Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1865.

"The printing presses shall be free to every person who undertakes to examine the proceedings of the legislature, or any branch of government; and no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free communication of thought and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of men; and every citizen may freely speak, write and print on any subject; being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. In prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the official conduct of officers, or men in public capacities, or where the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence."

Why the Democratic Press Supports President Johnson and How Far It Will Do So?

Numerous Abolition newspapers, throughout the country, while they give to President Johnson but weak and half-hearted support, attempt to cast reflections upon the press of the Democratic party, because it speaks kindly and hopefully of the new President.—We are not surprised that his course of conduct in regard to the reconstruction of Southern States should give greater satisfaction to the Democratic press than it does to the radicals. It is much more in accordance with Democratic doctrine than with the fanatical creed, and the crude political theories of the radical Abolitionsts. That the radical press should denounce it, while Democratic newspapers everywhere sustain it, is only natural.

Whenever, during the last four years the Democratic press deemed it proper to call public attention to violations of the Constitution of the United States; to disregard of the most ancient and sacred rights of the individual citizen; to gross disregard of well established law; to unnecessary assumptions of arbitrary power by the Executive; to shameless disregard of civil law by those who were dressed in a little brief authority; to the gigantic frauds of corrupt officials, and the wholesale plundering of the public treasury, which has done so much to swell the vast proportions of our enormous national debt; or to any other of the gross abuses and outrages which have saddened the heart of the true patriot, and made him tremble for the fate of free institutions—whenever the Democratic press, in the exercises of the sacred right of free speech, has dared to allude to any of these things, it was denounced as disloyal. Systematic attempts were made by those in authority to suppress the right of a free discussion of public measures; and, when this failed, mob violence was encouraged. But, through all, and despite of all such opposition, the Democratic press spoke out plainly; denouncing what it regarded as wrong in plain terms of honest and patriotic reprobation.

Then, as now, the democratic press was ready to give credit to those in authority for whatever act of theirs, of public or private character, was calculated to enhance the general good of the nation; reserving, however, the right to criticise all acts of those in power with that freedom which is necessary in any form of free government. That it found itself frequently standing in opposition to measures proposed and acts done by the dominant party, will not be regarded as strange, when the events of the past four years shall come to be read in the light of important history. It showed through all a spirit of fearlessness which forced even its opponents to respect it. Neither attempts at suppression, on the part of those in authority, nor frequently recurring acts of mob violence, for which there seemed to be no redress, could intimidate it, or force it to be silent for a moment. It spoke out boldly and fearlessly, and the people listened to its utterances, and believed them to be honest and true.

Since Andrew Johnson has been called upon to preside over the destinies of this nation, the Democratic press of the country has watched his course with anxious and eager solicitude. It stood ready to approve or to censure, according as his public acts proved to be wise and judicious, or the contrary. Finding him willing to enter upon the great work of reconstruction with prudent foresight and statesmanlike sagacity, it gave him every assurance of sympathy and support in such a course.

When it saw him boldly renounce the fatal doctrine of "State Suicide," upon which the radical abolitionists had so strongly insisted, it praised him—not from any sycophantic impulse, but, because what he thus did was in accordance with correct political principles. When, in issuing his proclamations for the reconstruction of State Governments in the revolted States, he refused to assume powers not granted to him by the Constitution of the United States, and left each State free to control its own local affairs, he then took his stand squarely upon Democratic ground. It would seem strange, indeed, if in this the Democratic press of the country had not stood by President Johnson. When, in spite of all the pressure which the radical Abolitionists could bring to bear upon him, he steadfastly refused to interfere for the purpose of helping them to carry out their favorite design of conferring the right of suffrage upon the negroes of the Southern States, he again showed himself entitled to, and he again received universal commendation from the Democratic press.

In thus giving President Johnson support in all which he does rightly and wisely, the Democratic press holds itself perfectly free to condemn when any of his acts shall call for reprobation. It has not failed to speak out boldly against the continuance of unlawfully constituted military commissions, and to denounce as criminally wrong, the trial before them of parties, who, from their status and the character of their crimes, are amenable only to the civil law of the land. In every wise move which the President may make to restore law and order; to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, he will have the warm sympathy and the hearty and earnest support, not only of the Democratic press, but of the Democratic masses throughout the country. This support and sympathy will be given freely; the more freely, because it could never be extorted, except through the honest convictions that his acts are right, and his policy calculated to preserve the Constitution, to recement the Union, and to speedily restore permanent peace and prosperity to our war-weary and much distracted land.

Mustering out the Veterans.

Preparations have commenced for mustering out between forty and fifty thousand troops from the armies of Generals Meade, Hancock and Logan. About eighteen thousand of those effective whose terms of service first expire will be mustered out from the Army of the Potomac by regimental organizations. All absentees belonging to such regiments will be in addition to this number, and may swell it to twenty-five thousand. Hancock's veteran command will be reduced seven thousand. The Army of the Tennessee will lose fully fifteen thousand.

