



CLEARFIELD, PA.

Wednesday Morning, March 4th, 1863.

The Soldiers in favor of a "Vigorous Prosecution of Peace."

The Abolition papers are much in the habit of threatening with the vengeance of the brave soldiers now in the service every man who offers a sentiment favorable to peace. Any suggestion of "compromise," or cessation of hostilities, is denounced as the blackest of treason, and we are told that all such traitors will be properly attended to as soon as the soldiers return; and even the gallant General Rosecrans is made to say that he who talks of "peace on any terms" is a traitor. If this were true, there would be quite as many traitors, proportionally, in the army as there are out of it. There are many army letters published urging a "vigorous prosecution of the war." But these letters are most generally written by hired correspondents—members of some Brigadier's staff, not to fight, but to get a big pay—or else by persons employed by the Commissary, Quartermasters, or Supply Department, who find that their kind of soldiering pays better than any other thing else they can get at. But go to the front, and real fighting men of the army, and see what they say. Take their private letters—letters written, not for effect, but in which they breathe their real sentiments, and mark the difference. We venture to say that, in nine cases out of ten, they earnestly appeal for a "vigorous prosecution of peace."

We have published several such letters from soldiers from this neighborhood—men who entered the service with no other purpose than that of serving their country as true patriots should. Their language is familiar to our readers, and need not be repeated. But, in order to show that this feeling is universal, we gather the following extracts from soldiers' letters in a single paper—the Wayne County (Ohio) Democrat of the 19th ult.

Capt. J. H. Downing, formerly a leading Republican stump-orator, whose voice was loudest in the denunciation as "traitors" all Democrats who expressed the belief that "this unholty rebellion could never be settled by war," and "no compromise with traitors in arms!" was his constant theme—now writes,

"Oh! tell our friends at home to go to work and settle this unholty rebellion, which can never be settled by war."

The next letter is from "S. Metzler, jr.," dated Jan. 29, 1863, from the Mississippi river. The following is an extract:

"BROTHER AND SISTERS: * * * Alexander has been writing me to give him my views on the negro question, and I will now do so. For my part I am not for freeing the negroes, and I would rather give my bounty money to have them where they are than to see one of them freed. Were it not for the Abolitionists of the North agitating the negro question the war might be settled in a short time, but such people still cry out: 'Free the negro; free the negro,' and that enrages the men of the South. Those men in the South who have had no reason to fight, now have a reason to protect their slaves; and they say that we may kill them all but we can never whip them. They further say that if we succeed in whipping them they will teach their children to fight us.—And now you see there is no honor in fighting such a people; and I say compromise on any possible terms."

The next is from H. G. White, dated "10 miles above Vicksburg, Feb. 1, 1863." He says:

"The soldiers here are willing to agree to any compromise, for the war will have to end in compromise at last. The fighting will never end the war. That is sure. If I were where it was possible I would go home and risk everything. I did not enlist to free the infernal negroes."

The next is from Jacob Reider, dated same place and day, and says:

"We don't care about seeing any more fighting, especially under the present policy. We enlisted to fight to restore the Union, but it looks very much now as though we were fighting to destroy it. I think it has been plainly shown, that we can never conquer the South by force of arms. I believe now as I always did, that the only way to settle this unhappy struggle is by compromise, and the longer we fight the wider will be the breach between the contending parties, and the harder it will be to compromise. * * * Democracy and compromise are all the go here now."

These letters, the editor declares, were all written by soldiers from the neighborhood of Wooster—and all of their authors were Republicans before the war; nor were they written for publication, but as private letters to their friends.

Shall we then be threatened with the vengeance of the soldiers for urging that this war shall be stopped? Are not those who cry for more blood in greater danger?

Mr. Mason, the Confederate Minister at London, is reported as saying, in his speech at the Lord Mayor's recent banquet, "that the day will come—it is not far off—when the relationship between my government, which is now in its infant fortune, and yours, will be one of close and intimate alliance."

In this, says the London Times, Mr. Mason is perhaps a little too fast.

