



CLEARFIELD, PA.

Wednesday Morning May 29, 1861

How Men Change.

We give, on our first page, an article showing that Mr. Lincoln, and a leading newspaper of Virginia, have each held opinions upon the great question of State Rights quite different from those they respectively hold now.

But there are other, and more recent and remarkable changes of opinion upon this great question of the right of a State to secede from the Union, which should not be overlooked. The New York Tribune, which is now a little ahead of all other journals in the work of hissing on the dogs of war to prevent the Southern States from doing what he held a few months ago, they had a perfect right to do.

No advocate of secession, in the South or elsewhere, ever made a stronger or clearer argument in favor of that doctrine than this. And this was said by the leading organ of the present Administration only six months ago.

But granting that this question of States' Rights, or the right of a State to secede from the Union, is an open one—and such it must certainly be when so many of our statesmen differ so widely upon it—granting that the framers of our government, in their unsurpassed human wisdom, overlooked, or failed, from any cause, to definitely define this right—are we acting wisely, and as a Christian people should act, in going to war and butchering each other upon a question about which it is evident some of our best men have long since differed? This is a question that comes home to every citizen.

The last half-sheet of the Brookville Republican has the following:

"Since the Editor of the Clearfield Republican has sustained himself the special defender of the Capt. of the Cadets we would ask of him whether it is true he rendered himself so obnoxious to his company that they called on him to resign. We have it from good authority that such is the fact."

We can only say that so far as we are concerned, you are welcome to entertain all the doubts you like on this subject, as we value your opinion at precisely the same price we do your patriotism—and that, like the little end of nothing whittled down to a point, is too small to define. If proof of this fact were wanting it is furnished in the attempt to measure our patriotism in your half-bushel. If you are not able to bear this soft impeachment yourself, you are welcome to call to your aid your "good authority," who, we have no doubt, is a chip off the same block.

The Great Robbery!

The caption of this article was a special favorite with every Black Republican editor in the country six months ago, and very few people, we presume, thought that they would, in less than five months after getting into power, surpass even the worst accusations they made against the Democrats. Yet such is the fact, if we are to believe some of those self-same papers.

We shall endeavor to present the facts to our readers in as intelligent a shape as our limited space will permit.

Our State Legislature, before the adjournment of the regular session, appropriated \$500,000 to arm and equip the volunteers of the State. This money all disappeared in a few days. When the Legislature met in extra session, a resolution was adopted calling upon the Governor to show how the money was expended. To this he replied in a message covering some 45 or 50 pages, filled with generalities, but nothing specific.

This seemed conclusive enough, and right; but the editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer, has instituted an examination into the facts, with an astonishing result. He takes two items, one for \$8,94 to Lambert & Higgins of Harrisburg for boarding and putting up tents, to which one of the above firms had a claim; and also get the certificate of the Quarter Master General, the other item was for \$22,685 to E. Frowenfeld & Bro., (of Pittsburgh) for uniforms &c., as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Amount. Includes 2085 uniforms at \$10 and 347 pairs of pantaloons at \$5.

This large bill the Inquirer says, was paid by the State authorities upon the simple authority of Charles M. Neal, a City Commissioner, as Agent—without an endorsement by the Quarter Master General, or any evidence that it was even sworn to by any body. Yet Gov. Curtin states in his message that he had no Agents except the officers above named.

The Pittsburgh Dispatch, an intensely Republican sheet, comes to the aid of the Inquirer, and after giving the substance of an interview with the Messrs. Frowenfeld & Bro., proceeds as follows:—

"Mr. M. Frowenfeld, a member of the firm of E. Frowenfeld & Bros. says he was unjustly treated in the article of the Inquirer. That he himself swore to the account for uniforms, &c., before a Justice of the peace at Harrisburg; that the account was certified as correct by C. M. Neal, who was employed as a special agent by Gov. Curtin, by Q. M. Gen. Hale, the Auditor General, and by the State Treasurer. Mr. Frowenfeld also says that the transaction was bona fide—that his firm was, he thinks, the only one in the City prepared to furnish the uniforms within the specified time and to that he attributes the obtaining the contract on the terms stated. We give his statement, briefly, of course.

"So far, we got nothing for our trouble, but on making further inquiries, we learned from a responsible firm of clothiers that a bid was offered directly to Mr. Neal at \$7.50 per pair for uniforms of the same quality of material and workmanship as that in the uniforms charged to the State at \$10 per pair. This bid was not accepted, and the contract was made subsequently with Frowenfeld, through Neal at \$10 per pair. It is also stated to us, on good authority, that proposals were made by other city houses for uniforms at from \$7 to \$7.50 per pair, of quality fully equal to those for which \$10 per pair were paid."