Hon. Ben. Wood.

It is stated that Ben. Wood telegraphed to the authorities at Washington his desire to testify before the Military Commission concerning the $25,000 draft sent to him by Jacob Thompson. He claims that it was given him to be used in speculating in gold for a friend of Thompson, and says that he so used it. It is not known whether his request will be granted or not.

Chase.

Chief Justice Chase, after having made a complete circuit of the Southern coast from Fortress Monroe to New Orleans, is announced to have arrived at Cairo in time to be at home for the Ohio State Convention. Never since this nation had an existence, never, perhaps, in the history of the world, was there a more disgraceful and disgusting exhibition than that made by the highest judicial officer of this country during his electioneering trip among the negroes of the South. Mr. Chase is apparently quite insane on the question of effecting his elevation to the Presidency. To secure the emoluments of that office he plainly shows that he would willingly sacrifice judicial honor and honesty. With the Constitution of the United States plainly and unequivocally declaring the right to regulate the elective franchise to be entirely left to the control of each State; and there being neither power in the General Government to assume such authority, nor any recognized precedent for its exercise, he, who is by virtue of his high office the chief guardian and defender of that sacred instrument, has had at the same time the unscrupulous audacity and the unparalleled meanness to exhibit himself to this country as a pitiful beggar of votes from the ignorant and degraded negroes of the South. If they had possessed votes to give, such an exhibition on the part of the Chief Justice of the United States could not have been regarded otherwise than as most disgraceful and degrading. When it is remembered that they not only had not votes, but, that they could never be endowed with the high right of the elective franchise otherwise than by State action, except through the most palpable violation of the Constitution of the United States, which Mr. Chase was sacredly sworn to observe, protect and defend, we cannot find words of reprobation strong enough to mark our abhorrence of his acts. The judicial ermine has been sullied and disgraced by this most unworthy wearer of it. He has bedraggled it in the filthiest purlieus of partisan politics, and put a foul stain upon it which centuries of time can never efface. Who could have any respect for a judicial decision pronounced by such a judge? All his acts will be subject to suspicion, and the conviction that Mr. Chase is not possessed of the honorable uprightness necessary for his high position can never be effaced from the minds of the American people so long as he lives; and when he dies his memory will only survive as a warning against the appointment of corrupt partisans to such positions. Only, as he shall thus serve, as a monument to mark the folly of these days, will either his life or his death prove to be of value to the country he has disgraced.

He managed to get back to Ohio in time for the State Convention, but only to find the leaders of his party at home too cowardly to adopt the theories he had advocated in his stumping tour through the South. So ends *The Chase.*

Judge Wilkins.

Hon. William Wilkins, who died at his residence in Pittsburg, on last Friday morning, in the eighty-sixth year of his age, was the son of Gen. John Wilkins, a prominent citizen of Pennsylvania, and was born at Carlisle, in this State, in 1779. At an early age, his family removed to Pittsburg. Judge Wilkins was admitted to the bar in his twenty-second year. His career as a lawyer was in the highest degree successful. In 1820, he was appointed President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny county. He was also a Judge of the United States District Court; and on March 4th, 1831, became a member of the United States Senate. During his senatorial term, the exciting question of nullification arose, and thoughout that great struggle, he gave to General Jackson an earnest and efficient support. He resigned his position in the Senate in 1834, to accept the mission to Russia, tendered to him by President Jackson, being succeeded in the Senate by James Buchanan. In 1840, after his return from Russia, Judge Wilkins was placed on the Van Buren electoral ticket, and was also the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Allegheny district, but of course, failed of an election. In 1843, he was again a candidate, for the seat made vacant by the resignation of the late Hon. W. W. Irwin, appointed by President Tyler, *Charge* to Denmark. In this contest, there were three candidates, the Whigs running Hon. H. M. Brackinridge, the Anti-Masons, Neville B. Craig, Esq., and the Democrats, Judge Wilkins. The latter was successful, but had not occupied his seat in Congress many weeks when President Tyler invited him to take charge of the War Department. Judge Wilkins, from the termination of Tyler's Administration in 1845, took but little active part in politics until 1855, when he allowed his friends to use his name for the State Senate, to which he was triumphantly elected for three years. In the Presidential contest of 1856 he served as an elector on the Buchanan electorial ticket, but advancing age admonished him of his inability to take an active part in that exciting contest. From that period until the breaking out of the civil war, the venerable deceased was but little seen in public; but when the blast of open rebellion was wafted from South Carolina, he put on his harness and labored assiduously, with all the powers of his great intellect, to arouse our people to their duty in the terrible crisis through which we have so happily passed.

Moral Status of Negroes North and South.

