



Our Flag Forever.

"I know 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.

The Removal of Captain James D. Campbell, Provost Marshal of the 17th Congressional District.

The people of this county, and throughout the district, were much surprised, some few weeks ago, by the removal, removal of Captain James D. Campbell. We, in common with the public at large, were at an utter loss to imagine the reason. What added to the general surprise was, that, as we understood, Capt. Campbell himself was in equal ignorance of the cause of his removal, or that any complaint had been made, or any charges preferred against him. The mystery resting upon the affair was still further increased by the fact that the order of dismissal was couched in terms, and carried out in a manner, apparently intended, by one and the same stroke, to vacate the office, and visit disgrace upon the dismissed officer.

The order was as follows:

"W. D. CAMPBELL, Provost Marshal General's Bureau, Washington, D. C., January 25th, 1864. Capt. J. D. CAMPBELL, Provost Marshal 17th Congressional District, Huntingdon, Pa. By direction of the President of the United States, you are hereby dismissed from the office of the said office. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, JAMES B. FRY, Provost Marshal General."

This note, received without any previous notice, intimation of complaint, or warning, and an official seal herefrom, Washington at the same time, to take charge of the office during the two or three days which elapsed before Capt. Lloyd, the appointed successor, was ready to enter, amounted to a dismissal in disgrace, and appeared to be so intended; and the fair implication, giving rise to the most injurious conjectures, was, that the government officials at Washington, had the most grave reasons to justify this extraordinary proceeding. Why, we inquired, and everybody inquired, was this done? We were at a loss to conjecture the reason; and yet we thought, surely Secretary Stanton would not thus strike down a highly respectable gentleman, and a gallant young soldier, without some sufficient reason; and we forbore to make any comments upon the affair, and concluded to wait patiently for further developments.

The public here shared our embarrassment, and pursued the same course. Capt. Campbell had grown up to manhood in this borough. He was known here by all to be a young gentleman of character and integrity; a talented and promising young member of the Huntingdon Bar. The same week the President's first proclamation was issued, when the capital was threatened, he took an active and efficient part in raising a company of volunteers for the three months' service, in which he served as a Lieutenant until the company was honorably discharged at the expiration of its term of enlistment. On the day it was mustered out, Capt. Campbell received authority from Gov. Curtin to raise a company for the three years' service, which he did. Co. D, 49th Regt., P. V.—and commanded it through the celebrated peninsula campaign, the Maryland campaign, and until after the battle of Fredericksburg, when the regiment, wasted away in the service, was consolidated into a battalion of four companies; and more than half of its line officers assigned to other duties. When, about this time, Capt. Campbell for the reason (with other reasons) that he had "no adequate command" his company being reduced to 17 men fit for duty, tendered his resignation, it was returned by Col. Cobb of the 5th Wisconsin, commanding the Brigade, now a member of Congress from that State, with this endorsement—

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your resignation, and to inform you that it has been approved. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, Col. J. H. COBB, Commanding Brigade."

Shortly previous to this, Captain Campbell had been recommended by every line officer then present in the Regiment, (except one) for promotion to the office of Major; and that recommendation is on file at Harrisburg. Another, who was the senior line officer, and on that account entitled to preference, was commissioned.

To these testimonials, Gen. Hancock has borne testimony over his signature, that he had "frequently observed Capt. Campbell's conduct in action,—that he was a brave and intelligent young officer, and entitled to promotion"; and so, in substance, did Brigadier General Pratt. This evidence is also on file in the War Department.

