

Bradford Reporter.

Towanda, Thursday, February 16, 1865.

THE ABOLISHMENT OF SLAVERY.

Since our last publication, Congress has adopted a resolution so amending the Constitution as forever to abolish slavery in all the territories of the United States.

—An amateur performance took place at Fisk's Opera House in Cincinnati, on Monday night, for the benefit of soldiers' families.

—The steamer Arago was burned at Dog Tooth Bend on the Mississippi, a few days ago.

—A deserter from the army, named David Frank Bivins, shot his father, mother and wife, Woodstock, Mich., last week.

—Advices from Col. Webb, United States Minister at Rio Janeiro, received at the State Department, bring the gratifying intelligence that the Government of Brazil has issued a decree excluding the pirate Shenandoah from the ports of that Empire.

—Admiral Goldsborough is at Washington perfecting the organization of the fleet for European waters.

—Henry S. Foote, the fugitive Rebel Senator, arrived in New York, on Wednesday evening, in charge of Major Newhall, of Gen. Sheridan's staff.

—Of 500 Rebel prisoners set apart at Camp Chase, Ohio, a few days ago for exchange, 260 declined the honor, preferring to remain in the Yankee Bastille.

—It is reported that a new Rebel pirate, named the Ranger—a small, light-draught, swift English steamer—was in the harbor of Montevideo, South America, in the middle of December last.

—A baker at Memphis recently got permission to pass through the Union lines a barrel of flour for the use of his family in Secession.

—Litchfield, Ky., was visited a few days since by William's gang of guerrillas, and the next morning by seventy or eighty of Quantrell's mounted men.

—The Vermont, an old style line-of-battle ship, for many years lying idle at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard, has been made a receiving and school ship, the old North Carolina having proved unequal to the accommodations required.

—Over a hundred bounty-jumpers passed through Albany last week going to the towns in the interior to enlist and desert.

GOVERNMENT MONEY.

We think we demonstrated clearly in our last, that the evidence relied on to sustain the position assumed by those opposing the financial policy of our government, was fallacious; and that every failure given of governments making the experiment of issuing money, was were they were already bankrupt, or, too poor to borrow.

But there is one other prominent consideration which the writers on political economy urge in favor of a government's borrowing, and against that same government issuing paper as money, and that is, that there is the absence of close, careful management of governmental affairs, which characterise the concerns of companies of individuals, and of individuals; that independent of this want of economy in the details, great extravagance, and waste, follows the emission of bills of credit, as a necessary consequence of a departure, on the part of a government, from her legitimate sphere, that of using, but not of making money.

THE PEACE FAILURE.

Peace prospects which diverted public attention for a few weeks past, have all blown over, as we fully believed they would. We cannot but wonder that any one in any way conversant with the public sentiment of the people of the free States, as to the terms upon which the rebels ought to be taken back, and the demands, or more properly, the position of the rebels, could place any reliance on, or have any expectations of, peace, from Peace Missions. It is well enough, perhaps, to allow one of them to come off occasionally, in order to satisfy croakers, but that the administration has any confidence in them, we cannot believe.

THE RIGHT DOCTRINE.

The Missouri Constitutional Convention recently adopted the following provision defining the qualifications of voters: "No person shall be deemed qualified to vote who has been in armed hostility to the United States after the 31st of July, 1861, to the Government of this State, or has given aid or comfort, countenance or support to persons engaged in such hostility or disloyalty, communicated with them, advised other persons to give their adherence to them, or expressed a hope for the triumph of this or any other State thereafter, under a claim of allegiance obtained exemption from military service from any foreign Government."

This is the right doctrine. If the common soldiers of the rebel army ever return to the Union, they should not again come into full possession of citizenship. While we would inflict no punishment on this class, it would, nevertheless, be unjust to allow them to vote and hold office; and this, as in the punishment of the ring-leaders of the rebellion, nor for the sake of punishment, nor to gratify any revenged feelings, but for the sake of future peace, and to hinder, forever after, attempts to break up the Union. To place these men who have shot down our soldiers, and committed every other outrage upon the people, and upon the government of the United States, they were capable of, upon the same footing with those who, in every place, and on every occasion, defended the honor, the rights, and the glory of the nation, at every imaginable peril to themselves, would be simply an outrage, and would be rewarding crime, and punishing patriotism and valor. Nor would the loyal citizens of the free States submit to it. They ask only that right prevails. They ask only that law is maintained, and peace is preserved. For these they have sacrificed much, and for them, they will sacrifice more.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The War Department has made public the official report concerning Gen. Grierson's expedition, which resulted in the complete interruption of the enemy's communications to the Mobile and Ohio, and the Mississippi Central Railroads. About 40 miles on each road is destroyed, including a large number of bridges, depots, telegraph stations, switches, turn-tables and water-tanks; also four serviceable locomotives and ten which were undergoing repairs, about 100 cars, a pile driver, and engine, 700 fat hogs, a very large amount of corn and wheat, and 1,000 stand of new arms at Verona, in addition to the 4,000 destroyed at Verona, and the burning of 300 army wagons; most of which had been captured from Sturgis. Maj. Gen. Dana believes this expedition, in its damaging results to the enemy, is second in importance to none during the war.