The N. Y. *Tribune*, in an editorial advocating negro suffrage, says:

"*The negroes of the South are in good part devout Christians.*"

That is infinitely more than can be said of the free negro population of the North. It is indisputable that they are the most worthless and degraded part of our population. There are counties in this State where fully one-half the expenses of the criminal courts, and at least one-third the expenses of the poor houses are entailed upon the community by a population of free negroes not numbering one-tenth of the whole population of the counties. This we know to be true of certain counties along the border. How does it come that the slaves of the South are so much superior in morals to the free negroes of the North? Has slavery elevated she former or freedom degraded and demoralized the latter? Which is it? Will the *Tribune* please explain?

The Spirit of Radicalism.

The New York *Times*, a leading Republican journal, truly exhibits the spirit of radicalism by saying that "those who voted for McClellan merit disfranchisement." Is that what the Republican demagogues mean when they talk about "universal suffrage"—to take away the right of voting from white men who differ from them, and give it to negroes? But the *Times* consoles us with the remark that no such disfranchisement will be likely to take place. How generous!

Appointments for Georgia.

The remaining appointments for Georgia were made on Monday, viz: Judge Erskine for United States Judge, Col. Stone for District Attorney, and J. I. Dunning, of Atlanta, for United States Marshal. These are among the strongest Union men in Georgia.

Waiting for Something to Turn Up.

When it was announced that the time for holding the Democratic State Convention had been postponed, many Republican newspapers, and among them the *Examiner*, took occasion to make themselves merry over the matter. Paragraphs, weak in structure, and entirely devoid of wit, went the round of the Abolition press. They professed to discover a sign of weakness, and a want of confidence in our prospect of success, in this movement. Poor Wilkins Micawber was invoked, and many changes rung upon his favorite expression. The Democratic party was "waiting for something to turn up."

Well, something has already turned up. The Republican party of this State, feeling that the times are sadly out of joint with them, being very much at sea in many respects, not knowing how to meet the issues that present themselves, fearing to indorse the views of the New England fanatics, who have been their real leaders for years, and dreading a disastrous defeat this fall, have concluded to "wait for something to turn up." They have postponed their State Convention until "*early in September.*"

In the meantime something will be sure to turn up, though, if we guess aright, little that will be likely to prove of advantage to the Abolition party.—The Democracy of Pennsylvania will meet in State Convention. They will lay down a platform as broad as our nationalty itself, which shall reiterate the great fundamental principles of the party, as applied to the condition of existing affairs. This will be done in terms entirely devoid of ambiguity, so that the people may see and know exactly what Democracy means, and what the party intend to do. After placing upon such a platform good and true men, against whom no word of reproach can be truthfully uttered, they will appeal to the people of Pennsylvania, laboring honestly and earnestly for, and confidently expecting a complete and most signal triumph at the ballot-box.

But it is possible, indeed within the range of probabilities, that by "early in September" the jarring and discordant elements of the Republican party may be arrayed in open hostility to each other. That corrupt and infamous political organization is doomed to speedy destruction. It may succeed in holding together for a little while longer, through the power of public plunder, but the end of its wretched rule is rapidly approaching. It may be that by "*early in September*" it will recognize, even more clearly than it does at present, the fact that it has no hope of success in the future, except the very dubious one to be found in negro suffrage. Nearly every Republican newspaper in this State has admitted, within the last month, that without this their party is irrevocably "gone under." There is no telling what may turn up by "*early in September;*" but we can see little hope of anything likely to prove of the slightest advantage to our opponents.

The Democratic party ought to be obliged to them for postponing the Convention to "*early in September.*" It is a confession of cowardice in these loud-mouthed braggarts, and it gives us the chance to be first in the field with our platform and our candidates. As our platform will be unassailable, and our candidates unexceptionable, it will be to our advantage to be followed rather than to follow our opponents. We can be working while they are "waiting for something to turn up."

Negro Suffrage!

The Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in the Bridge Street Church in Brooklyn, on Thursday, listened to an exciting debate on the report of the Committee on the State of the Country.

Rev. Stephen Smith, of the Philadelphia Conference, objected to that portion of the report which said that the colored man ought to have confidence in President Johnson. Has he not refused to let the black man have any power in the organization of Mississippi, Tennessee, and other States? President Johnson has the right to let him have a voice in that, but he has not given it. I would just as soon be a slave in the hands of the bloody tyrant as a free man without my rights as a freeman.

Rev. R. H. Cain, of Fleet Street Church, said: My brother, who has just taken his seat, finds some doubts as to the good feelings of President Johnson towards the negro race. I confess that there is some little doubt in the matter, and yet when I remember that Andrew Johnson is President of the white man as well as of the black—when I recognize this, I think we should forbear; for there are conflicting interests at stake, and it would be unfair for the President of the United States to be partial to any particular race. * * *

In the South there will, however, be another revolution yet. There is a deep under current of feeling running among the slaves, and they feel this—that they have been in bondage too long. All they ask is simply the right to live and to have the protection of the laws as other men have. Unless the Government give the slave the right of franchise, there will be trouble. [Loud cries of "Yes!"] Take away the right of franchise from the black man, and there will yet come the darkest period in our history in the Southern States. The whites down there will rise up some of these mornings—I was going to say it. [Laughter.] You know what I mean. [Continued laughter.]