In view of Captain Campbell's character and services, thus referred to, and generally well known, a large number of the most respectable citizens of this borough addressed a communication to the War Department, respectfully asking the cause of his dismissal and the charges against him. We have still, however, remained in ignorance upon the subject up to this time, and, until now, withheld any comments. We now learn from a reliable source,—through a gentleman who got it from the lips of Provost Marshal General Fry himself,—that no charge was made by any one against Provost Marshal Campbell. The reason, and the only reason assigned was, that he had made a contract with Jacob Bergoy, of Huntingdon, to subsidize recruits at forty-five cents per day, when the Government ration is estimated at forty cents. This, Mr. Fry considered conclusive evidence, either that Captain Campbell had an interest in the contract, or was criminally negligent of the interests of the government; and, therefore, that he deserved to be removed at once, without (the right, surely, in the most stinted justice, of every accused party) any opportunity of explanation. "There," said he, "is the fact." He had the evidence in his office. And the case was so urgent, that although the dismissal was "by direction of the President," neither the President nor Mr. Stanton knew anything about it!—This is the case as Mister Provost Marshal General Fry puts it; and, in this aspect of it, we do feel it to be our duty to indulge in some observations. We would want nothing more than this statement of it, to satisfy us of the propriety and justice of a remark made a day or two since by a very distinguished gentleman of this State, to a complaint made against this Washington official. "Why," said he, "don't you know that Fry is not fit for his place?"

We remember that complaint was made some time since against the Board of the 14th District, an investigation had, and the Board triumphantly vindicated. So it was reported; and we have no reason to question it. Nothing was more common, or natural, than for drafted men, who failed to escape, and their friends, to complain, and surmise, and start injurious rumors. Here the Provost Marshal General was the sole accuser; and the evidence was unwittingly furnished and found in a contract "subject to his approval!" If the most common dictates of justice had prevailed in this case, it would not have required any investigation, but the simplest explanation would have unmasked the "mare's nest," which Provost Marshal General Fry, it seems, found in his office. A simple statement of the facts will show how utterly destitute of all semblance to reason, is the reason furnished by him for this unusual and extraordinary proceeding.

Huntingdon being immediately on the P. R. R., and a train passing east at a late hour every evening, generally all conscripts and recruits were sent off by Captain Campbell the same day they were mustered in. It rarely happened that any, under his management of the office, were kept here and subsisted a whole day. While conscripts were being brought in, they were subsisted with a company of the Invalid Corps, kept here by the government. After the soldiers were removed, there were only a few recruits sworn in, who were generally sent on the same day. To such, it was not practicable to deal out regular rations in kind, known to be worth 40cts.; and, as it was claimed to be worth more to furnish occasional meals at a boarding house, Capt. Campbell, after an ineffectual attempt to persuade Bergoy to take 40 cents for the number of meals equivalent to a single ration, and believing that it was really worth more, entered into a written contract at forty-five cents, expressly "subject to the approval of the Provost Marshal General," and forwarded the contract to that official, and it is now in his office to speak for itself. It contained the evidence of the damning "fact," upon which he acted! It was, at the same time, as any one possessed of a grain of common sense would see, in effect, but an inquiry whether the department would agree to pay, under the circumstances, the additional 5cts. per diem. It only required Fry to withhold his approval, to prevent any fancied injury to the government. Capt. Campbell, who is as good a lawyer, at least, as Mr. Fry, knew that the paper was not a contract without such approval. Perhaps, he should have asked the question in very plain English, whether such a contract would be approved. Mr. Fry would have understood that. Perhaps, he should have taken it for granted that the contract would not be sanctioned; but, we submit, he had no right to suppose that what he would be regarded as such a grave criminal offence as to subject him to the guillotine without benefit of clergy,—when any private in the army would be entitled to the judgment of a court-martial before being dismissed in disgrace.