A Charleston dispatch of the 24th inst., says the Union pickets extend a short distance east of Pocotaligo, on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, and that the road has been partially destroyed, the piers burned and the iron taken away.

liberate malice meditated the destruction of our government, and in carrying out this hellish purpose, have caused the murder of thousands upon thousands of our people—many of the very best of the land—yet, the only question with some, is, "are we afraid to take them back?" Our murdered people had no rights. It was no harm to butcher them, no! and the blood-stained criminals who inaugurated this carnival of fraternal slaughter, can come back without punishment! Nay more: Can hold the places of the honored of the land. And if they should take umbrage again, at some imaginary, or pretended wrong, they can go out a second time, steal our property, devastate our country, run us in debt, slay and starve our heroic men—then, if they fail in this second mad enterprise, all they have to do is to come back, take their places in authority, and no questions will be asked, because it is all for the sake of the Union! Out upon such logic, and such pusillanimity. The government could not stand five years under such a peace; and the people of the loyal States, will, with one accord, repudiate an arrangement of this kind, and doom to disgrace all who have a hand in it. If the rebel leaders escape to Mexico, Canada, or anywhere else, all the better, we do not want the melancholy job of hanging them; but we must get rid of them. They have betrayed us into too much sorrow, loss and suffering, to justify any further confidence in them. We want a permanent peace, and this we cannot have if the rebel leaders are again domiciled amongst us as of yore.

THE AMENDMENT.

Within the ten days which have elapsed since the passage of the amendment in Congress, eleven states have fully ratified it; Indiana has ratified it through one house of her legislature, and but one state (Delaware) has rejected it. The following is a statement in chronological order:

- 1. Feb. 1. Illinois—Senate and House.
2. Feb. 1. Maryland House; 3d. Senate.
3. Feb. 2. Rhode Island—Senate and House.
4. Feb. 2. New York Senate; 3d. Assembly.
5. Feb. 3. Massachusetts—Senate and House.
6. Feb. 3. Pennsylvania—Senate and House.
7. Feb. 3. West Virginia—Senate and House.
8. Feb. 4. Michigan—Senate and House.
9. Feb. 7. Missouri—Senate and House.
10. Feb. 7. Maine—Senate and House.
11. Feb. 8. Virginia Senate; 2. House.
12. Feb. 10. Indiana Senate.

In the Maine House of Representatives, on the 7th, the Speaker said in declaring the vote: "By this sublime act Maine gives her ratification to the amendment of the constitution which drives forever from the land the curse of slavery. God save the state of Maine."

The New Jersey legislature has had the amendment under consideration for several days.

THE PEACE FAILURE.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S REPORT.

The Rebel Commissioners' Version.

The House of Representatives on the 8th inst., passed a resolution requesting information in relation to the so-called Peace Conference lately held in Hampton Roads. In response, the President communicates all the notes and dispatches relating to the matter, without comment. The history of the whole affair is contained in a letter from Secretary SEWARD to MR. ADAMS, sent to the Senate, which is annexed:

MR. SEWARD TO MR. ADAMS. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Feb. 9. SIR: It is a truism that in times of peace there are always instigators of war; so soon as a war begins, there are citizens who emphatically demand negotiations of peace. The advocates of war, after an agitation longer or shorter, generally gain their fearful end, though the war declared is not unfrequently unnecessary and unwise. So peace agitators in time of war ultimately bring about an abandonment of the conflict, sometimes without securing the advantages which were originally expected from the conflict. The agitators for war in time of peace, and for peace in time of war, are not necessarily or perhaps ordinarily unpatriotic in their purposes or motives. Results alone determine whether they are wise or unwise. The treaty of peace concluded at Guadalupe Hidalgo, was secured by an irregular negotiation under the Don of the Government.

Some of the efforts which have been made to bring about negotiations with a view to end our civil war are known to the whole world, because they have employed foreign as well as domestic agents. Others with whom you have had to deal confidentially are known to yourself although they have not publicly transpired. Other efforts have occurred here, which are known only to the persons actually moving in them and to the Government. I am now to give you your information an account of an affair of the same general character which recently received much attention here, and which doubtless will excite inquiry abroad.

A few days ago Francis P. Blair, esq., of Maryland, obtained from the President a simple leave to pass through our lines without definite views known to the Government. Mr. Blair visited Richmond, and on his return showed to the President a letter which Jefferson Davis had written to Mr. Blair, in which Davis wrote that Mr. Blair was at liberty to say to President Lincoln that Davis was now, as he always had been, willing to send commissioners, if assured they would be received, or to receive any that should be sent; that he was not disposed to find obstacles in forms, that he would send commissioners to confer with the President with a view to a restoration of peace between the two countries if he could be assured they would be received.

