

Clearfield Republican.

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PRINCIPLES, not MEN.

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NEW SERIES—VOL. II.—NO 23.

Select Poetry.

WHY CAN'T I HAVE A BEAU?

O dear! O dear! there is just one thing
I'd truly love to know—
Why can't I have like other girls,
A young and handsome beau?

There's Nellie Jones, and Nattie Smith,
And Frecled Susie Gray,
A trio like the Gorgon Maids,
Yet each one has a beau!

But here's poor me, as fair a flower
As ever chance to blow—
My winning voice and sweet beguiles
All fail to catch a beau!

I dress as neat and smile as sweet
As any girl I know,
Yet, as I live, I do believe!
I'll never get a beau!

I'm always found, in best attire,
Wherever guits may go,
Yet not one chap in all the lot
Asks me to be his beau!

Confound such men, such silly dolls—
How very dull and low,
To stand and look, to grin and squint—
Aid to be a beau!

Just like to me, ye gawky clowns,
Now don't you fully know,
That you should be, each one of you,
Some fair young lady's beau?

Then brush your teeth, and oil your hair,
And turn to be a civil man—
A gay and gallant beau?

The Reign of Terror in John Adams' Administration.

THE ALIEN AND SEDITION LAWS.

THE LESSONS OF HISTORY.

[Continued.]

Number III.

THE SEDITION LAW.

These were the famous "Alien Laws" of John Adams' Administration. But it required the "Sedition Law" to reach *namely* the Democratic, and thus to secure the Administration from all opposition, and also permanent possession of power and office and emolument.

On the 14th of July, 1798, it was enacted that if any persons unlawfully conspired to oppose "any measure" of the United States to prevent any public officer from executing his trust, or advised or attempted to procure any insurrection, riot, unlawful assembly, or combination, whether such conspiracy, threatening counsel, advice, or attempt should have the proposed effect or not, they should be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on conviction punished by a fine not exceeding \$5000, and by imprisonment during a term of not less than six months nor exceeding five years; and further, at the discretion of the court, might be held to find sureties for good behavior in such sum, and for such time as the court might direct.

The second section of this act we present entire as a legal, political, and constitutional curiosity:

Sec. 2. That if any person shall write, print, utter, or publish, or shall cause or procure to be written, printed, uttered, or published, or shall knowingly and willingly assist or aid in writing, printing, uttering, or publishing any false, scandalous, and malicious writing or writings against the Government of the United States, or either House of the Congress of the United States, or the President of the United States, with intent to defame the said Government, or either House of said Congress, or the said President; or to bring them or either of them into contempt or disrepute, or to excite against them or either of them, the hatred of the good people of the United States, or to stir up sedition within the United States, or to excite any unlawful combinations therein, for opposing or resisting any law of the United States, or any act of the President of the United States, done in pursuance of any such law, or of the powers in him vested by the Constitution of the United States; or to resist, oppose, or defeat any such law or act; or to aid, encourage, or abet any hostile designs of any foreign nation against the United States, their people, or Government, then such persons, being thereof convicted by any court having jurisdiction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$2000, and by imprisonment not exceeding two years.

It was in opposing these infamous acts that Edward Livingston, of New York, made his great speech, on the 21st of June, 1798.

"Away," said he, "with that liberty which hangs on chance! He would disdain to enjoy the liberty which depended upon the will of one man, and should be ashamed of any man that would consent thus to hold it.

"Should the evil proceed no further than the execution of the present law, what a fearful picture will our country present! The system of espionage being thus established, the country will swarm with informers, spies, ratlers, and all that odious reptile tribe that breed in the sunshine of despotic power, that suck the blood of the unfortunate, and creep into the bosom of sleeping innocence, only to awake it with a burning wound. The hours of the most unsuspecting confidence, the intimacies of friendship, or the recesses of domestic retirement afford no security. The companion whom you most trust, the friend in whom you most confide, the domestic who waits in your chamber, are all tempted to betray your imprudence or unguarded follies; to misrepresent your words, to convey them, distorted by calumny to the secret tribunal where jealousy presides—where fear officiates as an accuser, and suspicion is the only evidence that is heard.

