

AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

JOHN B. BRATTON, Editor & Proprietor. CARLEISLE, PA., JAN. 24, 1861.

We return our thanks to our Senator, Dr. CHAWFORD, for sending us documents.

CUMBERLAND FIRE COMPANY.—At a regular meeting of the Cumberland Fire Company, held January 19, the following officers were elected for the year 1861: President—Thomas B. Thompson.

LOOK WELL.—The grain fields, since the snow has melted, look green and vigorous, and give promise of an abundant harvest.

A PREDICTION.—Most of our weather-wise people predict an unusually early Spring this year. Hope the prediction may prove true.

RETURNED.—The students of Dickinson College, who have been spending the winter vacation with "the old folks at home," have returned to their studies.

ITS NAME.—The Harrisburg papers, in giving a list of the names of the various military companies which attended the inauguration of Gov. CURTIN, make some strange errors.—One of the Carlisle companies is called by one of them the "Sumner Rifles," and by another the "Lawrence Rifles."

Both our Volunteer companies, the "Light Infantry," Capt. R. M'CAULIN, and the "Sumner Rifles," Capt. KURR, attended the inauguration of Gov. CURTIN.

FINE WEATHER.—The weather for the last four or five days has been delightful for this season of the year, the sun bright and reasonably warm.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—The latest news from the "seat of war" is unimportant. Affairs at Charleston are in statu quo.

DESERVE COMMENDATION.—Should our unfortunate difficulties in the nation be amicably settled—which God in his mercy grant—the people will ever remember with grateful hearts, the praiseworthy and persevering efforts of Senators BIGLER and CRITTENDEN.

LEGALIZING THE SUSPENSION.—A bill is now pending in the House at Harrisburg, providing for a resumption of specie payments by the Banks of the Commonwealth on the second Monday of February, 1862, and relieving all institutions with banking privileges from the penalties incurred by suspension on the 19th of November last.

PUBLIC OPINION.—Senator BIGLER has presented a large number of memorials from citizens of Pennsylvania, praying for the adoption of the Crittenden resolutions—amongst others one from Lancaster county.

GOV. CURTIN'S INAUGURAL.—On our first page will be found the Inaugural Address of Gov. CURTIN. Some sentiments in it, of course, we cannot endorse, but yet we are free to admit that it is moderate and conservative in sentiment, and many of its recommendations are creditable to the head and heart of the new Governor.

From present appearances, the leaders of the Republican party may be said to be united against Mr. CRITTENDEN'S propositions; yet it will be observed that the Legislature of Virginia, like her sisters of Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Missouri, will close on those propositions as the condition upon which they will refuse to co-operate with the open enemies of the Government.

True enough. The South will agree to the CRITTENDEN propositions, but the Black Republicans say "no." They will agree to nothing. No fair man, no man who desires peace and the perpetuity of the Union, can object to Mr. CRITTENDEN'S plan. It is fair, magnanimous and just. Its adoption would not only settle our difficulties, but would stop the discussion about slavery forever; business would again take a start, and prosperity again crown the efforts of the American people. Why is it, then, that the Black Republicans oppose the CRITTENDEN proposition? Because it would rob them of their political capital—the slavery question. The only principle now held in common by the Republicans is opposition to slavery.

There is an "irrepressible conflict" among the Missouri militia that made the late march to the south-western border and came back again. After one duel growing out of it, Col. J. F. Snyder has now had his head cut off by the Governor for saying that the expedition was all a farce. The expedition has cost the State treasury between \$40,000 and \$50,000 and that is the only substantial result.

WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE?

When the names of Messrs. LINCOLN and HAMILTON were emblazoned on the banners and floated conspicuously from the mastsheads of all the Republican papers of this and the other Northern States; and during all the time that it was deemed necessary to have "Wide-Awakes" and "Invincibles" to parade our streets, carrying torches, and keeping step to the music of "Dixey's Land," we heard nothing scarcely from their papers but sneers at the idea of any trouble following the success of their sectional principles and the election of their candidates.

"No, no," they said, "the South know their weakness too well to attempt any such foolishness as breaking up this government;" and this was followed up by insulting and aggravating comparisons between the two great sections of our country, very often based upon false statistics, and always intended to give the Northern people a false estimate of the resources and strength of the South. From the natural alarm of the people of Virginia, consequent upon the JOHN BROWN raid, they used every argument to impress upon the Northern mind the idea that the Southern people were cowards, and that any amount of abuse and insult could be heaped upon them with impunity.

Thus the campaign was carried on by appeals from the Democracy in the name of the Constitution and the Union on the one side, and on the side of Black Republicanism by appeals to the prejudice and passion, that they themselves had created in the Northern mind and heart, by false charges against their Southern brethren.