"The whites down there, (women, children and men), will rise up some of these mornings and find—I was going to say it. [Laughter.] You know what I mean." [Continued laughter.]

What does this bloody, miserable, blasphemous "reverend" scoundrel mean, but that he wishes and hopes that "some of these mornings" the white women and children of the South may be found murdered in their beds!

There are plenty of bloodthirsty white fanatics in the North who would be rejoiced to witness the enactment of such scenes. If left to their own devices, they will yet precipitate a war between the two races, which may excel in tragic horrors anything which has occurred during the prevalence of the bloody struggle now happily closed. It is the duty of all right thinking men to insist upon moderation and calmness. Agitation of the vexed question of negro suffrage can only result in evil. President Johnson has resolved to leave the matter where the Constitution puts it, within the control of the several States.—There let it rest. To agitate it now, is criminally wrong, and can lead to no good result.

What the South Gains.

Senator Sumner, in his recent negro suffrage speech at Circleville, Ohio, stated that the Southern States will gain fourteen new members of Congress, and as many electoral votes, by the freeing of the slaves. The former rule was to count only three-fifths of the slaves, but, as they are now no slaves, the whole negro population must be taken into the account. At the last census there were about 3,600,000 slaves in the Southern States, two-fifths of which number would be nearly a million and a half, which, at the ratio of population entitling to a representative, (96,000, we believe,) would give the number at fourteen or fifteen. No wonder the Rads want the negroes to vote.

Fayette County.

The Democracy of Fayette county have put in nomination the following ticket. Of course a nomination out there is equivalent to an election:

Assembly, Chas. E. Boyle; Treasurer, Wm. Darlington; District Attorney, Thos. B. Schnatterly; Sheriff, Samuel W. Boyd; Commissioner, Griffith Roberts; Surveyor, Martin Dickson; Poor House Director, Thos. G. Sherrard; Auditors, D. W. C. Dombould and W. B. Barris.

The Condition of the Negro.

For years past the ears of the civilized world have been constantly distracted by having dinned into them the most exaggerated stories of the sufferings of the negroes of our Southern States under their cruel and tyrannical taskmasters. The Abolition newspaper press, and all the resources that New England possessed in fiction and poetry were fully employed in a crusade against American slavery. The pulpit was efficiently used, and Yankee orators never grew so eloquent upon any other theme as upon the wrongs of an oppressed and downtrodden race. They were philanthropists, these pale-faced Yankee women, and these intermeddling editors, preachers and platform orators. They were fired with all the zeal of a mad and blind fanaticism. It was useless for any one to attempt to reason with them. Bent upon destroying slavery, they refused to hear a single word of remonstrance. Succeeding finally in having their peculiar doctrines engrafted upon a political organization, which accidental circumstances brought into power by a minority vote, they at once proceeded to carry out their peculiar views.

After such sacrifices of blood, of treasure, and of all material interests as no nation ever made before, slavery has been destroyed. That is the only real and tangible result of the war. The people know it to be so, and even now they are asking themselves whether this is enough to compensate them for all the suffering they have undergone. No one pretends to claim that the white race has been benefitted by being killed and maimed by half millions; no man of sound judgment has the hardihood to assert that a huge national debt is a great blessing; and we presume no single individual can be found who considers the payment of heavy taxes as a blessed privilege. It is no wonder the people are asking what has been gained by the struggle.

Has the negro been benefitted? If he has, that is something. But, has he? We assert he has not, and we think we can very easily prove it. The breaking up of the old relationship between the masters and the slaves of the South has entailed untold miseries upon the poor negroes. Within the last three years more of them have died from starvation than ever before lost their lives by reason of neglect or ill usage since the first black man was brought from Africa to our shores. It would be easy to show this if any attempt had been made to gather statistics. The whole tenor of newspaper accounts of affairs in the South abundantly proves it. It is impossible to read a letter from any newspaper correspondent in the South without being fully convinced of it. A few extracts will suffice for the present.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from Charleston on the 17th, says:

"According to the reports of the ward committee lately organized by General Gurney, the mortality among the negroes in this city is perfectly fearful.—The deaths among them are reported to average one hundred per week. Last week ninety-one deaths of negroes were officially reported, and the week previous one hundred and sixty-seven. No mortuary list is published as in most cities, and it is but right that the matter be made public. The mortality on the islands exceeds anything ever known in the history of this country."

Yet it is on these islands, on the coast of South Carolina, where the new system of free labor, is said to be working most admirably.

The Louisville *Democrat* thus shows how negro philanthropy is working in Kentucky. It says:

"The negro is more to be pitied than blamed. Freedom is establishing graveyards to hide its work all over the State, and, when its work is done, then let sickness, disease, freedom and death shout aloud, 'free Kentucky.' We understand that during the past twelve months there have been about 1,200 deaths among the negroes at Camp Nelson, Ky., alone—one hundred victims per month. At that rate, how long will it take to make Kentucky a free State."

A correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, writing from Raleigh, North Carolina, on the 17th, says:

"Wilmington is now reported on good authority to be sickly. Gentlemen who have just returned from that place state that a great mortality prevails among the colored people, and they were dying so fast coffins could not be procured to bury them. Typhus fever is the chief scourge. Streneous efforts are made by the military authorities to prevent the accumulation of the late slave population in the towns, but the eagerness of these people to return to their old homes from the interior, where they were forcibly carried when our armies took the coast, brings large numbers to these central points, from which they wait opportunities to reach their destination. Once back where they were raised, they hope to meet old friends, from whom the war has separated them, and to find employment."

When was there ever such suffering and unmitigated misery among the negro slaves of the South before? The truth is the false philanthrophy of the fanatical abolitionists has brought only evil in its train. It has shown itself to be a plague worse than the opening of the fabled box of Pandora. No man can help pitying the poor negroes. They were comparatively happy and contented in their former condition of dependence; but their present state is one of great destitution and suffering, while their future is very far from being hopeful.

Message of Governor Saulsbury.

Governor Saulsbury, of Delaware, in his message to the Legislature of that State, takes strong and tenable grounds in favor of the unrestrained freedom of speech. He urges the members of the Legislature to guard with care against all attempts to make the negro the equal of the white man. He also declares that the Government can gain nothing by dealing harshly with those who have been in rebellion. His message throughout is a very able and exhaustive document. The radicals may depend upon it that if President Johnson does not change his constitutional course with reference to State rights, not a negro in the whole South will ever be allowed to vote.

Return of Governor Aiken to Charleston.

Governor Wm. Aiken was cordially welcomed back on his return to Charleston. As he made his appearance he was recognized and enthusiastically cheered by the crowd on the wharf. He was, says the Charleston *Courier*, afterwards surrounded on all sides by his friends, shaking hands and offering their congratulations. A carriage was immediately engaged by the crowd, and the Governor conveyed to his residence in Aiken Square. He speaks in the warmest terms of the kind treatment and reception he met with during his stay at the North, particularly in New York and Washington. His interviews with the President were of the most pleasant and agreeable nature.

"Loyalty" in Massachusetts.

The Boston *Courier* says that the test of "loyalty" is undergoing a change in Massachusetts. Hereafter it will not be "loyalty" but "treason," according to the Abolition-Republican interpretation to "support the Administration."

—The decision of the Internal Revenue Department, a year ago, that certified checks were to be treated as currency, and taxed accordingly, has been confirmed by the Solicitor of the Treasury Department, and may now be considered as finally settled. The decision is one of great interest to business men and bankers.

Artful Dodging of the Ohio Abolitionists—Will Pennsylvania Follow Suit?

It is not probable that the Republican State Convention of Pennsylvania will prove bold enough to announce negro suffrage as one of the planks of its platform in the approaching political canvass. The same causes which operated to postpone it in Ohio will have double force in this State. We shall have a vast deal of nice dodging, and the exercise of great cunning in the wording of resolutions. In all probability, all hands will agree to endorse the Declaration of Independence in full, but especially that clause of it which the negro worshippers swear by, "all men are created free and *equal.*" This sentence may be sufficient to satisfy the radicals, who, equally with the timid and time-serving among the leaders, will be willing to sacrifice principle for a proper price. In all probability the description of what occurred at the Ohio State Convention will accurately represent the condition of affairs among the Abolitionists of this State, the time of whose assembling in Convention is at present a matter of entire uncertainty; but when they do gather, at the call of the *incorruptible patriot* Simon Cameron, we expect the condition of affairs in the Committee on Resolutions will be like the inside view of a similar select party in the Ohio Convention. We take the following account of what occurred therein from "the inside view" given by the Cincinnati *Commercial*, a leading Republican paper:

The sessions of the Committee on Resolutions were not especially harmonious. The debate that was restrained in the Convention broke out in the committee-room, and there was a free and emphatic exchange of views. The army delegates were quite peremptory, and it is even complained they were a little rough, in obeying the instructions to insist upon unequivocally backing up Andrew Johnson. The representatives of the Western Reserve had a resolution which they were prepared to stand and die for, pronouncing the times exigent and propitious, for the taking of an "advanced step"—and the advanced step meant negro suffrage North and South, and especially the latter, and that right away. For a time, it seemed that if the advanced step could not be got into the platform, the committee would disagree, and two reports would be presented to the Convention, and the cry would be havoc, and the dogs of war would slip. Fortunately, everybody was prepared to indorse the Declaration of Independence, and the unity of the party was maintained.

"We must remark, however, that, though the radicals made but a slender showing in the Convention, there was no lack of the deepest anti-slavery feeling in it, and that few were found who did not freely admit the unreasonableness of the prejudice against the negro, and express a strong desire that it should be eradicated.