We have only a few more words to add in relation to this unjustifiable affair; and the paltry attempt to justify it. The whole number of rations for which Bergoy might claim, under the proposed contract, if it had been approved, does not exceed thirty. The excess over the government rate would be one dollar and fifty cents! It was in this wide field the sagacious Provost Marshal General saw clear evidence that his subordinate was sacrificing the interests of the government, or selling his character and laurels, to enrich himself! And to remedy this it was, that he removed the office to a point 40 miles further from Carlisle, costing the government 80 cts., more for the transportation of every recruit, in addition to subsisting them a longer time. Such vigilance, if carried out, would be very valuable to the government, and ought to be rewarded with a Brigadier Generalship, if that should become necessary to continue Mr. Fry in place. But it may as well be said plainly, that, as an excuse for an inexcusable outrage upon a respectable man and a brave and meritorious young officer, it is too contemptible for serious consideration. It was a "small Fry" business. It might as well be said at once that it is a mere pretext for Capt. Campbell's removal, and not the reason of it. It is, at least, not at all complimentary to the common sense and sense of justice which the Provost Marshal General ought to possess, if he does not, to suppose that he assigns the true reason for his action in this business. We doubt not, if the true reason were known, it would be found to be that the change was made at the beck of the Member of Congress from this district, whom (God forgive us for it!) we helped to elect, and who has got himself in some way on the Military Committee of the House;—who votes to-day with the friends of the Union, to morrow with Ancona, Brooks, Wood & Co., and the third day dodges.

We have nothing to say against Capt. Lloyd. He is a respectable gentleman; and we do not accuse him of any personal agency in this corrupt business.

Who are the Friends of the Soldiers?—The Executive Democratic Leaders Opposing the Increase of the Pay and the Emancipation of our Fighting Men. There is no longer any necessity for the Union press of the State to indulge in broad charges as to the hostility of the bogus Democratic leaders to the men who are perilling their lives in the defence of the government. These leaders are placing themselves right in the record, by avowing and practicing a hostility to the heroes of the war for the Union, at once unjust and malignant. In the Senate, on Friday last, on the vote to secure the increase of the pay of the soldiers, every bogus Democrat but one voted nay. We give the resolution and the vote as follows: Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That our representatives in Congress be requested to vote for, and use their influence for the passage of a law increasing the pay of private soldiers and non-commissioned officers in the army of the United States. On the final passage of the bill, The yeas and nays were required by Mr. Beardslee and Mr. Clymer, and were as follows, viz: YEAS—Messrs. Champeys, Connell, Dunlap, Fleming, Graham, Hoeg, Householder, Johnson, Kinsey, Lowry, McCandless, Nichols, Ridgway, St. Clair, Turrell, Wilson, Worthington and Penney, Speaker—18. NAYS—Messrs. Beardslee, Bucher, Clymer, Donovan, Glatz, Hopkins, Lambert, Latta, M'Sherry, Montgomery, Reilly, Smith, Stark, Stein, and Wallace—15. So the bill passed finally. Every bogus Democrat but Kinsey of Bucks county, voted against increasing the pay of the Soldiers.

Among the amendments to the Constitution, is the following section: SECTION IV. Whenever any of the qualified electors of the Commonwealth shall be in any actual military service under a requisition from the President of the United States, or by the authority of this Commonwealth, such electors may exercise the right of suffrage in all elections of the citizens, under such regulations as are or shall be prescribed by law, as fully as if they were present at their usual place of election.

The vote on the passage of this amendment stood as follows: YEAS—Messrs. Champeys, Connell, Dunlap, Fleming, Graham, Hoeg, Householder, Johnson, Kinsey, Lowry, McCandless, Nichols, Ridgway, St. Clair, Turrell, Wilson, Worthington and Penney, Speaker—18. NAYS—Messrs. Beardslee, Donovan, Glatz, Lambert, Latta, Montgomery, Smith, Stark, Stein and Wallace—10. The amendment was agreed to, Kinsey, voting in the affirmative; and five bogus Democratic Senators dodging the question,—by which they admitted the infamy of the course adopted by their leaders in the Senate. We submit these extracts from the record, to the calm consideration of the people of Pennsylvania—to the serious reflection of the men who are perilling their lives in defence of the national honor, and perpetuity of the National Government. The disfranchisement of the soldier and the degradation of the service which he is now rendering the nation, have become the clearest and the strongest points in the policy of the Rebel Democratic leaders.

