



CLEARFIELD PA., JANUARY 23, 1861

Messrs. Hall of the State Senate and Lawrence of the House, will please accept our thanks for continued favors, in furnishing us with important documents.

Peace or War?

One of the largest meetings ever held in Philadelphia, met at National Hall in that city on last Wednesday night. It was substantially a Democratic meeting, called to take action upon the present perilous condition of the country...

The people of Pennsylvania, without respect to party, who are opposed to the Republican remedy of coercion and civil war, were urged to immediate and prompt action to make known their sentiment by holding meetings, remonstrating Congress and the State Legislature...

There is not a moment to be lost. If the people would arouse to action at once, this great evil may yet be averted. As for preventing a dissolution of the Union, that is impossible. IT IS DONE.

A Confession. "Truth is mighty, and will prevail." This old adage has never been more fully verified than in the case of our neighbor of the Journal, in his last issue.

Who opposed the American army in the Mexican war? The Mexicans and—(as we have not consulted the committee of the late Union meeting in our town we suppose we dare not mention any names.)

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Who is Responsible?

Notwithstanding Governor Curtin's inaugural address is, in the main, conciliatory in its tone—quite as much so as was expected by his political opponents, and much more so than is palatable to his political friends...

As to Mr. Lawrence, our other member, although we expect strict fidelity to his party, yet we are not without hope that he, unlike his colleague, prefers his country to his party...

How different would be her situation if our Legislature and Executive were Democratic! If this were so, it would be utterly impossible to divide this Union, and peace and harmony would be restored in a week.

For War!

It is indeed amusing to hear the Abolitionists, through their journals and speakers, writing and talking about war, attempting by their present course of conduct to bring about a bloody revolution.

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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 has taken the true ground that the representative shall obey the will of the people, and that the opinion and judgement of the people shall be invoked in the present emergency.

Mr. Bigler's 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.

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 forbidden, except by the unanimous consent of all the States.

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 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 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 such disasters as are most painful even to reflect upon.

Secession seems to be the order of the day at present. The citizens of Karthaus township have petitioned the Grand Jury several times for a bridge across Mosquito Creek, in that township.

The following is the vote in the N. Y. Legislature as passed by that body on the 11th instant, sustaining the policy of President Buchanan.

The vote in the House was yeas 117 yeas 2 in the Senate; yeas 28 yeas 1.

Inauguration of Gov. Curtin.

Andrew G. Curtin, the new Governor of the Commonwealth, was inaugurated at Harrisburg, on the 5th inst. The procession of military and citizens was formed at half past ten o'clock, under the auspices of Gen. Wm. H. Keim, the Chief Marshal, and marched to the Capitol.

He first referred to the duties and responsibilities surrounding him, and expressed a determination to meet them to the best of his ability. After speaking of the general educational interests of the people he approves of the recommendation of Gov. Packer for an appropriation to the Farmer's High School.

The position of mutual estrangement in which the different sections of our country have been placed by the precipitate and violent denunciations of heated partisans, the apprehension of still more serious complications of our political affairs, and the fearful uncertainty of the future, have had the effect of weakening commercial credit and partially interrupting trade.

Thus far our system of Government has fully answered the expectations of its founders, and has demonstrated the capacity of the people for self government. The country has advanced in wealth, knowledge and power, and secured to all classes the blessings, peace, prosperity and happiness.

The election of a President of the United States, according to the forms of the Constitution, has recently been made a pretext for disturbing the peace of the country by a deliberate attempt to wrest from the Federal Government which the people conferred on it when they adopted the Constitution.

There is nothing in the life of Mr. Lincoln, nor any act of his before or since his election, to justify the apprehension which his Administration will be so unfriendly to the local institutions of any of the States.

The supremacy of the National Government has been so fully admitted and so long cherished by the people of Pennsylvania, so completely has the idea of its nationality and sovereignty moulded their political convictions and directed their political action, that they are surprised at the pertinacity with which a portion of the people elsewhere maintain the opposite view.

Since my election to the Chief Magistracy of the State, I have taken occasion to say publicly, that if we have any laws upon our statute books which infringe upon the rights of the people of any of the States, or contravene any law of the Federal Government, or obstruct its execution, they ought to be repealed.