What then, can be done? Must this country be destroyed, merely because a few thousand mad-men at the South and the fanatical and treasonable Abolitionists at the North, have so decreed it? We confess we have little or no hope. But yet the people can save the country, if they will. Let them, then, enact a law that they shall have no compromise. Let all who are opposed to the dismemberment of the Union, and to the coercive war policy of the Black Republican party, which would drench our country with the blood of our brethren, and which is calculated to destroy every effort for reconciliation, and the restoration of peace, happiness, and prosperity, be up and doing. Let the miserable traitors in Congress and in our Legislative halls, continue to declare there shall be "no compromise." No matter—the people are still supreme, and their will must be obeyed.

THE STATE SENATE AGAINST PEACE! In the State Senate, on Thursday, Mr. CLYMER, a Democratic Senator, offered the following resolution: Resolved, That all State enactments, unfriendly to the domestic institutions of any of the States, are unwise and impolitic, and should be promptly repealed from the statute book.

A Good Resolution.—The following resolution was unanimously passed by the House of Representatives of this State, on Thursday last: Resolved, That we fully approve the bold and patriotic act of Maj. Anderson in withdrawing from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, and the determination of the President to maintain that officer in his position; and that we will support the President in all constitutional measures to enforce the laws and preserve this glorious Union.

Who are responsible? Well may the Republican leaders ask the question, and we call upon them, in the name of justice and reason, to permit their own consciences to answer. It is in vain, worse than in vain, for them, in view of the facts that stand out to the knowledge of all the world, to say that they are innocent of this great crime against the peace and happiness of our beloved country. They will be held, and justly too, by all coming time, as the authors of our present misfortunes. Their bitter and unboltry crusade against the South has yielded its legitimate fruits, in the utter prostration of all our commercial and national prosperity. They may exclaim, with Macbeth, when the ghost of the murdered Banquo entered the banquetting chamber, "Thou can'st not say I did it; shake not thy gory locks at me;" and yet, if the Union be destroyed, the blood of their countrymen will be upon their hands and hearts; "nor can all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from their hands."

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IS THERE NO HOPE?

"Lost!" "Lost!" were the exclamations uttered by the venerable Cass, when the news reached Washington that South Carolina had seceded. He was speaking of the Union. No wonder, indeed, that hot tears trickled down his furrowed cheeks, as the conviction was forced upon him that the Union was dissolved, and that self-government had proved a failure.—It was a sad thought for the old statesman, Gen. Cass—a sad thought for all lovers of their country.

But, notwithstanding the expression of opinion by Gen. Cass that the confederacy was lost, thousands and tens of thousands of American citizens in all sections of the country, and embracing all parties, assembled in "Union Meetings" to devise, if possible, some plan to restore peace and confidence, and re-unite the Union. "At first the Republicans took the lead in these meetings—and this was right, for they had created the mischief—and the Democrats joining with them heartily, strong hopes were entertained that a compromise would be effected and our country saved.

The South—or at least the good men of the South—made no unreasonable demands; they only contended for their rights, by demanding protection for their slave property in the States where slavery exists; also to have leave to go into the common Territories upon terms of equality with the North, and enjoy their own property, receiving the protection of a common Government until they shall come into the Union as a sovereign State and choose their own institutions. Or, they said, they would be satisfied to re-enact the Missouri compromise line and extend it to the Pacific, making all territory north free, and all south slave. There was nothing unreasonable in these demands, and judging from the strong expressions of opinion in the Northern States, by the Republicans as well as the Democrats, a hope began to be felt in all sections that our difficulties could and would be amicably settled. But, Mr. LINCOLN at last opened his mouth in opposition to compromise; his strong Abolition feelings would not permit him to do anything or say anything tending to fraternal feeling and conciliation. How unfortunate for our country! No sooner had Mr. LINCOLN'S opinions been made public, than the Republican leaders (nearly all of whom are on the look-out for office) changed front, and yelled out "no compromise!"

In many particulars, Mr. Bigler's proposition coincides with that of Mr. Crittenden. It takes the vexed question of slavery forever out of the power of Congress, and banishes it from the field of partisan politics. It gives the decision of the great question of the Union to the people themselves, to whom the Union belongs, and leaves them to say whether or they wish it now to terminate, or to have its youth and strength renewed and the bonds which bind it together made indissoluble.

It is a proposition just to the North and South alike, and equitable in its provisions. The early day at which it proposes that the great question shall be submitted to the people, shows the imminence of the danger which threatens the Republic. The majority of the North, would prefer to see the present difficulty settled amicably, and settled quickly, and Mr. Bigler's bill affords a fair, a favorable and a statesmanlike way of doing it.

The bitterness of partisan politics, and the pride of personal opinion must be laid aside, and some fair and equitable compromise, like that proposed by the Senator from Pennsylvania adopted, or the country must suffer disasters as are most painful even to reflect upon. The people look to Congress at once to agree upon some measure to protect the nation from anarchy and civil war, and the Union from final dissolution. Mr. Bigler has presented such a measure, and the representatives of the people should obey their desire, and let the popular will decide upon it.