U. S. REVENUE STAMPS.—Persons in want of these stamps can get them at Lewis' Book Store. Orders by mail will receive attention.

The Spring Campaign.

Whatever may be said of the fierceness of the war waged heretofore, it is conceded; by every one, that the conflict in the coming spring campaign will be fiercer, more terrible, and waged with more bitterness than any yet on record in the annals of this rebellion. With desperation, the rebels will endeavor to defeat our armies. Pinched with starvation, the cohorts will rush frantically forward to attempt the destruction of the best disciplined army ever on the continent, and they will be hurled back with such force that the little remaining life in them will be smothered almost instantly. With a force three hundred thousand stronger than any previous army we have had in the field since the inauguration of the rebellion, while we must make due allowance of large accessions to the Confederate ranks, the campaign will open with fear and trembling on the one side, and confidence and a determination to win on the other. No stone will be left unturned by the rebel leaders if not to defeat, at least to hold in check the federal forces which will be thrown against them. A bloody conflict awaits us. The turning point is at hand, and we are very much belied if our government is not making ample preparations to meet any contingency that may arise. Within the next six months, we are inclined to believe that the great problem will be solved. The American Union will have been proved not a failure; the Confederacy will have been pronounced an utter failure, and the very men who are now the loudest in their declarations of the abolition Yankees, will bow the pliant knee, and sue for pardon from the man who now so wisely controls the reins of government.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.—Arrangements for the exchange of prisoners have at length been effected. For some time past an unofficial correspondence between General Butler and the rebel commissioner Ould has been carried on. This correspondence has resulted in a declaration of exchange, in which it is agreed that all prisoners delivered at City Point up to the 24th of January, 1864, are declared exchanged.

UNION NATIONAL CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 22. The National Union Committee met at the residence of Hon. Edward D. Morgan at noon 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. F. Fogg, of New Hampshire, who is absent from the country. Upon consultation, a call was unanimously adopted for a national convention in the following terms: "The undersigned, who, by original appointment by subsequent designation and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That our representatives in Congress be requested to vote for, and use their influence for the passage of a law increasing the pay of private soldiers and non-commissioned officers in the army of the United States. On the final passage of the bill, The yeas and nays were required by Mr. Beardslee and Mr. Clymer, and were as follows, viz: YEAS—Messrs. Champeys, Connell, Dunlap, Fleming, Graham, Hoeg, Householder, Johnson, Kinsey, Lowry, McCandless, Nichols, Ridgway, St. Clair, Turrell, Wilson, Worthington and Penney, Speaker—18. NAYS—Messrs. Beardslee, Bucher, Clymer, Donovan, Glatz, Hopkins, Lambert, Latta, M'Sherry, Montgomery, Reilly, Smith, Stark, Stein, and Wallace—15. So the bill passed finally. Every bogus Democrat but Kinsey of Bucks county, voted against increasing the pay of the Soldiers. Among the amendments to the Constitution, is the following section: SECTION IV. Whenever any of the qualified electors of the Commonwealth shall be in any actual military service under a requisition from the President of the United States, or by the authority of this Commonwealth, such electors may exercise the right of suffrage in all elections of the citizens, under such regulations as are or shall be prescribed by law, as fully as if they were present at their usual place of election. The vote on the passage of this amendment stood as follows: YEAS—Messrs. Champeys, Connell, Dunlap, Fleming, Graham, Hoeg, Householder, Johnson, Kinsey, Lowry, McCandless, Nichols, Ridgway, St. Clair, Turrell, Wilson, Worthington and Penney, Speaker—18. NAYS—Messrs. Beardslee, Donovan, Glatz, Lambert, Latta, Montgomery, Smith, Stark, Stein and Wallace—10. The amendment was agreed to, Kinsey, voting in the affirmative; and five bogus Democratic Senators dodging the question,—by which they admitted the infamy of the course adopted by their leaders in the Senate. We submit these extracts from the record, to the calm consideration of the people of Pennsylvania—to the serious reflection of the men who are perilling their lives in defence of the national honor, and perpetuity of the National Government. The disfranchisement of the soldier and the degradation of the service which he is now rendering the nation, have become the clearest and the strongest points in the policy of the Rebel Democratic leaders. U. S. REVENUE STAMPS.—Persons in want of these stamps can get them at Lewis' Book Store. Orders by mail will receive attention."