"Let no gentlemen flatter themselves that the fervor of the moment can make the people insensible to these aggressions. The people of America, sirs, though watchful against foreign aggression, and not careless of domestic encroachments, they are as jealous, sirs, of their liberties at home as of the power add prosperity of their country abroad; they will awake to a sense of their danger. Do not let us flatter ourselves, then, that the measures will be unobserved or disregarded. Do not let us be bold, sirs, that we excite fervor against foreign aggression only to establish tyranny at home; that like the arch traitor, we cry 'Hail Columbus' at the moment we are betraying her to destruction; that we sing out 'Happy land,' when we are plunging it in ruin or disgrace; and that we are absurd enough to call ourselves 'free and enlightened,' while we advocate principles that would have disgraced the age of Gothic barbarity, and established a code, compared to which, the ordeal is wise, and the trial by battle is merciful and just."

And yet for this brave defense of public liberty, and of freedom of speech and of the press, against the Sedition Laws, Livingston was ridiculed and scoffed at in the House, and denounced by the Federal "War Hawks," as Mr. Jefferson termed them, all over the country as a Jacobin and "traitor!" But 'time, the avenger' has long since made all right.

The penalties of the Sedition Law could be readily judged to extend to any pithily written or spoken animadversion on the political measures of Government; and we shall soon see whether any of the powers with which it armed the President were left dormant in practice.

Some of the dominant party in Congress appear to have been inflamed to the verge of insanity, at this period, by wild tales trumpeted through the newspapers, of threatened invasions, of the "Cannibal's Progress," of "United Irishmen," and of conspiracies between the Democrats and French to overthrow our Government, which Dr. Logan had gone to France at Jefferson's request, to mature and set in operation.

On the 26th of June, 1798, Lloyd, of Maryland, had obtained leave to bring into the Senate "a bill to define more particularly the crime of treason and punish the crime of sedition." It immediately passed a second reading by a vote of fourteen to eight. This bill provided for punishing by fine and imprisonment all who by writing or speaking should attempt to justify the hostile conduct of the French, or should utter anything tending to induce a belief that the Government of the United States, or any of its officers, were influenced by motives hostile to the Constitution, or to the liberties or happiness of the people!

Such were the principles and measures of what in two years, and ever since, was and has been hated, and denounced, and execrated everywhere as the "Black Cockade Federalism." And yet, at the time, to oppose them was to be a "Jacobin" and a "traitor," and was almost worth a man's life!

Number IV.

PERSECUTION UNDER THE SEDITION LAW.

The Sedition Law proved something besides a scarecrow. We will bring together a few instances of trials under it during Mr. Adams' Administration. Matthew Lyon, a member of Congress, was selected as the first victim. He was an Irishman by birth—a rough, energetic man, who did not mince phrases, and an extreme Democrat. He was indicted for declaring, in a letter published in a Vermont paper, that with the Federal Executive every consideration of the public welfare was swallowed up in a continual grasp for power, and unbounded thirst for ridiculous pomp, foolish adulation, and selfish avarice. In regard to the "Fast Day"—for the Federalists sanctified all their outrages upon liberty and the Constitution by a fast day he said that the "sacred name of religion" had been used as a state engine to make mankind hate and persecute each other. He was charged also with reading and commenting on "a Democratic meeting, during the congressional canvass, a private letter of Joel Barlow, written from France, says that he was astonished that the answer of the House of Representatives to the President's speech had not been an order to send him to the madhouse."—This was his offence: a seditious libel tending to bring the President and his Cabinet into disrepute! And for this he was tried before Judge Patterson of the Supreme Court. They found him guilty, and the Judge, after a severe reprimand, sentenced him to four months imprisonment and a fine of \$1000. A petition, signed by several thousand persons, was sent to the President, asking Lyon's release from a narrow, uncomfortable, and it was alleged, filthy cell; but Mr. Adams refused, unless the prisoner signed the petition, saying penitence before pardon. Lyon declined to sign and remained in prison. On the 4th of July, 1840, forty-one years afterwards, Congress refunded to Lyon's heirs the \$1,000, with interest from February, 1799.

But while in prison his friends made up a lottery scheme of his property to raise the amount of the fine; but seditious matter, calculated to bring the Administration into disrepute, was found in the plan as published, and the printer was also convicted under the Sedition Law, fined \$200, and imprisoned two months!—But THE PEOPLE resented all these things, and while Lyon was lying in jail under his sentence, he was re-elected to Congress by a triumphant majority, a significant hint of the popular judgment of a law which would not permit a candidate for Congress, in canvassing his district, to speak of the political conduct of the President—which dragged a representative of the people in the highest legislative tribunal of the nation before a judicial appoint-

ment of the President to be there browbeaten, lectured, tried as a felon, for political language addressed to his constituents.