This is a propitious moment to declare that while the people of Pennsylvania, not indifferent to other vital issues of the canvass, they were demanding justice for themselves in the recent election, and had no design to interfere with or abridge the rights of the people of other States.

ed by the abrogation of the principle of protection from the revenue laws of the national government; bankruptcy had crushed the energies of many of our most enterprising citizens; but no voice of disloyalty or treason was heard, nor was an arm raised to offer violence to the sacred fabric of our national Union.

It is within the sphere of its action all the attributes of sovereignty, and among those are the right and duty of self-preservation. It is based upon a compact to which all the people of the United States are parties.

The Constitution which was originally framed to promote the welfare of thirteen States and four millions of people, in less than three-quarters of a century has embraced thirty-three States and thirty millions of inhabitants.

It is all we desire or hope for, that our fellow countrymen who complain, can reasonably demand. It provides that amendments may be proposed by Congress; and whenever the necessity to amend shall occur, the people of Pennsylvania will give to the amendments which Congress may propose, the careful and deliberate consideration which their importance may demand.

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UNION MEETING.

In pursuance of a call which appeared in the papers of the town of the 9th inst, the citizens without respect to party, met in the Court room in Clearfield, on Tuesday evening, the 15th instant, to express their opinions on the present distracted condition of the country.

On motion of W. M. Behan, the President appointed a committee of five to draft and report resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, as follows:—S. B. Row, J. F. Weaver, J. B. McEnally, W. M. Behan, and L. J. Crana, Esqs.

On motion of Mr. Behan, James Forrester, G. W. Rheem and Benj. Wright were appointed a committee to wait upon the Hon. G. R. Barrett, and request him to address the meeting.

In the absence of the committee, Gen. John Tatten, our M. C. elect, was called upon to address the audience.

He proceeded in his usual pointed style to illustrate that the Nation was upon the eve of a rupture, and counselled conciliation and forbearance towards the erring, and apparently now rebellious, asserting that he loved his country more than his party; and as this was called getting "weak in the knees," he was willing to accept, it though he might be so denounced.

This being a well established fact, it was the duty of every American citizen to abide and cherish those of our brethren with whom we seem to be at variance at this time. The speaker closed his remarks with a strong appeal for the Union.

At the conclusion of the Judge's speech, W. A. Wallace, Esq., was called upon to address the meeting, who proceeded to do so in an eloquent manner—perfectly willing to ignore all party tests, and make a bold movement for the Union, calling upon all conservative men to assist in rescuing our country from impending danger.

His speech partook of the same tone as those who preceded him—"Peace be still." Here the speaker gave way to the committee on Resolutions, who appeared and reported the following to the meeting, which were unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, a crisis has arisen in the history of this country which threatens the disruption of our Government, with all the untold calamities which would follow in the train; and whereas, we, the citizens of Clearfield county, in County Mass Meeting assembled, entertaining a sincere love for our Union and Constitution, and ardently desiring that the same may be transmitted inviolate to future generations, do therefore resolve:

1st. That we regard the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land; that we are in favor of preserving the Union as a whole, and of a firm and impartial enforcement of all the laws of the Federal Government.

2d. That we view with pride and pleasure the efforts that have been made, and that are still being made, by the conservative men in the Senate and House of Representatives, for an amicable adjustment of our present difficulties, and would urge upon them still to "persevere in well doing," and would assure them of our approval and hearty co-operation in the adoption of any fair and honorable measures that will restore peace, confidence and harmony to the Union.

3d. That we call upon the Senators and Representatives of Pennsylvania in the Congress of the United States, without reference to party ties, to favor such an arrangement of present difficulties as will be fair and just as well to the North as the South, and that will restore the bonds of brotherhood that until recently have united all the people of this great Republic.

4th. That all laws on the statute books of any State, in conflict with the Constitution of the United States, or in opposition to that fraternal feeling which should exist between confederated States, should be repealed at the earliest moment; and that this duty should be performed by each State regardless as to whether other States do their duty or not.

After the adoption of the report of the committee, J. B. McEnally, Esq., was called upon, who proceeded in an able and patriotic manner to depict the dreadful calamity that would befall our land and nation, in the event of a dissolution of the Union, he was willing to make a common sacrifice of party for the common good, not only of our own country but he believed of every civilized nation on earth, as all would be more or less affected by a revolution in this country.

Upon the close of the speech of Mr. McEnally, Israel Test, Esq., was called upon to address the meeting, who in his usual "Fatherly" style proceeded to show the concessions and compromises that were made and adopted by the early fathers of the Republic, in establishing our present Constitution.