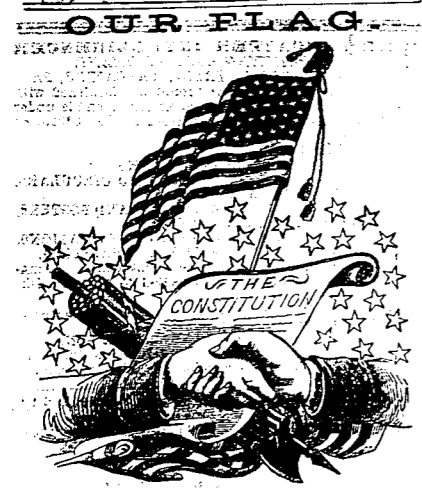


LANCASTER, PA., DECEMBER 17, 1861.
Published weekly, except on Sundays and public holidays.



OUR FLAG
The Royal mail steamer Europa arrived at Halifax on Sunday, having the Queen's messenger on board with dispatches for Lord Lyons, the British Minister.

DEMOCRATIC STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
A meeting of the Democratic State Executive Committee will be held at the Bunker House, Harrisburg, on Wednesday, January 15, 1862, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

TROUBLE WITH ENGLAND
The Royal mail steamer Europa arrived at Halifax on Sunday, having the Queen's messenger on board with dispatches for Lord Lyons, the British Minister.

The London Observer states that the Government has demanded from President Lincoln the restoration of the persons of the Southern envoys, Mason and Slidell, to the British Government, and an apology for the insult offered the British flag.

The Morning Star doubts the allegations of the Observer and Times, or at least thinks them premature.

THE PRESIDENT AND GEN. McCLELLAN
The statement made by Mr. THADDEUS STEVENS, in the Republican caucus at Washington, that Gen. McClellan went to the President and threatened to resign in case Mr. Cameron's report respecting the emancipation and the arming of the slaves, was sent into Congress unmodified, is the occasion of a direct attack upon Gen. McClellan, and an implied censure of the President, by that portion of the Republican press, which is determined to pervert the war for the Union into a crusade against slavery.

AN OUTBURST OF SYMPATHY
Some sixty negroes—and perhaps twice as many whites—are now confined in the Jail of Washington City. Most of the negroes were arrested by the police as escaped "contrabands," and for various offenses against the municipal authorities of the city.

THE PUBLIC DEBT
From the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury—a lengthy synopsis of which we publish in to-day's paper—it will be seen that the public debt was as follows, viz:
July 1, 1860, \$64,769,795.08
July 1, 1861, \$90,867,828.68

CAPTAIN POOR ACQUITTED
Commander Poor, tried for allowing the Sumter to escape from New Orleans, when he was in command of the Brooklyn, blockading that port, was acquitted by the Court, and the finding has been approved by Secretary Wells.

ANOTHER BATTLE
A battle was fought on the 13th inst., in Pocahontas county, Western Virginia, between 750 Union men, under command of Gen. Milroy, and 2000 rebels under command of Gen. Johnson, of Georgia. The rebels were defeated with a loss of 200. The Union loss is about 40.

FIRE AT CHARLESTON
A terrible fire, supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, broke out at Charleston, S. C., on Wednesday night last, and destroyed an immense amount of valuable property—amongst other buildings the well known Mills Hotel and the Catholic Cathedral. The fire continued to rage all day on Thursday.

U. S. SENATOR—HON. GARRETT DAVIS
has been elected U. S. Senator from Kentucky, to fill the seat vacated by the resignation and expulsion of John C. Breckinridge.

ABOLITIONISTS RAMPANT
It seems, says the Police Gazette, as though we were to get rid of the everlasting nigger, but that he is to be disposed of by us morning, noon and night, in such form and manner as our tormentors think best adapted to their malignant purposes.

INDICATIONS OF DANGER
Late advices from Washington lead to the conclusion that there is very great danger impending over the Union. If the extreme men in Congress succeed in their radical designs all hopes of a reconstruction of the Confederacy will have gone perhaps for ever.