It is plain, from the above account, that negro suffrage and equality is to be made a living issue. It was kept out of the Ohio platform, or only admitted in disguise, but, it is to-day a cardinal doctrine in the creed of the Republican party. Most of the Republican newspapers of Ohio profess to be satisfied with the platform adopted, and take care to interpret it as meaning "nigger" more plainly than the language would indicate; but an occasional radical sheet has the honesty to grow indignant over the practiced deceit. The Cleveland *Leader* is down on all such dodging of the vital issue. It says:

The resolutions adopted by the Union Convention of yesterday are excellent as far as they go. We endorse every one of them. The platform is, however, chiefly remarkable for what it omits to say, than for what it says. It weakly and *timidly ignores the only vital issue of the day—the great question of negro suffrage.* Besides this there, is no other live issue on which parties are divided. *In dodging this the Convention has proved itself two years behind the times, and has inflicted a bitter disappointment upon all earnest and thinking Unionists.*

Greely comes to the relief of all such soreheaded Abolitionists, and in the *Tribune* of yesterday thus plainly interprets the enigmatical action of the Convention. Horace says:

Those friends of universal suffrage who hoped for an emphatic expression by the Republican State Convention of Ohio, have no occasion for discouragement in the record of its action. The question, we are assured, will be canvassed in every school district of the State from this time until election day; *the Democracy having ranged themselves against it as Republicans have taken ground for it.*

General Jacob Dolson Cox, the Republican candidate for Governor, was originally a Liberty party man, but has been an active member of the Republican party ever since its organization, and is at this moment an ardent advocate of negro suffrage, a fact well known to the Ohio Convention, and, it may be added for the benefit of one or two New York newspapers, that General Cox has been for many years and is now the warm personal and political friend of Chief Justice Chase.

And it may further be added, for the benefit of the same newspapers, that Ohio Republicans "do not see" that 'split" in the Republican ranks for which they so ardently pray and so cheaply labor, but will proceed to finish the good work they have so long been engaged in—that of saving the country from the toils of pro-Slavery fanatics of every grade, and of rendering justice to that loyal class of Southerners who saved our country in the hour of its sorest needs.

Gen. Cox is a young man of about 38 years; of great abilities and thorough education; has served in the Ohio Senate, where he ranked as a leader among the radicals, and has served from the commencement of the present war, first as Colonel, then as a Brigadier, and now as a Major-General of Volunteers. His services in the army are well known. His wife is a daughter of the late President Finney, formerly of Oberlin College, in which blacks and whites are admitted on equal terms.

Will the coming Convention of contractors, shoddyites, Abolitionists and other political nondescripts of this State which waits for Simon to say "wiggle waggle," be so fortunate as that of Ohio? Will it be able to get up a platform, which shall be heralded to the world as repudiating the doctrine of negro suffrage, but, which shall be interpreted by the *Tribune* and other radical sheets as perfectly sound on that great issue? There is no little talent for deceit among the leading Abolitionists of this State; some of them are most adroit political jugglers; not a few of them have been with every party that has had an existence, and on different sides of every political question. To more than one of them the saying of Talleyrand, that, "language is used by statesmen to conceal their thoughts," is familiar. We expect to see some very artful dodging, but, that they will be able to deceive the honest masses of Pennsylvania in regard to the real designs of the Republican party we do not believe. Through its real leaders it is irrevocably committed, as a party, to the doctrines of negro suffrage and negro equality. He who cannot see that such is the case must be politically blind indeed. The party in this State might as well put themselves squarely upon the record at once. They cannot dodge the issue if they try.

THE selection of the Hon. Charles J. Biddle, of Philadelphia, to deliver the oration before the Democracy of Harrisburg, on the 4th of July, was a happy and fortunate choice. Mr. Biddle is a forcible writer and eloquent speaker, and ranks among the leading public men of Pennsylvania. We feel assured, from his past record, that he will "win golden opinions from all sorts of people" on Tuesday next.

—The President has pardoned Charles Walsh, one of the Chicago conspirators imprisoned at Columbus, Ohio.

Trial of the Conspirators.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—The following testimony was taken:

TESTIMONY OF GEO. B. HUTCHINSON.

I am a soldier. I saw C. C. Clay about February 12th last at Queen's Hotel, Toronto. I also saw Sanders, Tucker, and others, at Montreal, on February 16. I was present at a conversation in Montreal on June 2d or 3d, at St. Lawrence Hotel, when the present trial was discussed by Dr. Merritt, Tucker, Gen. Carroll, of Tennessee, and Ex-Governor Wescott, of Florida.—Beverly Tucker said he had burnt all the letters for fear the Yankee sons of —— would steal them. The witness had knowledge that Dr. Merritt enjoyed the confidence of Tucker and the others.

THE ARGUMENT FOR ARNOLD.

Mr. Ewing then proceeded to read the argument in the prisoner Arnold's case. He commented on the testimony at some length, and argued that Arnold had a rupture with Booth long before the assassination occurred, and could not have aided him in it.