From the Army of the Potomac.

Success of General Custar's Cavalry Movement.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC, March 2, 1864. Gen. Custar started with a force of cavalry, on Sunday, to make a reconnaissance toward Gordonsville, the 6th Corps, under Gen. Sedgwick, following in support. He passed through Madison County, Texas, on Monday morning and reached Wolfson, a few miles beyond, encountered a rebel picket, which he captured. Passing across the Rapidan and Rappahannock rivers in the direction of Charlottesville, he met the enemy within three miles of the latter place, where he charged a body of cavalry under Gen. Stuart, driving them a considerable distance. Capt. Ash, of the Fifth United States Cavalry (Regulars) charged on a rebel camp near this place, with sixty men drove the enemy, burned their tents, six caissons and two barges, and retreated without the loss of a man. This was one of the boldest fights our cavalry has made during the war. Finding his small force opposed by infantry, Stuart's Cavalry and several batteries, which opened upon him, and that a number of trains had just arrived with troops to oppose his advance he determined to return. After crossing the Rappahannock, he burned the bridge, destroyed three flouring mills filled with grain, and fell back toward the Rapidan, but his battery horses giving out, he had to halt for the night. On reaching the Rapidan, the next morning, he met a large body of rebel cavalry on the road to Burton's Ford, and skirmished with them for a time. He found the rebels had concentrated their force at this point, when he suddenly wheeled and taking the road to Banks' Ford, crossed without opposition. The enemy followed some distance, but failed to inflict any damage. Finally, General Custar and his force returned to camp to-day with only four men wounded slightly, and one rather badly. He captured and brought in about fifty prisoners, a large number of negroes, some three hundred horses and besides destroyed a large quantity of valuable stores at Stanardsville. A number of rebels were wounded in the skirmish at the Rapidan.

LATE SOUTHERN NEWS.

NEW YORK, March 6. Richmond papers of the 1st and 2d have been received here; they admit that Kilpatrick penetrated within 3 miles of the city, and relate how narrowly Lee escaped capture. Gen. Wise also had a narrow escape, being at the residence of the rebel secretary of war from whence he reached the city. Four hundred more of our prisoners were shipped on February 29 for America. Georgia, February three thousand have thus far been sent there, and accommodations exist for six thousand. Forty-six miles of the Mobile and Ohio railroad were destroyed by General Sherman. The Southern road was also destroyed from Meridian to Jackson. Forty eight hundred negroes were carried off. The rebel accounts of the battle of Olustee, in Florida, show that their force consisted of fourteen regiments of infantry, four batteries of cavalry and three batteries of artillery. Their loss was eight hundred killed and wounded.

WAR FOR THE UNION.

Massacre of a Company of Colored Troops.

CAIRO, March 2.—The clerk of the steamer Fringe brings information that while that steamer was on a foraging expedition to Johnson's Landing, five miles above Grand Lake, Mississippi, on the 14th ultimo, a band of sixty well mounted guerrillas, dressed in Federal uniforms, surprised a company of the 1st Mississippi (colored) Infantry who were standing guard about a mile and a half from the main body of the foraging party, capturing and disarming them, and, before assistance could be rendered, all were killed or mortally wounded, except two who feigned death.—Lieut. Cox and Sergeant Spencer.

The dead bodies were stripped of their clothing. Some of the negroes were pinned to the ground with bayonets, others had their brains knocked out, others were shot through the head while on their knees begging for quarter.