Charles Holt, another victim, publisher of the *Free*, printed at New London, Conn., was found guilty of detaining the President and discouraging enlistments in the army, and sentenced to three months imprisonment and a fine of \$200.

Thomas Cooper the friend and associate of Dr. Priestly, and afterwards so distinguished in the United States, was tried for charging the President with unbecoming and unnecessary violence in his official communications, calculated, it was asserted, to justly provoke war; for bringing upon the country in time of peace the expenses of a permanent navy, and threatening it with that of an army; for interfering in the case of Jonathan Robins, a native impressed citizen of the United States, to deliver him over to a British Court Martial for trial, "an interference," Cooper alleged, "without precedent, against law and against mercy"—an act which the king of Great Britain would have shrunk from, &c. Cooper was found guilty, and Judge Chase sentenced him to six months imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$400—The prosecution had been directly instigated by President Adams himself. In a letter to Timothy Pickering, his Secretary of State, (IX Adams' works, 13,) he says: "A manner, a more artful, or a more malicious libel has not appeared. As far as it alludes to me, I despise it; but I have no doubt it is a libel against the whole government, and as such ought to be prosecuted."

James T. Callender was tried for a libel on the president. His counsel raised the question of the constitutionality of the law; but Judge Chase refused to hear them, treating them with the most arbitrary rudeness. They threw up their briefs and left the court. The defendant was sentenced to nine months imprisonment, and to pay a fine of two hundred dollars.

"Mr. Baldwin, of New Jersey," says Hammond, in his political history of New York, "was indicted, tried, convicted, under the sedition law for the following offence:—Mr. Adams, on his return from the seat of Government, passed through Newark; some cannon were discharged in compliment to him while passing through that village; Mr. Baldwin, who, it would appear was rather a low bred man, said he wished the wadding discharged from the cannon had lodged in the President's chest."

For this he was fined one hundred dollars.

Judge Jared Peck, a Senator in the Legislature of New York, a man of most exemplary personal character, had the audacity to offer to his neighbors for their signatures, a petition to Congress for the repeal of the Alien and Sedition Laws, in which the odious features of the law were severely handled. Complaint was made to Harrison, U. S. District Attorney at N. York; a grand jury was empaneled who found a bill of indictment, (grand juries are convenient things in New York sometimes,) and Peck was arrested in the midst of his family and taken to the city. The fearless victim, who doubt not, at every stopping place, after his usual customary vehement political appeals, before the assembled multitudes, Mr. Hammond says:—

"A hundred missionaries in the cause of Democracy, stationed between New York and Cooperstown, could not have done so much for the Democratic cause as the journey of Judge Peck, as a prisoner, from Utica to the Capitol of the State. It was nothing less than the public exhibition of a suffering martyr for the freedom of speech and the press, and the right of petitioning, to the view of the citizens of the various places through which the Marshal traveled with his prisoner."

Another of the victims, Wm. Duane, editor of that famous Democratic paper, the *Aurora*, published at Philadelphia, attracted the especial vengeance of John Adams. In a letter to Pickering, his Secretary of State, dated July 24, 1799, Mr. Adams wrote:—"There is in the *Aurora* of this city, an uninterrupted stream of slander of the American government, (meaning his Administration.) I shall give it to Mr. Rawle, (U. S. District Attorney,) and if he thinks it libelous, desire him to prosecute the editor." In reply to this Mr. Pickering wrote on the 1st of August, 1799:—"If Mr. Rawle does not think this paper libelous, he is not fit for his office; and if he does not prosecute it he will not do his duty. The matchless effrontery of this Duane merits the execration of the alien law, also. I am very willing to try its strength upon him."—[IX Adams' Works, p. 35.]

As to the number of convictions under the law, Mr. Randall says: "It has been said that the victims of the Sedition Law were but few. We do not know the number. They were assuredly few compared with the whole number of our population, but they were numerous enough to show that a free criticism of the acts of the Government, in any class of persons, was uttered by the press or in conversation at the peril of property and personal liberty. They were numerous enough to give our Government, practically, all that power over the people in political affairs which had been exercised by the highest Tory Administration over the people of England during the long reign of George III., and when the deadly struggle with republican France had produced a reactionary feeling against liberalism that was ready to sanction almost any infringement on personal liberty. England at the present day would not tolerate any approach to those attacks on parliamentary privilege and on the freedom of the press and of speech, which were made by the American Sedition Law. The discreet, virtuous, and able Prince who now sits on the

throne of England, would soon to maintain Government measures, or to protect the Administration from censure, by an analogous action on the part of the legal tribunal of her realm."