Who Wants Peace? KEEP IT BEFORE THE PEOPLE that the Republicans will not permit the people to vote on the only plan of agreement which has the least chance of success,—the Plan of Mr. CRITTENDEN.

THE SENATOR FROM KENTUCKY is neither a Democrat nor a Republican. He can, therefore, have no partisan or personal purpose to subvert in urging the adoption of his proposition. All the leading Democrats say they will support it. The Republicans are not asked to support it, if they don't like it,—but they are asked to transfer it from the politicians in Congress to the people themselves. The people could vote upon it,—"yes," or "no,"—in less than thirty days, and the decision, which we have no doubt, would be in favor of Reconciliation and Union and Peace.

But, the CRITTENDEN plan has been defeated in the U. S. Senate. A few days since a direct vote was had, when the bill fell by the following vote. Let the public scan this vote, and then say who it is that shuts the door to compromise and peace, and hurries on the nation to civil war.

Mr. BIGLER asked for a vote on the CRITTENDEN resolutions, which was agreed to, and the resolutions negotiated—aye 14, nays 31, as follows:

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MR. BIGLER'S PROPOSITION.

The bill of Senator Bigler, of our own State, providing for taking the sense of the people of the several States, on certain proposed amendments to the Constitution, offers a complete and perfectly just and equitable solution of the difficulties which are at present distracting the country.

Mr. Bigler proposes that on the 12th of February next an election of the people of the several States shall be held to decide upon proposed amendments to the Constitution. The bill provides, in detail for the manner in which this proposed election should be conducted, and then gives the amendments to the Constitution, which are to be valid as part of the Constitution, when ratified by conventions in three-fourths of the States held for that purpose.

The amendments provide for a division of the territory now owned, or hereafter to be acquired by the United States, by an East and West line on parallel 36 degrees 30 minutes of North Latitude, involuntary servitude being prohibited North of this line, and recognized, sustained and protected by all departments of territorial governments South of this line, it being the duty of Congress to admit such territories as States into the Union, where they have the required population.

Congress is to have no power to abolish slavery in territory under its exclusive jurisdiction, situated within the States, and it is made its duty to pay the owner the full value of the fugitive slave, when the recovery is prevented by intimidation or violence, or when rescued by force,—the country where said violence may occur being responsible for the amount. Congress shall not prevent the transportation of slaves from one slave State to another, but the Africa Slave trade can never be revived except by the unanimous consent of both houses of Congress.

The President is to hold office for six years, and not to be eligible to a re-election. Amendments to the Constitution to alter these provisions in regard to slavery are to be done, except by the unanimous consent of all the States.

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The Deings of Our Legislature.

The Republican Legislature of Pennsylvania is acquiring an unenviable distinction, and is, besides, greatly injuring the reputation of our State. Governor Banks of Massachusetts, Governor Morgan of New York, Governor Goodell of New Hampshire, Governor Washburne of Maine, and some other Republican Governors of Republican States, have recommended the repeal of the personal liberty bills passed by the Legislatures of their States, and have declared themselves in favor of proper conciliation and concession.

Mr. Florence—Before the House adjourns, I ask the privilege of presenting a memorial from citizens of Philadelphia, signed by men of all political parties—Democrats, Republicans, and Union men or national Americans. It is very numerous, signed, and I think it I do not care about having it printed, but will move that it be referred to the committee of thirty-three.

Mr. Burnett—I object to the reference of anything to the committee of thirty-three. Mr. Florence—Then I trust it may be the consideration of this body. The petition is very short, and asks the consideration of the Crittenden resolutions. It is from men of all parties in the city of Philadelphia. As such, I present it and ask that the sacred right of petition may be at least accorded to my people.

Resolved, That we affirm the doctrine of the Chicago platform as expressing the sentiments of a large majority of the people of Pennsylvania, and that we have no reason to ignore it. We do not believe that anything is our political conviction demands concession on our part.

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Republicans on the Right of Petition.

Some time since a petition was widely circulated in Philadelphia, and numerously signed by members of all political parties—Breckenridge and Douglas Democrats, Bell and Everett men, and in many instances by Republicans; all of whom, desiring that something should be done to arrest the ruinous and downward tendency of things, and to prevent civil war, and the destruction of the Union, solicited Congress to consider and adopt the Crittenden resolutions. This petition was sent to the Hon. Thomas B. Florence, member from the First Congressional District, who, in the discharge of his duty to the citizens of Philadelphia, and to the country, embraced the very first opportunity to present the petition, to the House. We learn from the daily Globe, containing the proceedings of Friday last, the reception which the petition received at the hands of the Republican members of that body.

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