The result of this infamous swindle is that our volunteers are half-clad—are a disgrace to the State—and ashamed to appear on parade with those of other States, who style them the "Ragged militia of Pennsylvania."

In making favorable mention of Gov. Bigler, the Pittsburgh Dispatch says: "Mr. Bigler is as sound and whole-souled a friend of the Union as can be found in the State."

A SHARP ROBBERY.

Our neighbor, with the aid of his legal assistant, is in great danger of becoming entirely too sharp for these dull times. The labor bestowed upon his last issue to perpetrate something that would cost somebody, must have been distressing, and his readers should not wonder why, but a single idea (miserably lame, pointless and truthless as it was) pervaded all his editorial.

We deeply commiserate his situation. But we are at a loss to know how to help him. The victim, doubtless, of the pretended friendship of those who would use his "paws" to drag their "chestnuts" from the fire, he was made to slander his neighbors by stigmatizing them as "traitors." We called his attention to the fact on the 8th instant, hoping that he would either explain, qualify or make good, his accusation. Instead of this, however, his paper of the 15th, reiterated the charge in language still more insulting, and after devoting his entire issue of the 22d, in a most miserable and selfish attempt at wit—such as would disgrace the clumsiest mountebank—aided, too, by a limb of the law, not a single word is said either to justify, palliate or to retract these slanders.

This kind of controversy, we assure our neighbor, is quite distasteful to us. We desire to spend no "powder" in vain, it is too precious in these war times. But we can tell him that as often as he casts such accusations and insinuations upon the loyalty and patriotism of the anti-Black Republicans of Clearfield—whether he does it personally or by proxy—he will hear from us, and perhaps it will not be long until he finds that our "charges" have had quite enough "powder" to send them home.

Interesting Account of Capt. MacDonald's Removal from the Arsenal.

The public, we believe, are well advised of all the particulars attending the capture and imprisonment by Capt. Lyon, of Capt. E. MacDonald. The story of his sudden and mysterious removal from the Arsenal, and of his present whereabouts only remains to be told.

On Monday night last, information having reached the officer in command at the Arsenal that the writ of habeas corpus was about being served, the removal of Captain MacDonald was decided upon. For this purpose a skiff was procured. The prisoner was marched out of the Arsenal grounds under guard of four armed soldiers, commanded by Captain Cole. Some movement of the kind must have been suspected by outsiders, for before the party reached the skiff a furious rush was made by a considerable number of persons to rescue the prisoner.

The consequences would unquestionably have been serious, but for the interposition and remarks of Capt. Macb. himself, who expressed his readiness to accompany his captors across the river, and begged his captors to abstain from any act calculated to aggravate the circumstances surrounding him. His words had the desired effect, and the crowd began to disperse. Before doing so, news of the trouble had reached the Arsenal, causing no little excitement. A body of soldiers was immediately sent to reinforce Capt. Cole, and things were soon as quiet as usual.

Everything being in readiness, the prisoner was placed in the trail boat, and under the officer and guard above mentioned, pushed out into the stream. The boat was at once headed for a point nearly immediately opposite, on the Illinois shore; but so strong was the current, that the party found themselves drifting rapidly southward.

The soldiers had labored very hard, but in spite of their exertions the current took them onward. They were fatigued and almost worn out, though the fact was soon made apparent that the worst of their trouble had to come. On bearing the island below the Arsenal the boat sprang a leak, and began to fill rapidly with water. At one time it was thought she would go under, but the energetic bailing of all hands kept her afloat until the island was reached. Here a second boat was procured, and soon thereafter a landing was made on the Illinois shore.

It had now grown far into the night, and the feelings of the men, after the severe ordeal through which they had passed, must have been anything but pleasant. Still they pushed on, taking the road to Caseyville. This place is said to be about six miles from St. Louis, though it is plain to be seen that the route taken by Capt. Cole considerably increased the distance.

Proceeding about one mile beyond Caseyville, the party halted at an encampment of United States troops, numbering some two thousand, under command of Col. McArthur. To this officer Capt. MacDonald was delivered by the Arsenal staff, but with what instructions we are not prepared to say.

THE WAR NEWS!

(From the Pittsburgh Post.)

WASHINGTON, May 24th.—8 o'clock A. M.—Within a few hours past there have been important military movements. It was suspected yesterday that orders had been given for the advance of troops into Virginia, but these being necessarily of a secret character, the exact truth at that time could not be ascertained.