The Constitution the Basis of the Union

That "Union is strength" is a fact too positive to be questioned; and that a strict observance of constitutional rights by those in power, tends to a more "perfect Union" of rulers and people in every nation, no one who has read the histories of the leading nations of the earth, both past and present, can for a moment deny or question. History bears in record of any ruler, let him bear whatever name you choose, that has met with opposition from the masses of the people, who has lived up to the constitution and laws of the land, which by birth or choice he may have been called upon to govern. On the contrary, there are many instances where such departures have caused the depositions of some, and the death of others; whilst a third class have the execrations of the present generation in as great a degree as the one which they trampled upon. We can easily understand the motives which cause a man, whose power is absolute, to try experiments of a desperate character, to deny their subjects rights and privileges which have been granted to them by the laws of the land and the constitution under which they have an existence as a nation—for the love of power is innate with most men, and especially with those who sit in high places—and when the first step is taken in aggression successfully, the next and onward steps are so easily brought about that the extreme point is reached with greater facility than we can imagine without serious reflection. "Facilis descensus averni." A political party in power, with its leaders desirous of carrying out a policy well known to be objectionable to the masses of the people, exercising every means at their command to carry out their peculiar views, regardless of the rights of others under the laws and Constitution, may continue for a time to draw to their support a large portion of the people, and thus agitate and convulse the country, yet so surely as the sun shines, and all the heavenly bodies are governed by certain and unchangeable laws, so will they, eventually, find that deviation from the constitutional track will be visited with condign punishment, for the sober second thought of the people will be soon made apparent in loud condemnation of all the infractions of that instrument which ought to be sacred in their eyes who have sworn to uphold and defend it—as soon as they learn the distance their wanderings have been from the true letter and spirit of the instrument.

When an administration once takes a position, let it be right or wrong, it would appear from experience that they follow the idea to its finality, and to take a step backwards is apparently impossible. How few consider the importance of doing justice in such cases! The old adage, "Fiat justitia et orbem," (Let justice be done though the heavens should fall,) appears to be forgotten, and the cry is "for the Union," whilst the adhesive and coherent part of Union—the Constitution—is forgotten. When the step is once taken it grows to an overpowering height; the prerogative of power becomes a part of the nature of the party introducing the idea; to give up a part is to surrender all that is worth existing for, and would so humiliate them, they think, in the eyes of the world that they utterly refuse to take back one word of the edict issued. To continue in their course is little short of madness.

The American people have too long enjoyed the blessings of constitutional liberty to bear any longer with such evils; and when the day of retribution comes, as come it will, and the people in their might assert their rights, those who have been in error will find that they have lost the love and respect of the people; that their manhood and energy, once lost, is regained, and all that will be left of the prime movers will be a host of evils. Rulers must be oblivious of the teachings of political science and historical experience, as well as deaf to the warnings of modern revolutions. The first demands of a discontented people are generally moderate, and rarely beyond the reasonable concession of a monarch, and if repressed often become dangerous to public tranquility. History is full of cases of governments being destroyed by the obstinacy of rulers, but in vain do we look for an instance where any have been harmed by concessions. Europe now holds crownless kings and rulers—without dominion—in exile—and each of them might have enjoyed his original position had the first faint whispers of reform been listened to. A little concession would have saved the Bourbons in France and Naples; and small reforms would have preserved the Grand Dukes of Tuscany, Parma and Modena, as well as the King of Greece; and if the King of Prussia continues to usurp powers not granted by the constitution of his country we may soon hear that he is added to the list of crownless Kings.

The solemn question every man ought to ask now, is, are we, as a people, on the road to ruin? Has the present Administration made foes out of former friends—enemies of those who, under a change of measures, would have been supporters—and opponents of those who wish for nothing better than to serve the country and the Administration constitutionally?—If these questions are answered affirmatively, then indeed is there a radical wrong which must be corrected. If the Constitution, with its wholesome provisions, is made a dead letter, it must be restored. If the States, in their sovereign capacities, have

been ignored, they must be reinstated and allowed to exercise every right they were entitled to under the original compact. Less than this will not suffice. Armies may be raised—drafts made—conscription laws passed—the country paralyzed in its commercial industry—exorbitant taxes levied, but all this will not restore the Union. Reasoning must take the place of fighting—and fighting cease. If the present Administration accommodates itself to the wishes of the people as expressed in the elections held lately, it will live in their respect, be supported by their strength, and invigorated by their love—and be enabled to support the dignity of the American people against all foes from within and without. But if these friendly admonitions are unheeded, the fate of usurpers in all ages will be their reward.

Passage of the Conscription Bill, and the Annihilation of State Sovereignty.