And yet the opponents of the present Administration would be rejoiced if the instruments of arbitrary power in 1861 would content themselves with resorting to the judicial tribunals of the land, instead of imitating the arbitrary rule of oriental despotism. Mr. Randall adds:

"And when we look at the cases and decisions under our Sedition Law of 1798, we cannot fail to become at once convinced that its aim and intent was not to prevent or punish real sedition—actual open or secret machinations against our institutions and laws. Its manifest object was to shield the Federal Government from damaging censure—to arm it with power to put down opposition: in a word, to confer on it authority during its shorter personal tenure, about equivalent to that then possessed and exercised in political affairs by the Government of Great Britain over the British realm."

And yet the attempt utterly failed. Before this reckless and infatuated policy, the reaction came. Adams' Administration went down, his party perished, and its name and its principles and its measures have now been hated and execrated for more than half a century. Courage, courage, Democrats of '61. Wait a little. Stand firm.—[Dayton (Ohio) Empire.]

Singular Career of Gen. Schoepff.

A Frankfort, Kentucky, correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette says:

Just now when all eyes are turned to Somerset and Schoepff's brigade, it may be interesting to supply some particulars in the career of the General who is leading our forces there, and whose skillful generalship alone we can rely on for success against the overwhelming odds.

It is one of the mortifying humiliations, of which the war is bringing so many to the rebels, that the aristocratic Tennessee Congressman, who commands the rebel army, has been once ignominiously defeated by, and is now again opposed to, a late New York hotel porter.

When Gen. Schoepff came to this country he was without means. Not a ring better offering, he asked and procured the situation of porter in one of the leading New York hotels, and many a lady who reads the Gazette this morning has had her trunk carried up and down stairs by the present brigadier-general, whose second victory we are hourly expecting the wires to flash over the country. After a time he went to Washington, where he continued as porter in one of the hotels, until his envying politeness and industry brought him under the notice of Mr. Holt. Pleased with his appearance and determined to see whether he would rise if he had a chance, Mr. Holt gave him a situation in the Patent Office. At first his duties were very humble—carrying bundles, arranging wood, and the like; but he was gradually tried on more important labors, and it was still found that whatever he done was well done. A position was then arranged for him more suitable to his newly discovered abilities.

Mr. Holt continued to take great interest in him, and missed no opportunity for his advancement. When he was transferred to the War Department he took Schoepff with him. An important survey in Virginia changed to be needed, and Schoepff was entrusted with it. This brought him under the eye of Gen. Scott, and his military education and acquirements were for the first time brought to light. Thereupon his rise was sure. He continued to be employed on important business in the War Department till educated officers began to be demanded for our volunteers, when the New York hotel porter was appointed brigadier-general, and sent to protect the state of his benefactor from invasion. Mr. Holt has already the proud satisfaction of knowing that the man he took from hotel drudgery in Washington, won Wild Cat; let us hope it may speedily be added that the same leader has held Somerset.

If the abolitionists should succeed in their endeavors to make our present struggle a war of emancipation, the loyal people in certain localities who are now fighting harder, riskier and suffering more in the cause of the Union than those of any other section, would be unjustly and unconstitutionally and unjustly robbed of over five hundred and ninety thousand slaves, valued at the lowest estimate at upwards of two hundred and ninety-five millions of dollars. These portions of the Union to which we refer contain, according to the census of 1860, the following number of slaves:

Missouri,	115,619
Kentucky,	225,490
Maryland,	85,372
Middle Tennessee,	23,000
Western Virginia,	60,723
Eastern Shore Virginia,	8,635
Delaware,	1,805
Total,	590,654

A Puzzle.

T hey t eil me a M i s N d som eye T.
A N d a L I F h e h d e s s A y:
D o l o O k a t h i m, t h e d e t o l d M a N.
G o t w s Y o U N G r e v E R Y d A y,
a n d h i e n e a C h i r I e n d s s k s: 'A t y o u r a g e.
H o w c a n y o u f r o e f f r o M I L L s ?
I a l w a Y s a n s w e R: 'I m Y Y o u t h I p a i d m y r i n T e R S B I L l !'