The evidence established only that at one time Arnold was a party to a plot to capture or abduct the President. If on the 14th of April the President had been abducted instead of assassinated, Arnold could not be punished, because he had long before withdrawn from the conspiracy. There was not the remotest testimony to connect Arnold with the commission of the murderous deed.

ARGUMENT FOR DR. MUDD.

After a recess, Mr. Ewing addressed the Court on the subject of jurisdiction. He contended that the Court had no jurisdiction in this case, and pursued a line of argument similar to that advanced by Reverdy Johnson. In it he said if the laws govern, he (Mr. Ewing) felt satisfied that his clients were safe. One of them, Dr. Mudd, had committed no crime known to the law. He could not be charged with treason, nor as aiding or abetting in the death of the President, for, at the time of the tragedy, Dr. Mudd was at his residence, thirty miles from the place of the crime. He certainly could not be charged with the commission of the overt act. There were not two witnesses to show it; but there was abundant evidence to show he did not commit the overt act. Dr. Mudd never by himself or with others levied war against the United States, or gave aid and comfort to the enemy. He ventured to say that rarely in the annals of civil trials has the life of an accused person been assailed by so much false testimony as had been exhibited in this case, and rarely has it been the good fortune of an innocent man to so confute and overwhelm his false accusers by a preponderance of undisputed truth. There was no reliable evidence to show that Dr. Mudd met Booth more than twice, and that was last November in Charles county, on a mere matter of trade. He had never met Booth in this city.

Mr. Ewing then reviewed the evidence relative to Dr. Mudd having set Booth's leg, and other events, in that connection, arguing that from all this there was nothing to lead to a conclusion unfavorable to the accused. Dr. Mudd voluntarily, not on compulsion, gave information concerning the route by which Booth, with Herold, had escaped; and instead of thanking him for this, as a good and loyal citizen, an effort was made to punish him. Truly the ways of military justice, like those of Providence, are inscrutable and past finding out.

He concluded that his client could not be punished, either as a principal or as an accessory before the fact, for the evidence fails to show either knowledge or intimation or supicion to commit the crime. If the prisoner was to be held responsible at all, it was as an accessory after the fact, and beyond all controversy there was no proof on this point.

All the arguments for the accused having been read, Associate Judge Advocate Bingham said that on Tuesday next he would be ready with so much of his summing up as touches the question of the jurisdiction of the Court, and he hoped by the next day to deliver the conclusion of his argument.

The Court then adjourned until Tuesday morning, at 11 o'clock.

The Last of the Famous Rebel Crescent Regiment.

[From the New Orleans Picayune, June 14.]

We met yesterday several young gentlemen who have lately returned, as paroled prisoners, from the Trans-Mississippi Department, who were of the small body of survivors of the Crescent regiment that left this city with so much *eclat* little over two years ago. The regiment numbered eleven hundred strong, and was composed of the sons of our old citizens, many of whom were taken from the schools before they had ever reached the higher classes. They had been called out for three months service, and in the expectation that they would be released at the expiration of their term of enlistment, many youths were persuaded to go who had not attained an age and maturity suited for military service. But the termination of their service occurring at a moment when the war was raging with the greatest violence, few were permitted to return or were so inclined, and the regiment was, therefore, reorganized and enrolled for the war.

From that time the Crescent boys were subjected to a series of trials, hardships, exposures and vicissitudes that told dreadfully upon their once full and enthusiastic ranks. Engaged in many of the most bloody battles that have marked the progress of this sanguinary war, this regiment has been several times so reduced or disorganized as to destroy its regimental organization, and compel its consolidation with other regiments. At the battle of Labadieville the lieutenant colonel of the regiment was killed and the whole regiment captured. In the subsequent campaigns of General Taylor, the regiment, having been exchanged and reorganized, was again severely cut up—until at last, in the severe fight at Pleasant Hill, it was nearly annihilated, the colonel, lieutenant colonel and many of the officers and three-fourths of the men being killed and wounded.

And now the war closes, and the proud, exultant, hopeful, eleven hundred of the most promising and exultant of our youth, who left this city three years ago, so full of military glory and ardor, return to their homes reduced to the pitiful number of sixty-one—the whole number left of this once grand and splendid body of young soldiers. Such is one of the sad pictures of the horrors of war! May it contribute another to the numerous other lessons with which the history of the last four years is so fearfully replete, to warn our people, in all time to come, from ever embarking in so bloody and barbarous an experiment.

Proceedings of the Virginia Legislature.

In the House of Delegates of Virginia at Richmond, on Wednesday, Mr. Johnston, from the committee on courts of justice, to whom was referred the bill from the Senate to prescribe means by which persons who have been disfranchised by the third article of the Constitution, may be restored to the rights of voters, reported back the bill with an amendment to strike out so much of the oath to uphold and defend the government of Virginia as requires a person to take the oath to the United States twice over. The bill as amended provides that the amnesty oath of the 29th of May, and the oath to support the Government of Virginia, as restored by the Convention which assembled at Wheeling on the 11th of June, 1864, as pertains to the State Government alone, be all that shall be requisite to restore disfranchised persons to the rights of voting. The bill was passed—one member voting in the negative—and sent to the Senate when that body, declaring it to be "unintelligible," laid it on the table and a committee of conference was appointed.

The House also passed a bill amending the third article of the constitution. This article excludes from any office of honor, profit or trust all who have held office under the "Confederate government," or the rebel government of Virginia. The amendment proposed is to strike this disqualification out of the constitution, and to allow all to hold office, provided it shall be ratified by the people. A bill was likewise passed to stay the payment of all debts contracted and accruing before the 26th day of July, 1861, the debtor or party liable to pay on the demand of the creditor and principal.

An act fixing the second Thursday in October, 1865, as the day for holding elections for Congressmen and members of the General Assembly was passed by the House.

—The blockade-runner Wren, which sailed from Havana on the 11th, was seized by a portion of her crew and taken to Key West, the object being to obtain prize money.

Grant's Passion for Smoking.

The June number of Harper's Magazine has an interesting article, entitled "Recollections on Grant," giving anecdotes illustrative of his character and an estimate of his military genius. It seems that the motto of the Scottish clan from which Grant derives his surname, is "Stand fast, stand firm, stand sure." The following extract is interesting:

"He is a more inveterate smoker than either Sherman or Rosecrans, but he smokes in a different style and for a different effect. Both Sherman and Rosecrans take to tobacco as a stimulant to their nervous organizations. Grant smokes with the listless, absorbed, and satisfied air of an opium-smoker, his mind and body being soothed into repose rather than excited by the effect of the weed. Neither Sherman nor Rosecrans are neat smokers, the velvet breast-facing of their coats and their shirt-bosoms being generally soiled.—Grant, on the contrary, is very neat, and smokes only the best of cigars. He smokes almost without cessation, and is never at ease when employed at anything which forbids smoking as an accompaniment. During the famous interview with Pemberton before Vicksburg he smoked with his usual composure. 'We pardon Gen. Grant for smoking a cigar as he entered the smouldering ruins of the town of Vicksburg,' said a rebel paper after the surrender. 'A little stage effect,' it added, 'is admirable in great captains.' But Grant never smokes dramatically. His cigar is a necessary part of himself, and is neither assumed nor abandoned for state occasions. He has been known to smoke at reviews, and has frequently been brought to a halt, and notified by sentinels or guards over commissary stores, 'No smoking allowed here, sir.' On entering the Senate Chamber he had to be requested to leave his cigar outside.

Stamped Paper.

The New York *Herald* puts forward the following sensible suggestions:

The waste of trouble and saliva which is at present involved in complying with the Internal Revenue act, with regard to stamps, is a source of great annoyance to the business public, and one which calls for the establishment of a stamp office, such as exists in the capitals of each of the kingdoms of England, Ireland and Scotland. Stamped paper is bought from the stamp offices there and kept for sale by the law scriveners and licensed dealers in stamps throughout the country. Bankers, merchants and others send blank check books in large quantites to the stamp offices to be stamped with a press mark and kept for use. The process involves a mere indentation of the paper, and dispenses with the use of ink and gum. At the same time it obviates the risk of stamps which are affixed coming off, which in the case of legal instruments is important. By the use of private marks also in the stamp, it can be ascertained at any time in what year the impression was made, and in this way the forgery of important documents have been detected. Where the stamp office furnishes the paper, an extra charge is invariably made for the same, but where the applicant for the stamps sends his own paper the net tax only is charged. We recommend the subject to the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury and the commission of three now sitting to inquire into the ways and means of improving the revenue and simplifying taxation. There should be a stamp office in the capital of each State, and by establishing it at the headquarters of the Internal Revenue Department it could be done with little or no expense beyond that necessary for purchasing stamp machines.

The Jeff. Davis Disguise Fiction.

Our reasons for discrediting the story of Jeff. Davis' attempt to escape in disguise are these: First, the absence of any evidence of its truth; second, its incongruity with Davis' personal character; third and chiefly, the fact that Colonel Pritchard, whose name associated with the story has given it all the credit it ever had with any one, has been making speeches frequently since his arrival North, in no one of which has he in the most distant manner alluded to the disguise. On the contrary, in private, as we are informed on the best possible authority, he speaks of the story, but as distinctly says that he was not present, and did not see the reported occurrence or any part of it. "It was reported to him," and, as he always adds, "sworn to at Washington."

Besides this disclaimer of actual knowledge by Colonel Pritchard, we are informed, and believe, that the captain of the gunboat which brought him to Fortress Monroe reports Colonel Pritchard as having told him repeatedly that there was not a word of truth in the story, but some people thought it necessary to keep it up. Mr. Davis was but partly dressed when the party rushed in. He surrendered promptly and with dignity, saying that he was unarmed. When about to be removed, Mr