The Conscription Bill passed the House in nearly the same shape in which it came from the Senate, and has no doubt been signed by the President, and is therefore a law of the land—or as much so as any unconstitutional and revolutionary act of Congress can be. Gen. Patton and Judge Dale both voted in favor of this monstrous outrage upon the States and the people. We shall give the bill, or at least an intelligible portion of it, at as early a day as possible. It provides for the enrollment of all male citizens between the ages of 20 and 45—those between the ages of 20 and 35, and all unmarried men under 45, are to be the first called into service, which, it is said, will be by the 1st of May next. To carry this law into effect, another swarm of office-holders is to be appointed, consisting of Provost Marshals, Deputy Provost Marshals, with their Assistants and Deputies, to be stationed in every neighborhood; in fact it carried in to effect, it will place our country under a more complete military jurisdiction—for the President of the United States is Commander-in-Chief—than that of Austria.

Remember that this is among the first acts of an expiring Congress—a Congress that has been most signally rebuked by the people—for, after to day, their places are filled by a majority of Democrats. But the great question just now is, will the people submit to this radical and revolutionary transformation into a military despotism. We answer that they may, and perhaps should, in those States where this act is sanctioned by the concurrent action of their State Governments; but without such concurrent action on the part of State Governments, NEVER—NEVER.

A GREAT MISTAKE.—It is but seldom that we stop to notice the glaring misrepresentations of newspaper correspondents; but occasionally their assertions are so monstrously false that to correct them may be considered as much an act of charity to the authors as justice to the public who may possibly be thus deceived. For instance, an army correspondent in the Journal of the 13th February, vauntingly asks:

"Was not President Lincoln elected by an overwhelming majority?" And then answers his own question "Yes." To show how greatly mistaken this correspondent is, and how big a lie he would cram down the throats of unthinking readers, we give the result of the last Presidential election, as copied from the Tribune Almanac for 1861.

Table with 2 columns: Candidate and Votes. Douglas, 1,365,976; Breckinridge, 847,953; Bell, 390,621. Total vote for D., B. and B., 2,604,549. Total vote for Lincoln, 1,857,619. Lincoln in a minority of 746,930. South Carolina votes by her Legislature, and is not included in the above vote.—Thus it is clear that, instead of being elected by an "overwhelming majority," Mr. Lincoln is a minority President by at least eight hundred thousand of the popular vote.

A FORMIDABLE HOST.—The petition asking for a "cessation of hostilities, and the appointment of commissioners to a peace convention,"—over which our neighbors of the Journal attempted to raise some smoke in his paper week before last—was sent off a few days ago containing the names of over seven hundred of the good and true Union voters of Clearfield county—and we would just whisper it in our neighbor's ear, that among these names were quite an encouraging number of gentlemen who have heretofore labored faithfully in the ranks of his party!

Nor is this all. There are quite a number of those petitions yet in circulation, and receiving the signatures of the people as fast as the opportunity is presented.

HOME-MADE ARTICLES.—The letters in the last Journal attempting to reply to the "Soldier's letter to Gen. Patton," published in the Republican a few weeks ago.—Soldier's don't write such letters any more; and in order to make the people believe that they do, such letters are manufactured at home by mischievous politicians and sent abroad as coming from the soldiers. The soldiers understand how this war for the Union has been changed to a crusade against slavery, the elevation of the negro, and the degradation of the white man, and as well as the people do, and we defy our traducers to produce a single genuine letter from the rank and file, showing that his feelings have undergone any change. They cannot do it.

THE NEWS.

The Confederate forces are reported as crossing the Rappahannock in considerable force about Fredericksburg, and Stone-wall Jackson is reported as being again in the Valley in the neighborhood of Strasburg. On the 25th, our picket guard near Centreville, was surprised and captured by about 100 rebel soldiers.

We have no reports of active operations on the sea coast of rebellion. Gen. Hunter is having much trouble in his Department by officers refusing to serve with negroes. Gen. Stevenson of Massachusetts—who was recently promoted for bravery in North Carolina—had been attested for saying he "would rather be beaten by rebels than fight with negroes." All the staff officers of Gen. Foster has been ordered out of the department of the South for similar expressions by this same Hunter. The condition of our army under Gen. Banks at New Orleans is represented as quite as bad, and from the same reason—that many officers had resigned and quit the service—that whole regiments threatened to follow the example of their officers, and that a gaudium had been ordered to the vicinity to compel obedience.

The report of the loss of the gunboat Queen of the West—the same that so gallantly ran the gauntlet at Vicksburg a few weeks ago—is confirmed. She had reached the Red River, and had captured a Confederate steamer, and pressed the pilot of the captured steamer to her wheel, under orders to take her to the rebel batteries—which he represented as fifteen miles further up, and rounding a point, the Queen of the West, with her new pilot at his post, found herself immediately under the guns of a fort. It was too late to get ready for action. A shot from the fort penetrated her steam chest, completely disabling her, and she was captured and is now in the hands of the enemy.