The guerrillas escaped without losing a man. After the wounded had been buried by our troops, a princely mansion, around which a guard had been posted and no one allowed to enter previous to the slaughter of our troops, was consumed with all its magnificent furniture. Four thousand bushels of corn were taken from a crib containing about fifteen thousand bushels.

When the foraging party returned to Vicksburg, four hundred guerrillas, of which the murderers formed a part, were reported by citizens to be encamped a short distance back in the country.

IMPORTANT REBEL NEWS.

WASHINGTON, March 2. A large batch of very late and interesting rebel papers has reached here. The news is very important and is in brief as follows: The Richmond papers announce, with hardly concealed regret, the appointment of General Braxton Bragg to the command of the army of the north, the rebel army, the head of the great General Lee himself. The Examiner, which for some time past has made the hero of Chickamauga a scape goat for the military sins of Davis, assails Bragg with fresh bitterness. His appointment is exceedingly unpopular, and Davis and himself share equal odium.

The rebels boast a complete victory in Florida; but, notwithstanding, admit heavy losses of officers and men. Longstreet's falling back appears to be a mystery to the rebels themselves. For prudential reasons the Enquirer does not mention his probable whereabouts. Great apprehensions are expressed for the safety of the army in Georgia, and for the situation in Alabama and Mississippi.

Captains Sawyer and Flynn lately selected to be martyrs to retaliation, are about to be surrendered to exchange. Deserters from the rebel army are now inflicted with terrible punishments, to save the military powers of the Confederacy. They go through a fearful process of branding, which is described in the rebel papers, and many of them have been publicly hung in the smaller towns.

The Enquirer again warns the farmers that agricultural products must be sold for still lower prices. The salaries of Government employees have been raised one hundred percent to enable them to procure the necessaries of life. Great ado is made over the Copperhead disaffection in the North. Every attack upon President Lincoln's Administration is quoted with exaggerated comment.

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HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS!

