

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

Thursday Morning, Nov. 21 61.

J. J. BRISBIN, EDITOR & PUBLISHER.

W. W. BROWN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

Now is the Time to Settle Up.

As we are making ready to enter the army it is necessary for us to

SETTLE UP OUR BOOKS AT ONCE.

There are many of our subscribers who owe us for the year 1860 and for the present year. We have

ought through the hard times and endeavoring to serve our subscribers as best we could.

We had nothing to begin with and during the two years that we have been publishing this

paper we have struggled with all our might and

main to keep out of debt—for there is no man under

the broad heavens whom we dread as much as we do a creditor. At times we became discour-

aged and resolved to give it up; but thus far we

have carried it through, and now that Mr. Brown

is raising a company we are about to suspend operations and go with him. Notwithstanding our

dread of creditors we have contracted some debts. These must be paid. No man need tremble in

his boots, for fear that he will lose anything by us. Every man must see the necessity of our

settling up our accounts. We hope that our subscribers all possess honor enough to do what is

right—that is all we ask. We have labored hard and it is right that we should be paid.

After the November Court our books will be left in the hands of the proper officers, and collected just as fast as "the law allows." Our subscribers will save costs by calling upon us on our before Court week.

J. J. BRISBIN.

Settle Up.

As we have now commenced to recruit a company and will leave for the seat of war as soon as

eighty men are enrolled, it becomes necessary for us to settle up our business as fast as we can. We

therefore call upon all persons knowing themselves indebted to the Centre Democrat from 1854

to the 1st day of January, 1860, to call at once and settle their accounts.

The November Court will be a good time to attend to this business. If you have not the money

we want your note. We have over seven thousand dollars on our books, and we owe debts which

must be paid with this money. We hope, therefore, that all will heed this notice and settle up as soon as possible.

We will take Corn, Oats, Wheat, Rye and Buckwheat. So bring it along and save trouble and cost.

W. W. BROWN.

God Save Our Country.

A MILITARY MEETING

WILL BE HELD

IN THE COURT HOUSE

IN BELLEFONTE.

Tuesday Evening, November 26,

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENLISTING MEN

FOR

CAPT. W. W. BROWN'S

COMPANY OF SHARP-SHOOTERS.

TURN OUT! TURN OUT! TRUN OUT!

Our Company.

Ten days ago we received a Captain's Commission from Governor Curtin, and commenced to

recruit a company. Some of our friends feared that

inasmuch as so many of Centre county's nobles

had already gone, we would not be able to raise

one hundred men who are still ready and

willing to take up arms in defense of our old flag.

We have held a few meetings in different parts of the county and we have now half the requisite

number of men. Just as soon as eighty men are

enrolled we will march to Camp Curtin where we

will receive our arms and uniforms and the pay of the men will commence. We are anxious to

fill up this company at once, and we hope that the young men of Centre county who are able and

willing to serve their country will come up to the work and evince their patriotism by filling up the

ranks. Our chief aim in enlisting in the service of our Country should be to aid in defending that

Constitution under which we have lived and prospered all our lives, this is duty resting upon every

able-bodied man in the Union. But the Government asks no man to fight for nothing. Every

man is well paid. Each man who shoulders his musket under the Government of the United

States, receives \$13 per month, his rations and

clothes, and at the expiration of his term will get \$100 bounty and 160 acres of land, and during

his absence his family is provided for by the

Government. This is more than many of us make at home. Let us rally in the defense of the stars

and stripes.

The news of our recent triumph has

been received with great rejoicing throughout the country. Many despondent people

were complaining that we experienced nothing but reverses—that with our vast

preparations on land and sea we had accomplished nothing. This unfounded notion is

not driven out by the demonstration that we have done something, and are able to do much

more. The prowess of our navy has always been a subject of especial pride among

Americans, and by this achievement its fame is more than ever endeared to their hearts.

When this blow is followed up, as we are promised that it shall be, our soldiers and

sailors will fight with the knowledge that the eyes of the nation are watching them, confident

that victory will attend them wherever they may strike. We trust that Port Royal

will prove to be but one of many points to be assailed and captured by our naval power,

and that ere long we shall see the emblems of our nation floating over every port of the

"Southern Confederacy," compelling rebellion to take refuge where it must succumb to the

resistless advances of life and liberty.

A Camp Abolished.

Camy Crossman near Huntingdon, the

head quarters of Gen. James' Mountain Brigade, has been abolished. The Huntingdon

Journal says that last week an order was received from the Secretary of War, by Col.

Murray, ordering him to fill out his regiment from the troops remaining after his regiment

has been completed, to be forwarded immediately to Harrisburg.—Telegraph.

General Thomas' Report.