GEN. HALLECK SUSTAINED
The first great military victory was gained by General Halleck on Wednesday last, when the resolution offered by Mr. LANSING, of New York, condemning the order of Gen. HALLECK relative to fugitive slaves, was laid on the table, on motion of Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, of Ohio, by a vote of yeas 73, nays 64.

THE EDITOR'S BOOK TABLE
LEWIS GYMNASIUM MONTHLY AND JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL CULTURE—We have received from the Editor, Mr. J. W. Lewis, of New York, the first issue of this interesting and valuable publication.

GEN. McCLELLAN'S PREHENSIBLE
The story, originated by THADDEUS STEVENS that Gen. McClellan had threatened to resign unless the report of the Secretary of War was modified, appears to be without foundation.

GEN. PATTERSON
General Patterson has demanded a Court of Inquiry. The necessary papers were forwarded to the authorities, on November 1st, but no response has been received.

ORDINATION OF BISHOP STEVENS
We learn that the Rev. W. BACON STEVENS, D. D., Assistant Bishop of this diocese, will be consecrated to the Episcopal office on New Year's day, the consent of the canon law number of diocesan thereto, having been obtained, and forwarded to the Presiding Bishop.

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SENATOR HUMBOLDT OF THE CONSTITUTION
The Senator from Illinois, in introducing his bill for the confiscation of rebel property, made a noble appeal for the support of the people.

THE CONVENTED ELECTION CASE
The convicted election case—The convicted election for Prison Inspector and Director of the Court on Saturday, the 7th inst.—was argued on the bench by Chief Justice Chase and the Justices of the Peace who have custody of the ballot boxes of the 1st Election District (Mount Joy), were directed to produce them in Court on yesterday.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN POLICEMAN
Mr. WILLIAM M. GUNTER, for several years Constable of the 1st Election District (Mount Joy), died on Saturday, the 14th inst., of a stroke of apoplexy.

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LOCAL DEPARTMENT
THE FIRST DEATH IN COL. HAMBRIGHT'S REGIMENT—SAMUEL H. CLARK, private in Col. Wm. P. Hambrick's Regiment, died of Cholera at Camp Perry, Virginia, on Saturday, the 14th inst.

LIBERTY WILLIAM L. BEAR—A correspondent at Camp Perry, Virginia, writes in interesting terms of the late death of a volunteer in the 1st Regiment of the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division of the Army of the Potomac.

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THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.
MONDAY, December 9.
Congress resumed its session to-day. Petitions on behalf of the Freedmen were presented to the Committee on Judiciary.

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WAR NEWS
A Battle Fought in Kentucky.
The Gazette's Frankfort Dispatch says that when the stage left Somerset at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, there had been no fighting. The Postmaster writes: "We are expecting a fight about the 20th inst. 13,000 of our effective force is about 5,000."

LETTERS TO-NIGHT EXPRESS APPROBATIONS OF THE RESULTS, should I thought, force General Sobush to an engagement, before General Thomas arrives.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.
MR. CONKLING, of New York, has proposed an act of wholesome and necessary legislation, which is thus described in the telegraphic report of Congressional proceedings:

MR. CONKLING (N. Y.) introduced a bill to subject certain persons to military trial and punishment, who are guilty of offenses against the Government, which is thus described in the telegraphic report of Congressional proceedings:

CONTRACTS.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post intimates that certain contractors, occupying high places in the Government, are beginning to grow nervous in anticipation of certain developments.

THE MESSAGE IN WASHINGTON.—A letter from Washington says: "The universal topic of conversation in this city is the President's Message. Opinions about it differ as widely as do the parties to the quarrel."

THE TABLE TURNING.
We learn that a large number of Republicans, who indulged freely in denouncing Democrats as being secessionists and traitors, have now been bound over for trial at Court.

THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY
are playing a very large game of cribbage. Along the line of their road, twelve miles south of Chicago, they are building eleven miles of iron rails, the capacity of which will be 3,000,000 bushels.

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OFFICIAL VOICE IN NEW YORK.
The Board of Canvassers have concluded the official count of the vote cast at the recent municipal election for Mayor. The count gives Opdyke (Rep.) 1,213 majority over Wood, and 614 over Quaker.