WASHINGTON, March 3. This afternoon's Star says we have late and interesting information from the front, to the effect that Gen. Kilpatrick, with a force of picked cavalry men, has arrived at the White House, and formed a junction with a force sent up by Gen. Butler from the Peninsula. These statements are based upon the fact that two Gen. Kilpatrick's scouts have come back and made the above report. The report is believed in the Army of the Potomac that Kilpatrick is thus within a few miles of Richmond, and as Gen. Butler is co-operating with him we may expect to hear of startling news from that quarter in a day or two. On his route to the White House, Gen. Kilpatrick, having ordered to do, avoided meeting any large force of the rebels. After he had left the front, another party of 800 picked men were sent out to communicate with him. They however met a rebel force, and as their orders were not to fight if a battle could be avoided, they moved toward the east, and the Commander-in-chief, taking the direct road, came upon a party of rebels near Fredericksburg, and captured them, burnt their camp, and destroyed a quantity of valuable army stores, and then proceeded on their way to join Kilpatrick. Official Despatch From Gen. Kilpatrick. WASHINGTON, March 5.—The Republican publishes the following: We are permitted to publish the following despatch, received this morning by the President, from Major-General Butler, covering another despatch from Gen. Kilpatrick: HEADQUARTERS, FORTRESS MONROE. —To the President: I forward the annexed account from Gen. Kilpatrick: YORKTOWN, March 4.—General Col. Dahlgreen was directed to make a reconnaissance with 500 men on the James river. He attacked at 4 o'clock P. M., on Tuesday evening, and drove the enemy on to Richmond. The main attack having failed, Col. Dahlgreen attempted to rejoin me near the Meadow Bridge. He and Col. Cooke were with the advance guard. Some fifty men became separated from his main force, since which nothing has been heard from him. The main force reached me with slight loss. I have hopes he may yet come in. (Signed) J. KILPATRICK, Brig. Gen. Commanding Expedition. In addition, a rebel deserter informed one of my aids that a one legged Colonel and about one hundred men were taken prisoners. I shall hear by way of truce on Sunday night and will telegraph again. (Signed) BENJ. F. BUTLER, Major-General Commanding. (For the Globe.) Mr. Eldon.—There are times when cold and listless apathy seizes the heart of civil and religious society; from which the thunder of heaven can not rouse it, till fostering disease assails the vitals, or external violence breaks the lethargic slumber. The people of the United States, resting upon the efficiency of the best constitution in the world, had forgotten that every human production is marked with imperfections, and that satisfied that no root of bitterness could disturb repose, or arrest our unparalleled prosperity. But unfortunately the mother country had, from selfish motives, planted a deadly upon in the colonies, whilst under her control, from which our patriotic fathers were unable to extricate it, and Slavery, that moral plague spot on the south side of our body politic, has been permitted to grow and fester, until its deadly virus has deeply affected all parts of our country, north and south, and finally burst upon us in the form of rebellion, and that the most wicked and cruel rebellion known to the history of our race. They must be as infuriated as the doomed followers of Charles the First, who deny that slavery has been the prolific cause of the cruel rebellion which is now deluging our land in blood. They must be prompted by the demons who for the first act of secession and rebellion were driven from the portals of high heaven to mingle their groans with their future followers in hopeless despair. No friend of human liberty now desires that our constitution should any longer protect human bondage. As it is now conceded by all the friends of humanity that our constitution must be so changed as to prohibit slavery from every part of our land, it is deemed expedient, if not absolutely necessary, at the same time to make another change in it, so as clearly and explicitly to recognize the name of God, and of Jesus Christ as the Revealer among the nations, and his revealed Will as the supreme law of the land. Has not this "higher law" been repudiated long enough by selfish and corrupt politicians? It is not long since two of the highest functionaries known to our government, at a social meeting at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, agreed in the following opinion:—"It is no matter what our peculiar views may be, or what prejudice may take possession of our minds and hearts, if, as American citizens, we find ourselves constrained by a law, higher or more imperative than the civil law, we thus deny the obligation which the constitution imposes, and can have no just claim to the protection and blessings which it confers."

And since the hand of a just and all-merciful God has been laid heavily upon us (in the North) doubtless for our compromise with sin, and especially our refusing our influence to break the bonds of wickedness and let the captives go free? And in closing our ears against the wail of woe which came up so long and so loud from the South for help, should we not recognize His name and His authority in our civil constitution? And would not the present be a proper time for us to pray congress to add its aid securing such a result as has been prayed for in secret by thousands of those Christians who are the salt of the earth, and that, without any fear of the hated union of church and State. It was the opinion of the father of his country, that no healthy civil Government could long exist without religion. And for proof of the impotency of human power, we have only to look at republican France, where the name of God was denied, and his word repudiated, or to Mexico where the Bible is sealed against the people. And what would be our condition in less than half a century, if we would shut up the temple doors, and would proscribe the ordinances of God's worship, forbid the observance of the Sabbath and blot out the Bible? Most assuredly our loved country would soon be a proper subject for some future Napoleon to seize and rule with a rod of iron. Better, much better far us in time, to recognize the authority of God as King of nations.

Our Army Correspondence.

Hospital Third Div., First A. C.