The New York Second, Twelfth, Seventh and Twenty-first Regiments, New Jersey and Michigan Brigades, and Col. Ellsworth's Zouaves, were so far as at present ascertained, constituted the forces to advance upon Virginia. The Washington City National Rifles, Capt. Smead, at about ten o'clock last night passed over Long Bridge, which is about a mile in length, and connect Washington with the Virginia Shore, and remained at the latter terminus until two o'clock this morning, acting as an advance guard. These were followed by other district volunteer companies, acting in a similar capacity; subsequently the N. Y. Second and Twelfth Regiment, and the Michigan and New Jersey Brigades crossed the bridge—the Virginia pickets having been driven in by the advance guard. One of the regiments took the road leading to Fairfax Court House, about twenty miles from Washington while another, one of the New Jersey Regiments, stopped at the Forks a mile from the Long Bridge, to wait for orders.

An advance into Virginia was also made from another point, namely at Potomac Aqueduct, Georgetown. The Seventh New York Regiment was among these troops, and after several hours march, occupied a point between the bridge and Columbia Springs on the Washington and Alexandria Railroad.

It was at least two o'clock this morning before all the troops reached their destination. The troops that did not repair to Alexandria and Arlington Heights were required to guard important intermediate points between Washington and Alexandria.

The District of Columbia military did not return to Washington until half past six o'clock this morning. From six thousand to ten thousand troops were sent over into Virginia at an early hour this morning, and firing was heard, occasioned by the forcing of Virginia pickets. The city is in a great state of excitement, owing to these proceedings, and further events are looked for with intense solicitude.

Nine o'clock.—A. M.—The New York Zouaves, Fourteenth and Sixty-ninth New York and New Jersey Regiments held Alexandria, while Arlington Heights are occupied by several other regiments.

The entrance into Alexandria was attended by an event which has cast the deepest gloom over this community. Col. Ellsworth, who had hauled down the Secession flag from the Marshall House, was soon after shot by a concealed foe. His dead body has been brought over to the Navy Yard.

The accounts from Alexandria are somewhat confused, but there is no doubt of the fact that a man named Jackson, who shot Col. Ellsworth, was instantly put to death, some say by both bullets and the bayonet.

When the Federal troops reached Alexandria, the Virginia troops fired at them and fled. Visitors to that city say that the scenes were intensely exciting. The U. S. vessels were in the meantime before Alexandria.

LATER NEWS.

The Pittsburgh papers of Monday morning furnish us with a report from Washington dated on Sunday 25th, stating that Gen. Butler had captured the battery at Sewall's Point, with a loss of 84 killed and wounded, whilst the enemy's loss was from 200 to 300 killed and wounded, and 600 prisoners.

Doubts are thrown upon this report by the arrival of the steamer John A. Warner at Wilmington, Del., having left Fortress Monroe on Saturday morning.—The Captain entirely discredits the report of a second attack on Sewall's Point.

The following is the official report of the action at Sewall's Point on Sunday the 19th inst.:

United States Steamer Star, May 19th, 1861. Flag Officer S. H. Stringham, Commander of the Home Squadron.—From the time I reported to you yesterday, I kept a strict watch on the movements of the enemy in and about the Sewall's Point Battery. Several noises were heard during the night, but not distinct enough for me to trace them. At half past 5 P. M., I heard distinct blows, as if from an axe securing timber platforms for gun carriages inside of two embrasures, and immediately I ordered a shot to be fired over them. The rebels immediately hoisted a white flag, with some design on it, and fired a shot that cut the fore spencer guys near the gaff. I immediately went to quarters and returned their fire, which was continued by them. I expended fifteen round of grape, ten twelve inch shot, thirty two ten inch shell, ten shell for thirty two pounders, and forty five thirty two pound shot—making a total of one hundred and fourteen shots, which I think do some execution among the rebels. I only desisted for want of ammunition, having only five eight pound charges remaining for the pivot gun. I regret that the want of ammunition compelled me to retire, as I am satisfied I could have silenced the battery in a short time.

The battery is masked, thirteen embrasures having been erected behind a sand bank. The rebels had three rifled cannons, and fired several volleys of Minie balls, which struck the ship. The ship was struck five times by the rifled cannon shot in the hull and upper works. The damage can be repaired by ourselves.

I herewith enclose the report of the medical officer of this ship, by which you will perceive that two men were slightly wounded during the action.

The facts respecting the killing of Col. Ellsworth are nearly as stated above. It appears that he in company with two privates, ascended to the top of the Marshall House, took down the secession flag, wrapped himself in it, and whilst descending the stairs was met by Jackson, the proprietor of the house, with a double-barrelled gun, with which he fired, shooting Ellsworth through the heart. Jackson was immediately shot and bayoneted by one of the privates, and would have been cut to pieces had it not been for the interpositions of Jackson's wife.

The remains of Ellsworth were brought to Washington and laid in state at the Navy Yard afterwards taken to the Presidential Mansion. He was a native of the State of New York, but more recently from Chicago—about 24 years of age.

The rumors respecting the movements of the government troops are very conflicting; but it seems quite evident that an advance into Virginia has been or is about to be made both from Washington and Fortress Monroe.

THE LATEST NEWS.

By last night's mail we received the Pittsburgh Dispatch of yesterday morning fully contradicting the reported engagements on borders of the Chesapeake, such as the taking of Norfolk, Sewall's Point &c. There has been no advance of Government troops at any point since the taking of Alexandria.

The Dispatch furnishes some important intelligence from Wheeling, to the effect that a large force of Virginians were marching on Wheeling from the direction of Harper's Ferry, that several scouts had been killed, that several railroad bridges destroyed, and that a force of Government troops from Western Virginia and Ohio had left Wheeling to meet them, &c., &c.

"Our Andy"—Trouble at Harrisburg. Gov. Curtin's Attorney General, has resigned. The Harrisburg Telegraph of the 24th inst., has the following letter:

For reasons which appear to my self-respect cannot consent to continue any longer in connection with your Administration.

In making this announcement the Pittsburgh Dispatch of the 25th—the leading Republican paper of the West—says "Gov. Andrew G. Curtin's Administration is rapidly exhibiting its weakness, and sinking to infamy." In speaking of Mr. Purviance's letter the Dispatch adds:

"That is short, sharp and pithy enough to bring a blush to the Governor's cheek, if he is a sensible man; and this is but the beginning. We warn every sound-minded citizen in the State of the danger of supporting a man who will make things worse for them, if they quit at all, let them tell the whole truth."

We learn from the Philadelphia Inquirer that the Grand Jury of the United States District Court, sitting in that city last week, proceeded to investigate the charges against the State Robber. After examining a number of witnesses, the District Attorney was fully convinced, by Dr. R. K. Smith, the celebrated Alto House Physician, and some other financiers of this class, that their proceedings were illegal. Thus investigation is added for the present.

It is reported that the same gentlemen who were engaged in rifling the State out of \$50,000 for furnishing uniforms and beef for the volunteers, have now obtained a contract for rifling all the old muskets belonging to the State. We are sure they will do this job as well as they have done the former.

THE HOME GUARD will meet for drill on Friday evening at 7 o'clock. All those wishing to uniform will please attend.

EX PRESIDENT PIERCE ON THE WAR.—The Boston Post publishes a letter from the President Pierce, which concludes as follows: "The very idea of dismemberment of the Union has always been to me one of the most terrible significances. Still if it holds a place in the inevitable march of time—the noble fabric must totter to its fall—there is, I humbly hope, no inexorable necessity that its ruins be stained with gore. If our fathers were mistaken, and time has developed in our system, and the madness of their sons has planted there the germ of an irrepressible conflict which forbids us longer to live together in peace, then in peace and of just terms let us separate. Fearful will be the responsibility of those who would cast the last element of human weakness—the arms for fratricidal slaughter—into the general chaos. The wisdom of man fail—may God in mercy guide us."

ACCIDENT.—On Monday last a man named Andrew Heckthorn, formerly of Lawrence county, met with an accident which caused his death in a few hours. He was engaged upon Summerville's saw mill in Eldred township, and while attempting to adjust a band on one of the wheels, his foot was caught in the pitman and drawn in until his leg was completely smashed and broken to the thigh. Drs. Hitchcock and Allison were sent for, who amputated the leg, but the unfortunate man died in a few minutes afterward. The deceased was a widower but leaves a family.—Brookville Jeffersonian.

RECRUITS WANTED. Ten able bodied young men (single preferred) who are willing, to serve their country are wanted immediately to fill up the ranks of the WASHINGTON CADETS now encamped at Harrisburg, under the command of Capt. J. J. Lorain. The Company is accepted for the State service, arrangements will be made here to send them down. Apply immediately to Clearfield, May 29, 1861. W. W. BETTS.

MARRIED.—On the 16th inst., by Rev. M. Galloway, at the residence of John McHenry in Jordan township, Mr. COLEMAN and Miss MATILDA HAGERTY.

On 20th inst., by R. Shaw, Esq., Mr. JAMES CREECH to Mrs. ANNE KLEBER of Jefferson co.

On 21st instant, by Rev. John A. Nuner, Mr. CHRISTIAN BROWN to Miss NANCY J. EISENMAN of Clearfield county.

On the 18th inst., by Rev. S. Cook Vermon, Mr. JOHN W. PATELY to Miss MARY MATILDA TAYLOR, all of Brady township.

DIED.—In this place on Thursday last, Mrs. CATHERINE, wife of Jacob Moore, aged about 72 years.