The reflection will hardly fail to occur to

every reader, after laying down the report of

Adj.-Gen. Thomas on the affairs of the Western Department, how entirely in the dark

we all are as to the manner in which these

serious charges against Gen. Fremont will

be met. It is several weeks now since incapacity and neglect of duty were declared to

characterize his command in Missouri, and a public clamor raised against him, which

held him alone responsible for the accumulated disasters which had overwhelmed the

State, and which demanded that he should atone for it by some brilliant action that

should restore that region to the Union and to peace. All this, moreover, had come

upon us like a thunder storm in a Summer sky. The latter part of July, the whole of

August, and a portion of September, had passed away; Lyon had been dead for

weeks; Price with his reinforcements had traversed a considerable portion of the

State on his march Northward; the rebels everywhere had grown bolder and bolder

with the advances of the insurgent forces from Tennessee and Arkansas, and Fremont

might still have been pointed out as the most popular General in the country, and

one in whose diligence, skill and integrity there was the most unbounded confidence, notwithstanding the difficulties

by which he was surrounded. But there came a remarkable change—a change which,

whether there belongs to it the relation of cause and effect, or only that of a noticeable

coincidence, was immediately preceded by the President's modification of Fremont's

proclamation. But to all the charges and all the clamor; to Col. Blair's letter, which

was the indictment, and Col. Blair's specifications, relying for their strength, in some

measure, upon acts committed subsequent to the date of his original charges; to the

nighly ingenuity of telegraphic despatches, to the artillery of special correspondents, to

the fresh hostility of all the old enemies of the Republican candidate in 1856, Gen.

Fremont, under every provocation and with six weeks for reflection has answered—nothing. The fact should tell something in his

favor, that, as to the answer that may be made to these charges in Gen. Thomas's

report, many of which have been so long before the public, the public has received not

the slightest ray of light from Fremont, or heard from him the first murmur of

complaint, except in a single private letter, written, we suppose, by a secretary, and

published by some injudicious friend. For a dignified reticence and a manly disregard

of his own reputation while he has worked before him for his country—of which, at least,

he thinks he is capable—let us give him due credit, even though we applaud next

week the sentence of a Court Martial that shall lead him out to be shot by tap of

drum.

In saying this much, we think we do

Gen. Fremont no more than the simplest and barest justice, and in so doing we do not

impute the entire fairness of the Secretary of War, the Adjutant-General, or any other of

the distinguished gentlemen who are truly persuaded of his incompetency, and perhaps

want of integrity. For they doubtless know whereof they affirm, have the most

minute evidence of the truth of all their allegations, know how futile any defense

must be that can be offered, and are quite sure that when all the facts shall be made

public the verdict of the people will sustain and justify them. But we are in a different

position. We have heard the indictment, and something of the argument of the counsel

for the prosecution; but as an impartial public we may hold our opinion in abeyance

until we know whether the accused has nothing to urge in his own behalf.

And unquestionably there are points in this report of Gen. Thomas to which Gen.

Fremont will have some reply to make, and on which the public will ask for light.

The visit of the Adjutant-General and the Secretary of War to the West was necessarily

a hurried one, and for want of time some mistakes may have been unavoidably

committed. Thus, in Gen. Thomas's letter to Gen. Fremont of Oct. 14, the discontinu-

ance of field-works around the City of St. Louis is ordered. Now, it so happens that those

field-works were finished some time ago, and the order was therefore altogether

supererogatory. The mistake, of course, is of no consequence, but while it may provoke a

good-natured smile, it may suggest the possibility of other errors. It is evident, moreover, that much had to be taken upon

hearsay—a species of evidence not admissible in the most trivial case before a

court of justice, but which it might be quite proper to lay before the Cabinet at

Washington, whose clear insight would enable them at once to discern the difference

between truth and error. One of the most serious charges, for instance, and which has

had much influence upon the public mind, is that Fremont has surrounded himself with

dishonest men. Had Gen. Thomas devoted himself to substantiating the truth of this

accusation, it would have gone far toward settling public opinion on that point. But

he says "it is the expressed belief of many intelligent gentlemen of St. Louis" that

such is the fact. Is it not well that even here we should suspend our judgment?

We have been assured on most respectable authority, "that it is the expressed belief of

"many intelligent gentlemen in St. Louis," that the charge in question is altogether

unfounded. It is, therefore, to be regretted that Gen. Thomas did not give us a few

more facts to justify the belief of the gentlemen on his side. It seems to us not

impossible that there may be an explanation of some of those he has given. For

instance: In the hurried movement toward Lexington in hot pursuit of Price, it seems

a high price was paid for hay, corn and oats, and that these were forwarded in

haste, where it was to be presumed—but presumed only, not known—they were to be

presumed in abundance. Now, armies cannot go upon presumption, and when forage must

be had in a hurry, it will not do to haggle upon the price, even though several cents

more per bushel is paid than would be necessary under ordinary circumstances. In

moments of great exigencies it will not do to stop army supplies on questions of prices.

There is a complaint here also about mules, by which it seemed that somebody wished

to hurry these animals forward very rapidly. It may have been an instance of

fraudulent dealing and forcing of contract; but when we turn to another part of the

report, and read Gen. Hunter's bitter complaint that he could not obey orders for

want of mules, there seems to be an irreconcilability about the two charges that might

lead to a satisfactory explanation. In providing beasts of burden for our army, it

sometimes happens, as it has elsewhere in this war, that animals have been bought

which were fit only for carriage. But it does not always happen that such cases are

causes of fraud.