Camp near Aquia Creek, December 3, 1863. DEAR GENERAL.—I have written you a letter. The cause of the delay has been lack of interesting matter to communicate. The late reconnaissance might have furnished a readable page, but we were unable to form an intelligent idea of it, until the papers enlightened us as to what had occurred, and what it had been intended to do, and, to say truth, told us a number of things which had not taken place at all. Writing from rumor is a hazardous business, and affords many a hearty burst of merriment; to cheer the groups that round camp fires do congregate, at the expense of the "sold" correspondent. Everybody knows that "all is quiet in the army of the Potomac." The units of that army have, notwithstanding, an individual impression that there is no deficiency of stirring experience; and I am not sure that they might prefer a day's march that took them somewhere to a day's jogging back and forth over the same intolerable drill ground. The most energetic efforts are being made by the army in the best condition in every respect, and with great success. At a review of the 1st corps, which took place on last Tuesday, every movement was performed with the greatest precision and regularity, and not a single blunder marred the pleasure of the scene. It is a rare review of which so much can be said. When we used to read in the papers accounts of the arrival of large numbers of deserters from the rebel army, the boys quite naturally asked, "How does it happen that we, who stand here on the picket line, peering into Dixie, never see them?" And their cogitations on the subject generally resulted in the conclusion that deserters, though often heard of, were rarely seen. Now, however, the deserter is no longer a myth! Half a score of the genes passed our tents, to day, and little squads are frequently seen with their backs to the Confederacy. The greatest number that we have seen in one body was a squad of cavalry numbering about sixty. They were of the squares and were Federal fellows, they generally appear to be, bearing no traces of the starvation ordeal through which the south has been passing, according to the "reliable gentleman" or the "intelligent contraband." Appearances are, however, often deceptive, and it may be that the thrifty looks of these reported rebels are to be accounted for in some other way. "A plague of sighing and grief; it blows a man up like a bladder." That class of the body military, who wear shoulder straps have of late been seized with a resignation favor, and the services has suffered (?) in consequence. I might tell you of a grand blow-out given by a distinguished officer on the occasion of his promotion to the service; but from prudential motives, I refrain. I might inadvertently disclose the fact that somebody was drunk, or more correctly speaking, that nobody was sober; and it would never do to make such an impression. Bless you, "Globe," officers don't get drunk! Why, they punish every instance of intoxication on the part of privates. They never start and have to be assisted to find the door; and, above all, they never sew. At any rate, if they do, nothing is to be said about it. This disposition is evident that whatever view of his disposition may have been drawn from your columns, he has not appeared in the character of a gross profligate. Yet he does seem to propose to appear, ere long, as a full-blown, though only in cases so transparent that far from requiring the keen-eyed vision of a cynic, the fault is apparent to falling optics, through inferior spectacles. One of our metropolitan journals has hit upon the happy idea of devoting a portion of its space to "What the soldiers think." I am glad to see that the soldiers are beginning to give expression to their thoughts through that medium; and it may be that certain classes may yet discover that though the soldier's voice can be silenced, in the range where authority gives impunity, yet there is a tribunal to which he may appeal, and through which the petty despots may be reined, and made to feel the force of a just and not less exacting that of courts-martial.—"Bayonet's think." I am sure the men who handle them think; and some of them think that when this war is over, and when certain actors in it come before the people to ask their suffrages, by way of compensation for the patriotic sacrifices they shall have so many to say. Mark it. But, as Grant said to Grant Moul, so you may say to me: "These are but generals; come to particulars, man."—So I will; but there is a time for everything, and it is now time to close this letter. J. S. B.

And since the hand of a just and all-merciful God has been laid heavily upon us (in the North) doubtless for our compromise with sin, and especially our refusing our influence to break the bonds of wickedness and let the captives go free? And in closing our ears against the wail of woe which came up so long and so loud from the South for help, should we not recognize His name and His authority in our civil constitution? And would not the present be a proper time for us to pray congress to add its aid securing such a result as has been prayed for in secret by thousands of those Christians who are the salt of the earth, and that, without any fear of the hated union of church and State. It was the opinion of the father of his country, that no healthy civil Government could long exist without religion. And for proof of the impotency of human power, we have only to look at republican France, where the name of God was denied, and his word repudiated, or to Mexico where the Bible is sealed against the people. And what would be our condition in less than half a century, if we would shut up the temple doors, and would proscribe the ordinances of God's worship, forbid the observance of the Sabbath and blot out the Bible? Most assuredly our loved country would soon be a proper subject for some future Napoleon to seize and rule with a rod of iron. Better, much better far us in time, to recognize the authority of God as King of nations.

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