The President, therefore, on the 18th day of January addressed a note to Mr. Blair, in which the President, after acknowledging that he had read the note of Mr. Davis, said that he was, in and should be willing to receive any agents that Mr. Davis, or any other influential man now actually resisting the authority of the Government, might send to confer informally with the President to the people of our common country. Mr. Blair visited Richmond with this letter, and then came back again to Washington.

General to come to his headquarters to await there the decision of the President. Maj Eckert was sent down to meet the party from Richmond at Gen. Grant's Headquarters. The Major was directed to deliver to them a copy of the President's letter to them, and signed by the Major, in which they were directed to inform the President they would be allowed to pass our lines, they would be understood as coming for an informal conference upon the basis of the aforesaid letter of the 18th of January to Mr. Blair.

The Major had given the same information by telegraph to the President at Washington. On receiving this information the President prepared a telegram directing the Secretary to return to Washington. The Secretary was preparing at the same moment to return, without waiting for information from the President, but at this juncture Lieut.-Gen. Grant telegraphed to the Secretary of War, as well as to the Secretary of State that the party from Richmond had reconsidered and accepted the conditions upon which he was allowed to give them conduct to Fortress Monroe. The Major had given the same information by telegraph to the President at Washington. On receiving this information the President prepared a telegram directing the Secretary to return to Washington. The Secretary was preparing at the same moment to return, without waiting for information from the President, but at this juncture Lieut.-Gen. Grant telegraphed to the Secretary of War, as well as to the Secretary of State that the party from Richmond had reconsidered and accepted the conditions upon which he was allowed to give them conduct to Fortress Monroe.

On the 29th ult. we were advised from the camp of Lieut.-Gen. Grant that Alexander H. Stevens, R. M. T. Hunter, and John A. Campbell, were applying for leave to pass through the lines to Washington as Peace Commissioners, to confer with the President. They were permitted by the Lieut-

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FRIGHTFUL FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA.

TWO THOUSAND BARRELS OF COAL OIL BURNED—FIFTY DWELLINGS DESTROYED—PEOPLE ROASTED ALIVE IN THE STREETS—SHOCKING LOSS OF LIFE.

The most terrible conflagration that occurred in Philadelphia since the great fire of July, 1850, took place this morning. Before proceeding to narrate the horrors of the calamity, we will describe the locality. Ninth-street, below Washington, is lined principally by three-story brick dwellings that are occupied mainly by respectable families of limited means, the houses being two to three hundred feet from two hundred to two hundred and fifty dollars a year. The first street below Washington street is Ellsworth, and the next is Federal, both of which streets had, in that vicinity, upon the same class of dwellings upon them as those upon Ninth street. On the southwest corner of Ninth and Washington streets there is a coal yard belonging to Messrs. Dally and Porter; and immediately west of this upon Washington street, was an open lot upon which Blackburn & Co. had between 2,000 and 3,000 barrels of coal oil stored, on account of various orders.

At about half past one, a fire broke out among this oil, and the flames spread through the greater part of it with almost as much rapidity as though it had been gunpowder. About 2,000 barrels of the inflammable material were soon ablaze, and spending up into the sky a huge column of flame. The families in the neighborhood sprang from their beds, and without stopping to secure even a single article of clothing rushed into the streets that were covered with snow and slush. Those that were most prompt to escape from their threatened homes got off with their lives; but those nearer the spot when the conflagration first commenced, and who were not prompt to escape from their homes, were met by a terrible scene. The blazing oil that escaped from the burning barrels poured over into Ninth street and down to Federal, filling the entire street with a lake of fire and igniting the houses upon both sides of Ninth street, for two squares and carrying devastation into Washington, Ellsworth, and Federal streets, both above and below Ninth street. An eye-witness, who was upon the spot when the oil poured out in the street, describes the fierce blazing flames, with a covering that was as black as night, and the fire rushing down the street for a distance of two squares, and then back again at the caprice of the wind, destroyed all living things that came in its way, burning dwellings and their contents as though they were so much straw, and even splitting into fragments the paving stones in the street with the intense heat. Fully five squares of houses, had they been placed in a row, were on fire at once, and the scene was one to make the stoutest heart quail. People escaping from their homes, and running for cover, and their children and terrified little ones looking for safety in the horrid turmoil, were all dreadfully enough; but there were still more terrible scenes witnessed. Men, women and children were literally roasted alive in the streets. Captain Jos. H. Ware occupied the dwelling No. 1128 Ninth street, the second house below the coal-yard already described. His family consisted of himself, wife, five daughters and two sons. They all got into the street just as they left their beds, and found themselves in a river of fire. The family fled seeking for safety in the horrid turmoil, were all dreadfully enough; but there were still more terrible scenes witnessed. Men, women and children were literally roasted alive in the streets. Captain Jos. H. Ware occupied the dwelling No. 1128 Ninth street, the second house below the coal-yard already described. His family consisted of himself, wife, five daughters and two sons. 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