So Capt. Davis, it seems, has supplied

war blankets, and he too an aid of Gen. Fremont's. But we cannot help remembering

that so scarce are blankets the Government has been compelled to appeal to

private charity to supply our Eastern soldiers; we remember also that all cheap

blankets are partly cotton, and it occurs to us whether it is not just possible that Gen.

Fremont ordered Mr. Davis, who has been all his life a merchant, and is Assistant

Quartermaster, to send or go to the East and get the best blankets he could to meet an

emergency. And we all know very well that the best would be had enough, for the

article is a very scarce one, and the Government did not think it worth while, when

urged to do so, three months ago, by far-seeing and thoughtful merchants, to enter

into contracts for the supply of the blankets which patriotic citizens are now stripping

from their own beds for the use of the army. Even had blankets, it must be confessed,

are better than none at all.

That a pontoon bridge was erected across

the Ohio, where a ferry-boat would have done as well, is another charge. But isn't

it, after all, better to have such means of transportation sometimes provided, even by

an excess of caution, rather than to suffer such consequences as being without them,

as we did the other day on the Potomac? But a heavier charge still is that which im-

putes to Gen. Fremont peculation or carelessness in the purchase of arms in Europe.

Is not the evidence, however, a little defective? A gentleman recently arrived from

San Francisco tells Gen. Thomas that another gentleman in that city has lately re-

ceived a letter from still another gentleman in Europe, whose assertion is that he

made a large sum of money as his share of the plunder in the purchase of the Fremont

arms. In this transmission of hearsay evidence, through three or four channels, even

so important a point, where men are least likely to forget, a mistake is not impos-

sible. Then also the guns themselves are defective, and the men are set "to file down

the nipples." If that will remedy them, we may not have made a very bad bargain

after all, as guns go in these times; and even if we had, it is quite possible that the

fault may not be Gen. Fremont's, who bought the guns in Europe when arms of any sort

that could be fired at all were very welcome to us—welcome if only for a "grand

parade." But we believe that many of these guns are in use elsewhere. Have

they proved equally bad everywhere else? The fact, if we recollect right, in regard to

this purchase was, that it was sanctioned by Mr. Adams, our Minister to England,

and Mr. Dayton, our Minister to France; and while the price for them was considered

exceedingly low, the arms themselves were supposed to be of unusual value. Is it not

possible, not only that there may be some mistake about this story from Europe by

the way of San Francisco, but that Gen. Thomas, in his hurried visit, may have

mistaken some of the poor arms with which Fremont has been supplied for those

imported from France? We hope so for the credit of all the parties concerned in that

purchase.

But, after all, the more serious charges

are those of mismanagement in the command of the army. The loss of Lyon was a

grievous loss, and we do not at all know what reply Gen. Fremont will make to the

accusation that he might have reinforced him and did not. Our own impression is

that he could not defend all points for want of troops, and as he supposed the enemy

were approaching Cairo as well as Springfield, and meant to take Bird's Point,

which commands both Cairo and the mouth of the Ohio, he had to choose between them.

He chose Cairo and Bird's Point, not because he underrated the strategic position

of Gen. Lyon at Springfield, but because they were of more importance than Spring-

field, and because Lyon could retreat and Cairo could not. It seems from Gen. Thom-

as's report that the largest force Fremont had to draw upon at that time was Gen.

Pope's nine regiments in Northern Missouri. He called for four of them, and sent

them to the mouth of the Ohio. He may have thought that the two regiments at

Rolla had better remain there for Lyon to fall back upon, and that he was therefore

"as strong as any other officer on the line." We may mistake altogether the line of

defense Gen. Fremont may take to account for his conduct at that critical moment

when he had just taken command, when the time of the three months men had just

expired, when the enemy was advancing from the South in greater force than ever, and

the rebels all over the State were ready to rise unless overawed by the presence of the

garrisons scattered in the different towns; but we are confident it could not have

been as Gen. Hunter suggests, because he did not recognize the importance of defending that

portion of the State. If that had been the case would he not have been far more likely

to attempt to cover his error by insisting that the position was of no consequence, rather than condemn his former conduct, if

he had held a wrong opinion, by an effort to recover that region? Is it not possible that he failed to re-enforce Lyon because he had

no alternative, and that he afterwards at-

tempted to regain the position because he was stronger, and because he had matured a

plan of getting in the rear of the enemy and cutting off his retreat?

If our memory serves us right Gen. Thom-

as is in error in asserting that Price be-

sieged Mulligan nine days before he sur-

rendered. But there is another difficulty here, on this point, which we find it hard to

reconcile. If Fremont was so much to blame a month ago for not collecting from various

quarters an army sufficient to defeat Price, how is it that he is to blame to-day for

having collected that army and for being in hot pursuit of that rebel? The order to

March now is complained of in very strong terms, as many of the regiments of the

40,000 men, are "badly equipped, with inadequate supplies of ammunition, clothing

"and transportation." But to have com-