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How it was done.—It seems that there is an old building in Pennville—an old school house bought for a mere trifle by one of the neighbors—which has been the usual place for holding meetings. But the other day, when the Democrats of Penn township wanted it to hold a meeting in it, they were refused. It was at once proposed that they would erect a Town Hall for their own use, and money enough to put the building under contract was subscribed instantly, and to which has been since added quite enough to insure its completion and dedication by the next fourth of July. So much for this very idle attempt to prevent a free expression of public sentiment.

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MARRIED.

On the 29th ult by Wm. A. Reed, Rev. Mr. Michael Knapp of Indiana county, to Miss Sophia Bowman of Clearfield county. On the 23d ult. by E. H. Bittsford, Esq., M. G., Roles to Miss Elizabeth Bennet, both of Clearfield county.

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New Advertisements.

FLOUR! FLOUR! DOUBLE EXTRA FAMILY FLOUR for sale at C. W. & A. W. SMITH'S, formerly H. W. SMITH & Co. This flour is made from the best wheat in the West, and we warrant entire satisfaction to parish users.

New Watch and Jewelry Store. J. H. LAUCHLIN, having purchased the interest of his late partner in the going on in his own book in the shop formerly occupied by them on Second street, where he has prepared to keep up his reputation as a complete workman by doing all work entrusted to him on short notice, in the best manner, and on the most reasonable terms. Defying the county, all he asks is a fair trial, and a continuation of the patronage heretofore extended. Look out for the sign of THE OLD FASHIONED WATCH.

WILLIAM A. WALLACE, JOHN G. HALL, WALLACE & HALL, Attorneys at Law. CLEARFIELD, PA.

Watches, Jewelry & Silver-ware. My attention is respectfully invited to my new stock of FINE WATCHES, SILVER WARE, JEWELRY, of every kind and variety of style—coming along all of the newest and most attractive patterns.

Wanted—Two strong men to do general housework. Liberal compensation will be given. Apply to JOSIAH W. SMITH, Clearfield, Pa., Feb. 18, 1863.

A. J. PATTERSON, Attorney at Law, Curzonville, Pa., will attend to all business entrusted to his care. Office opposite the New Methodist Church. Feb. 20, '63.

THE COMMERCIAL LIST AND LETTER-SHEET "PRICE CURRENT" ARE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY. BY STEPHEN N. WINSLOW, No. 422 GOLD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Disolution of Partnership. THE Co Partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned in the mercantile business in the borough of Curzonville, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The books and accounts are directed to be closed with as little delay as possible, of which all persons having unsettled accounts will take notice.

SHERIFF'S SALES. BY virtue of sundry writs of Fieri Facias, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Clearfield county, and to me directed, there will be exposed to PUBLIC SALE, in the Court house in the borough of Clearfield, on Monday the 16th day of March, next, at 10 o'clock P. M., the following described Real Estate, viz:

ALL that certain tract of land situate in Clinton township, Clearfield county, beginning at a maple stump thence east 100 perches more or less to a post, thence south 84 and eight-tenths perches more or less to a hemlock, thence west 100 perches more or less to a hemlock, thence north 84 and eight-tenths perches more or less to place of beginning, bounded by lands of John DeBois, containing 63 acres, more or less, about 28 acres cleared, with log house and log barn, erected thereon. Sealed and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of Jacob Gettel.

ALSO, a certain tract of land situate in Ball township, Clearfield county, beginning at a white pine corner of land of J. Patchin, thence by said lands and other lands of G. L. Reed north 40 degrees west 365 perches to a white pine corner, thence by same land north 50 degrees east 150 perches to a sugar corner, thence by same land and land of John Patchin south 40 degrees east 365 perches to a white pine corner, thence by land of Thomas A. McGhee A. C. Co. and others south 50 degrees west 120 perches to the place of beginning, containing 294 acres and 50 perches, with the usual allowance for roads, &c.—It being composed of parts of three larger tracts of land separated respectively in the names of Nicklin A. Griffin and known as Nos. 5909, 5910 and 5913. Sealed and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of J. B. and James Thomas.