RETURNED.—General Scott's coachman, whose capture by the Confederates after the battle of Bull Run was believed to have been with his own consent, has returned among the exchanged prisoners. He says that he made every effort to escape, and did escape once, but was recaptured.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

We condense, from our exchanges, the following items of news from the South:

The Beauregard Controversy in Congress.—We learn (says the Richmond Examiner) that there has been a sharp and prolonged controversy in secret session of Congress on the topic of Gen. Beauregard's report of the battle of Manassas. It will be recollect that a portion of this report was displeasing to President Davis, who, we now learn, sent the document into Congress, accompanied by comments of his own on some of its preliminary passages. The order eventually taken by Congress was to have the document published, after expurgating the preliminary portion of it, and also the comments of the President thereon. We learn that a number of members urged the publication of the entire report, with the President's message, on the ground that injustice was done to Gen. Beauregard in publishing as his report what was not really his report, and for the purpose of convincing the public that the controversy, as shown in the papers, so far from being a serious one, was of the most trivial description.

The Loss in the Sacramento Fight.—The Bowling Green (Ky.) correspondent of the New Orleans Picayune, under date of Jan. 3, says:

Rev. Mr. McCormick, of Owensburg, a gentleman of high character, arrived here last night, and reports that he was at Romney on Saturday last at the time of the cavalry fight at Sacramento, Ky., when the enemy returned in discomfiture to that place, and says their loss was more than one hundred killed and wounded, and that many deserted from them after the engagement. Ten of their wounded had died in Romney up to Saturday evening when he left there.

Southern version of the Fight in Kentucky.—The Norfolk Day Book has the following dispatch:

Lynchburg, Jan. 15.—Intelligence has just been received here by the Tennessee train of a battle which took place a few miles beyond Prestonsburg, Johnson co., Ky., between Gen. Humphrey Marshall, with 3,500 men, and the Federals, numbering 8,000. Gen. Marshall was retreating when he was attacked. The enemy came upon him while in a narrow gorge. The engagement is reported to have been one of the most desperate that has taken place during the war.

Col. Moore's Regiment charged the enemy, a hand-to-hand conflict ensued, which lasted half an hour. The Federals fought gallantly, but finally broke and ran in full run style.

Marshall's force, being exhausted and so much smaller than the enemy, fell back to Prestonsburg. The Confederate loss is 25 killed and 15 wounded. The enemy lost over 200.

The information was brought to Abingdon by participants in the battle.

Affairs at Richmond, Va.—The Examiner says: Real estate, in the last four weeks, has advanced to war prices, and the tendency is still upward. Holders are rushing it into market at a rate commensurate with the supposed demand. They seem to be anticipating a time when eagles will gladden in every holder's pocket. Boarding houses and hotels are doing a thriving and prosperous business. Accommodations for strangers in the city are very limited. If Richmond is to continue the capital of the Southern Confederacy, a sensation will be created in the building world, for houses must be had. A number of houses on Broad street are unoccupied, and some of these might be converted into first-class boarding-houses.

The several hotels were crowded last night, the several lines of travel having brought more than their usual quantity of the travelling public thither.

Important Arrival.—The Houston Telegraph of the 1st instant learns from good authority that a steamer has arrived in a Texas port within the past week, under British colors, bringing 45 tons cannon powder, a large amount of rifle powder, 700,000 army caps, 5,000 cannon primers, and a considerable amount of coffee, dry goods, bagging, rope, &c.

Occupation of Romney.—By way of confirming the reports in relation to the evacuation of Romney by the enemy, says the Richmond Dispatch, and its occupation by our troops, we may state that a letter was received from the Valley of Virginia last evening, which says: "Gen. Jackson has taken Romney without a shot."

Western Virginia.—The joint resolutions submitted a few days since in the Virginia Senate by Mr. Tate, in relation to the reclamation of Western and Northwestern Virginia were taken up and unanimously adopted. The resolutions declare that in no event will the State of Virginia submit to or consent to the loss of a "foot of her soil," etc., and are designed to reassure and encourage the loyal people of the invaded sections. On motion of Mr. Finney, of Accomac, the preamble was amended by striking out the specific locality, and made to include all the invaded counties.

The Hancock and Romney affairs.—The Richmond Examiner of the 9th says:—The movement of Gen. Jackson toward Romney and the northwest has at length taken place. It was projected and the column organized two months ago, but delayed until lately by that delusion which prevailed with the government and the people of the South, that the enemy were to make a general advance of their troops, and risk a great battle this winter. Hence the troops under Jackson were placed at Winchester, where they could be conveniently used, either in an engagement with McClellan or on the original aggressive intention. Time having expired the notion of a decisive battle at Manassas during the winter, Gen. Jackson has thus discontinued his operations. While we do not choose to refer to them further than to state that they are aggressive, we cannot help noticing that fact.

THE WAR NEWS.

Particulars of the Battle in Kentucky.

Lynchburg, Jan. 21.—Dispatches received at headquarters relative to the battle say that it took place, as already stated, on Sunday morning, and that Gen. Beauregard continued his pursuit of the routed enemy till night. Our forces followed hotly after the rebels, who ran before them in the wildest confusion, like flocks of frightened sheep, close up to their entrenchments, on the north branch of the river. In front of these they hid all night, expecting to storm the works in the morning, but with the aid of the boats and barges the enemy managed to get across the river before daylight.

They left behind all their artillery and ammunition, horses, tents, and eighty wagons loaded with quartermasters' stores and medical stores, all of which fell into our hands.

Our troops took possession of the entrenchments early in the morning. After reaching the opposite side of the river the rebels dispersed in every direction.

Two hundred dead and wounded were picked up on the field.

Zollikofer was found in a wagon, mortally wounded.

Our loss is not definitely ascertained, but must have been considerable. A surgeon in the Tenth Indiana Regiment telegraphs that his regiment had lost seventy in killed and wounded.

Gen. Thomas' division embraces some of the best regiments in this department. As far as can be ascertained the Ninth Ohio, Tenth Indiana, Second Minnesota, Eighteenth Regulars, and the Fourth and Tenth Kentucky, were among those engaged.

Col. Mansion's brigade, including the Tenth Indiana, Eighteenth Regulars and some of the Kentucky regiments, commanded Gen. Thomas during Saturday night. They made a forced march of 25 miles through heavy roads, and managed to arrive three hours before the commencement of the fight, in which they took a glorious part, in spite of their fatigue.

The tenor of all the official despatches goes to show that the affair resulted in the most brilliant victory of the war.

No prominent officers are said to be killed on our side.

Gen. Schoepff was utterly unable to cut off the retreat of the enemy owing to the bluddy character of the country and the obstruction of the roads by felled timber.

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

Battle near Ironton—Federal Defeat—Heavy loss on both Sides.

[From the St. Louis Democrat (rep.) Jan. 17.]
Information of reliable character reached this city last night to the effect that yesterday a large body of rebels, numbering about 6,000 men, in command of Jeff Thompson advanced upon a Federal detachment of 800 troops under Col. Mills, at a distance of about 23 miles from Ironton, and gave them battle. A desperate conflict ensued, resulting in the loss of many killed and wounded on both sides.

The Federal, overpowered by numbers, had, at latest accounts, fallen back a distance of eight miles, leaving a quantity of baggage in the hands of the enemy, and were still retreating toward Pilot Knob.

At Pilot Knob considerable alarm existed, and Colonel Carlin was making every preparation for the impending struggle at that point. An attack was thought to be inevitable last night, but will not probably take place until to-day.

The Wisconsin regiment which left here Wednesday arrived safely at Ironton yesterday. A battery of the first Missouri Light Artillery, under command of Maj. Schofield, started from the city yesterday, and will probably reach Pilot Knob this morning.

This news came to us in a manner which leaves no doubt of its general correctness. We have had no information of so large a body of Federal troops being thus routed, as is stated in this report, toward the supposed locality of Jeff. Thompson, and we think in that respect there may be some exaggeration.

The arrival of the Eighth Wisconsin will make the force at the Knob a little over three thousand. They have the advantage of some heavy guns and strong position; but, on the other hand, the troops, it will be remembered, are fresh, and not well disciplined. If Major Schofield, and his battery are permitted to pass through without detention we shall rely greatly upon the assistance which he will be able to render the officer in command, Col. Carlin.

From General Banks' Command.
FREDERICK, Jan. 20.—The latest intelligence from Western Virginia is to the effect that Jackson is near Romney, and partially occupies the town, while Gen. Lander has fallen back a few miles towards Cumberland. There has been no action. Gen. Williams' brigade remains at Hancock.

Refugees from Martinsburg bring intelligence that there are but 70 militia in that town under Nadenbousch, and these are anxious to throw down their arms and join the Union forces. It seems to be the general sentiment throughout that region. Jackson was near Romney with 17,000 men, and a few more, principally mounted militia, were at Duffield's Station, Bloomer's Furnace and Kearneyville Cross Roads. At Winchester there were but 200 militia.

An officer in the Twelfth Indiana has received a letter from Capt. Williams, recently captured opposite Dan No. 4. He is in prison at Richmond and writes for assistance. He says the prisoners have but little to eat, and are literally eaten up with vermin.