles from the former place.

General Lee lives in a tent without any floor in it, having refused to have one put in as others were having done. He keeps very much to himself, never drinks or swears, and is very popular with the army, who have implicit confidence in the old man.

General J. B. Stuart has his headquarters about two miles from General Lee's headquarters and on the road to Robinson's river. His camp is on the side of the mountain in the woods. His force is reduced by casualties, desertion, by loss of horses, and by going home to recruit, until they have hardly enough men to do camp duty with. Job Stuart is very gay, drinks bad whiskey and gives a great many parties, at which he entertains a great many friends from the army and from the surrounding country.

Mr. Taylor is a young man and has been in Ohio. His chances for knowing the strength and condition of the rebel army were good, and his story is credited at the War Department and he has been given transportation to Cincinnati. He says there are now left in the vicinity of Orange C H in Lee's entire command, over twenty-five thousand men, if there are that many; that the last month Lee has given furloughs liberally to all who would re-enlist, and that he has returned from fifteen to thirty days are given them.

General Lee tells his officers that the Yankees will be filling up their armies in March, and he must be ready for them. He says he will have sixty thousand men by that time, and can hold double that number in check.—When we made our last movement across the Rapidan, while Butler retreated Richmond, the Rebels were apprised of our movement when it commenced by citizens coming in, and when our troops crossed the river and surprised their pickets, General Lee was engaged in sending men to Richmond by rail, and told General Ewell that this move on his front was a fine feat.

They have but two corps now, under Generals A. P. Hill and Ewell.—The latter is full, but the former has been depleted to aid Longstreet, whose whole corps is still absent. Their horses have suffered severely from the want of forage, many thousands having died, and hundreds of men are without shoes and clothing to keep them warm. Over two hundred men have been shot during the winter for desertion.

They were captured trying to get over to our lines, and at home, not being willing to return to the army. He says two things, generally of some account, have ceased to have any value in the rebel army; they are paper money and life. Private soldiers have long since ceased to use money to buy anything. Soldiers are no more, and anything wanted either obtained as a gift or stolen, generally the latter.

Many refused to take their pay when offered to them, alleging that it is worthless, it taking nearly three months to buy one dollar in gold. The soldiers' families all over the South have long been objects of charity, and have been forced to beg or steal to keep life in their wasted frames, and this is tending, more than anything else, to demoralize their army, and may retard the return of those home on furlough.

A Serious Affair between Soldiers and Copperhead Partisans.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 24.—The unfortunate collision between members of the 17th Ohio Regiment and citizens of Lancaster, Ohio, proves to have been a serious affair. The circumstances are briefly these: The soldiers were assembling in Lancaster, preparatory to leaving for Camp Dennison. The conversation turned on the war, during which the loyalty and disloyalty of certain citizens were pretty freely ventilated.

An old man, named Zee, the keeper of a saloon, seated himself at a window, and returned to his conversation, having previously armed himself with a revolver. About 10 o'clock in the evening a soldier, by the name of Little, turned to Zee's son, and remarked, "George, I understand you have become a Copperhead." The young man resented this, and turning sharply upon Little, the latter thrust him aside with his fist, whereupon Zee drew his revolver and shot Little through the heart. The soldiers immediately collected around their fallen comrade, when old Zee again fired his revolver into the crowd, the shot taking effect in the hip of a young man named Michael, who died on Sunday afternoon.

The murderer and his son escaped. The soldiers were much exasperated at the murder of their comrade, and threatened to burn the town. Col. Durbin Ward, their commanding officer, although partially disabled by his wounded arm, rushed in among his infuriated men and pleaded with and commanded them to desist from their purpose. He succeeded partially in his efforts, but the soldiers demolished the saloon and scattered in search of old Zee and his son, scouring the town and vicinity.

About two o'clock, on Sunday morning, they found young Zee lurking in the outskirts of the town, and brot him into Market House Square, where they assaulted and beat him almost to a jelly. Colonel Ward again rushed into the crowd and rescued Zee from the soldiers, and had him taken to the house of a surgeon, and stood guard over him while his wounds were being dressed.

In a speech to the soldiers, Colonel Ward told them that he was informed that persons of Boone county, an entirely Copperhead district, had armed themselves, and were coming into Lancaster; whereupon the soldiers rushed to the armory for guns, took possession of the court house, and barricaded it, but nothing came of the rumor.

The Prisoners.—The Great Escape from the Libby.

(From the Richmond Engineer, Feb. 12.) The escape of the Yankee officers from the Libby continued to be the liveliest topic of yesterday, and conjectures were rife as to the means of the escape other than those described in the published accounts. The sentinels, as usual, were enriched with laurels that their native modesty, if General Lee would cause them to decline. After all, however, this grand delivery does not exceed in glory or secrecy the escape of John Morgan from the Ohio Penitentiary, and yet neither the connivance nor carelessness of sentinels or others have received any credit from Morgan or his historians, Yankee or Southern. It is most probable in fact, that this distinguished General is, more than any other, responsible for the success with which Straight and his chums made their exit from the Libby. The experience and example of the one was an admirable lesson for the other.

It appears that the tunnel under 20th street was dug entirely with an old hinge, and the loosened earth—a brittle, marly sand—removed with an old sugar scoop stolen from the hospital quarters. As the tunnel progressed, the miner took with him, besides his tools, an old fashioned knapsack, made upon a wooden frame, to which a cord was attached. When he filled this with earth, it was drawn out by an accomplice who remained in the cellar, the contents deposited safely out of the way, and it was then shoved back to the digger with a pole.

The basement itself, in which this work was carried on, was kept constantly locked, never used, and the windows being tightly nailed, it was as dark as pitch. The principal in the tunneling operation was Captain J. N. Johnson, of the 6th Kentucky Cavalry, who is among the escaped. His accomplices were different, as occasion or private arrangement demanded.

On several occasions it had been observed that this Johnson was absent from roll call, and now and then two or three others, a circumstance not very gratifying to the clerk having the roll to call, who, of course, would have it to go over again. A short time after he would appear and make his presence known, and would give as an excuse that it was only a little fun—"just deviling the clerk." On one occasion, when this thing had occurred too often, he was called up for punishment, when he pleaded very earnestly, with a broad, good natured grin, that he was "only joking, and was rolled up in his blanket when his name was called." He was excused this time with a warning. He took good care to keep better hours in quarters, while the work continued below to its completion.

WAR FOR THE UNION.

Proclamation.

WHEREAS, For some time past it has been known that persons professing to be agents of other States, have been busily tampering with our citizens at home and in the army, endeavoring, by false representations, to induce individuals to enter or re-enter the service as from those States, and remonstrances have been in vain made against the continuance of this paltry system of seduction.

And whereas, Information has now been received that one of the regiments of Pennsylvania has enlisted almost bodily as from another State; and it appears to be necessary to take some public means to put our citizens on their guard against the arts by which results so disastrous to the men and their families may be effected in others of her regiments, and that Pennsylvania has delighted to honor;

Now, therefore, I, Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do issue this, my proclamation, addressed to all citizens of the Commonwealth, but especially and emphatically to her veterans in the army, cautioning them against allowing themselves to be seduced from her service. By enlisting in regiments of other States, they deprive their families at home of that generous and liberal aid which our law has provided for them as a right, and not as a charity; they will not enjoy the right of suffrage which an approaching amendment of the Constitution will give to our absent volunteers; they cut themselves loose from the ties which bind them to their homes, and which bind Pennsylvania to give them constant care and assistance in the field, an obligation which our State has never neglected. If wounded or sick, they will no longer be fostered by our agents, and received with applause and consideration, as men who have done honor to Pennsylvania; they deny the history of their regiments to her, and their names will no longer be entered on our rolls; all the glorious recollections of their valor and sufferings will be sickened by the fact that they have abandoned their native State, deserted the great Commonwealth under whose banner they have earned for themselves and for her the highest reputation for courage and valor, and moral virtues, and that they have done this under inducements which are in fact unfounded, and at the very time when their friends and neighbors at home were preparing for them bounties probably larger than those offered by other States, and certainly much larger, if the support afforded to their families be taken into account.

I therefore caution our noble volunteers not to abandon the Commonwealth. She has been proud of the glory which their course hitherto has shed abundantly on her.—As a mother, she has a right to the honors to be won in future by her children. Stand by her, and she will stand by you, and you will have the richest reward in the grateful affections and sympathies of your friends, your neighbors, and your fellow-citizens.

But if you leave her in the service of other States, you throw away all these, for their people will regard you merely as mercenaries, and when they have fulfilled their bargain, will leave you and your families to shift for yourselves. Recollect your homes and your families and your country, and honor the banner of the Commonwealth first bestowed upon you, which you have carried so gloriously upon many a bloody field, and which, defended by shot and shell, still bears the names of the battles in which you have been distinguished, she has provided for receiving at the close of the war, and preserving as holy relics of your patriotism and devotion, to the cause of our common country. These things are worth more to you and to your children than money. Do not grieve and disappoint your friends by abandoning them all.

I take this occasion to enjoin upon all Magistrates, District Attorneys and other officers, a strict vigilance in enforcing the laws of this Commonwealth against all persons who shall within this State attempt to recruit volunteers for other States.

[I. s.] Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at Harrisburg, this twenty-fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the eighty-eighth.

A. G. CURTIN, Governor.

WOOD RIVER PAPERS.—There has been quite an active trade going on in the northern part of Chester county, in poplar wood. It is in demand for making paper. The mills at Springville, Chester county, are very extensive, and are avowed by New York capitalists. The price of wood delivered on line of Chester Valley Railroad is \$48.55 per cord.

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