ALSO, a certain tract of land situate in Ball township, Clearfield county, the former of which is 20 by 40 feet, two stories high, engine house 18 by 32 feet, one story high, having a single hole boiler 15 feet long and 34 inches diameter, a sheet-iron chimney 48 feet high, including engine and machinery—the latter is 20 by 30 feet, with circular saw, &c., and land appurtenant.

ALSO, by virtue of sundry writs of Fieri Facias, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Clearfield county, and to me directed, there will be exposed to public sale in the Court house in the borough of Clearfield, on Monday the 16th day of March, next, at 10 o'clock P. M., the following described Real Estate, viz:

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ALSO, a certain tract of land situate in Ball township, Clearfield county, beginning at a white pine corner of land of J. Patchin, thence by said lands and other lands of G. L. Reed north 40 degrees west 365 perches to a white pine corner, thence by same land north 50 degrees east 150 perches to a sugar corner, thence by same land and land of John Patchin south 40 degrees east 365 perches to a white pine corner, thence by land of Thomas A. McGhee A. C. Co. and others south 50 degrees west 120 perches to the place of beginning, containing 294 acres and 50 perches, with the usual allowance for roads, &c.—It being composed of parts of three larger tracts of land separated respectively in the names of Nicklin A. Griffin and known as Nos. 5909, 5910 and 5913. Sealed and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of J. B. and James Thomas.

ALSO, by virtue of sundry writs of Fieri Facias, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Clearfield county, and to me directed, there will be exposed to public sale in the Court house in the borough of Clearfield, on Monday the 16th day of March, next, at 10 o'clock P. M., the following described Real Estate, viz:

ALL that certain tract of land situate in Clinton township, Clearfield county, beginning at a maple stump thence east 100 perches more or less to a post, thence south 84 and eight-tenths perches more or less to a hemlock, thence west 100 perches more or less to a hemlock, thence north 84 and eight-tenths perches more or less to place of beginning, bounded by lands of John DeBois, containing 63 acres, more or less, about 28 acres cleared, with log house and log barn, erected thereon. Sealed and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of Jacob Gettel.

ALSO, a certain tract of land situate in Ball township, Clearfield county, beginning at a white pine corner of land of J. Patchin, thence by said lands and other lands of G. L. Reed north 40 degrees west 365 perches to a white pine corner, thence by same land north 50 degrees east 150 perches to a sugar corner, thence by same land and land of John Patchin south 40 degrees east 365 perches to a white pine corner, thence by land of Thomas A. McGhee A. C. Co. and others south 50 degrees west 120 perches to the place of beginning, containing 294 acres and 50 perches, with the usual allowance for roads, &c.—It being composed of parts of three larger tracts of land separated respectively in the names of Nicklin A. Griffin and known as Nos. 5909, 5910 and 5913. Sealed and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of J. B. and James Thomas.

ALSO, by virtue of sundry writs of Fieri Facias, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Clearfield county, and to me directed, there will be exposed to public sale in the Court house in the borough of Clearfield, on Monday the 16th day of March, next, at 10 o'clock P. M., the following described Real Estate, viz:

ALL that certain tract of land situate in Clinton township, Clearfield county, beginning at a maple stump thence east 100 perches more or less to a post, thence south 84 and eight-tenths perches more or less to a hemlock, thence west 100 perches more or less to a hemlock, thence north 84 and eight-tenths perches more or less to place of beginning, bounded by lands of John DeBois, containing 63 acres, more or less, about 28 acres cleared, with log house and log barn, erected thereon. Sealed and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of Jacob Gettel.

ALSO, a certain tract of land situate in Ball township, Clearfield county, beginning at a white pine corner of land of J. Patchin, thence by said lands and other lands of G. L. Reed north 40 degrees west 365 perches to a white pine corner, thence by same land north 50 degrees east 150 perches to a sugar corner, thence by same land and land of John Patchin south 40 degrees east 365 perches to a white pine corner, thence by land of Thomas A. McGhee A. C. Co. and others south 50 degrees west 120 perches to the place of beginning, containing 294 acres and 50 perches, with the usual allowance for roads, &c.—It being composed of parts of three larger tracts of land separated respectively in the names of Nicklin A. Griffin and known as Nos. 5909, 5910 and 5913. Sealed and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of J. B. and James Thomas.

ALSO, by virtue of sundry writs of Fieri Facias, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Clearfield county, and to me directed, there will be exposed to public sale in the Court house in the borough of Clearfield, on Monday the 16th day of March, next, at 10 o'clock P. M., the following described Real Estate, viz: