

Towanda, Thursday, April 19, 1866.

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON RECONSTRUCTION.

It is well known that General Lee was recently examined before the Reconstruction Committee of Congress, and if those people who have heretofore regarded this rebel chieftain as the personification of open, candid manliness, as far above subterfuge, evasion, deceit and craftiness, as he is above the other rebel generals in supposed ability, could have heard his testimony, they would have agreed, with one accord, that if Lee was such a man, he has fallen from a very high to a very low estate. For more weak evasions and silly pretenses were never resorted to by a one-sided witness, who always had a poor memory for one side, and a good one for the other. He was subjected to a searching examination, and nothing but persevering scrutiny, and the skillful varying and shaping of questions brought out the little truth of importance that was admitted by the witness.

We never had any confidence in this architect. The reputation the copperheads have given him is drawn from borrowed lustre. Lee is really a scion of old Virginia chivalry, his father having distinguished himself as Col. of Cavalry under Washington, in the War of the Revolution; and it is with the father's noble antecedents, that the simple worshippers of this degenerate son, clothe their idol. He satisfied the members of the Committee on Reconstruction, and all others who heard his testimony, that he has not only degenerated sadly in principle, in stern integrity and lofty bearing, but has sunk in intellect as well. It was hoped that through him a fair and thorough view of the social and political condition of the South would be obtained, and that the great influence he has, notwithstanding the enormity of his crime in drawing his sword against his country, would be given to effect a lasting reconciliation between the North and the South; but it would seem that for the one he lacks the requisite ability, and for the other the disposition.

The Southern people, says Gen. Lee, regard their cause as lost, and although content to abide by the arbitrament to which they appealed, they cherish no kindly feeling toward the Union, and are now engaged mainly in making the best of their condition. He asserts that they approve of President Johnson's policy, and "look forward to it as a hope of restoration;" but it is possible, he says, that in the event of a foreign war, they might side with the enemies of the country, though they contemplate nothing of the kind now. He also says "it is very possible they might" secede again if a second Buchanan should afford them an opportunity. This is a very frank, but not a very creditable confession to come from the lips of the late rebel chieftain.

But Gen. Lee's testimony was chiefly remarkable for what it didn't reveal. When closely pressed, his ready answer was that he "didn't remember," or he "didn't know." Thus he positively affirms that he never knew that any cruelty was practiced upon Union prisoners, or that they were dying in Southern prison-pens of cold and starvation. It fits a true answer, Gen. Lee must have been ignorant of what everybody else in the country knew perfectly well; but he afterwards states that he did everything in his power to "relieve" the prisoners, and urged the establishment of the cartel on the basis of which a partial exchange was effected. It seems, then, he was cognizant of some suffering among the prisoners; and as he could not have been unaware of the charges made, month after month, in Northern papers, and constantly referred to in those of the South, it was his duty, as commander-in-chief of the chief army of the Confederacy, to make himself acquainted with the truth or falsity of those charges. That he suffered these things to pass unheeded is little to his credit as a soldier and a man. There is the same singular want of frankness in most of his statements respecting Southern feeling; and on this account they should be received with many grains of allowance.

But with regard to the negro, his memory and his knowledge were never at fault. Gen. Lee says that personally he has always been in favor of gradual emancipation; yet he is quite sure that the two races can never live together in peace, and that Virginia would be better off if she rid herself of her negro population; and he would in any case prefer white to black laborers. In regard to colored suffrage, he says Virginia would prefer a smaller representation in Congress, rather than put ballots in the hands of the blacks. Were the right to vote now to be given to the blacks by law, it "would excite unfriendly feelings between the two races." It is astonishing that a gentleman who knows so little about popular sentiment in the South with regard to the Union, and so little about the treatment of Union prisoners of war during the continuance of hostilities, should be so intimately acquainted with Southern feeling toward the negro. One would suppose that his opportunities to collect information on one subject would have sufficed to make him acquainted in the others; and we cannot avoid the suspicion that his opinions were based on inference rather than on personal knowledge.

However this may be, we cannot but feel that Gen. Lee has lowered himself in the estimation of the people of the Northern States. Since the cessation of hostilities he has remained quiet, and has done nothing to excite agitation at the South; but besides this merely negative virtue stands the fact he has done nothing to advance the reconciliation of the country. Not a word has he uttered, since his army laid down their arms, to induce Southern men to regard the Union as their country, to work for its restoration to a perfect peace,

or to accept cheerfully the existing state of affairs. He remains in sullen silence, and is willing to let things work out their own course, either in piece or to another war. It had been far more to his credit had he followed the example of Mr. Stephens, in urging on his countrymen the necessity and patriotism of giving up old prejudices, and becoming sincere and faithful Union men.

DEATH OF DANIEL S. DICKINSON.

We regret to record the death of DANIEL STEVENS DICKINSON, who died at the residence of his son-in-law, in New York city, at half-past eight o'clock on Thursday evening of strangulated hernia. He was born in Goshen, Connecticut, on the 11th of September, 1800, but was educated in Chenango county, New York. In 1821 he became a teacher, employing his vacations in land surveying. In 1822 he married, and commenced the study of law. In 1828 he commenced practice at Guilford. In 1831 he removed to Binghamton. In 1836 he was chosen State Senator. In 1840 the Democratic party nominated him for Lieutenant Governor, but he was defeated. In 1842, however, he was elected. In 1844 he became a member of the convention which nominated JAMES K. POLK for President. In the same year he became United States Senator, holding the post of Chairman of Finance Committee. As Democratic candidate before the convention for the Presidency, he received in 1852 the vote of Virginia. Retiring from political life, he resumed his profession. In 1861 he threw all his influence on the side of the Union. His illness was sudden and short. It was only last Saturday that he was taken ill, and only last Thursday that he was regarded dangerously so. His family consists of a wife and two daughters.

The announcement of the death of Mr. Dickinson was received at Binghamton, by his neighbors and friends, with the manifestations of the deepest sorrow. The bells were tolled and places of business closed. His remains were brought to that place on Sunday, attended by an immense concourse of citizens, and mourning friends. He was universally respected and beloved by the people of the village where he has lived for many years.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, April 12, 1866. SENATE.—Bills were passed providing that soldiers' memorials shall go through the mails free of postage; and authorizing the remission of duties on produce in transit under the reciprocity treaty. Mr. Stewart introduced a joint resolution to amend the Constitution by prohibiting distinctions in civil rights or suffrage on account of color. A resolution was offered that the Senate adjourn out of respect to the late Senator Foot. Eulogies were delivered by Senators Poland, Johnson, Fessenden, Brown, Sumner, Pomeroy, Uragin and Edmunds, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Resolutions were adopted concerning the supply of firearms to citizens of Montana, and requesting the Paymaster-General to furnish lists of paymasters against whom stoppages are standing. After debate the latter was reconsidered and referred to the Military Committee. The bill for relief of Paymasters came up, a substitute was offered, and the bill and pending amendments were recommitted. The Senate bill to transfer a gunboat to Liberia was passed, and also the Senate joint resolution against the importation of criminals. A resolution to grant a full section of the public lands to whoever shall establish an artesian well on any rail route to certain territories, was debated, and finally recommitted. Memorials from Arizona and Utah were reported on adversely, and the reports agreed to. A bill was reported to appropriate \$10,000 for boundary surveys of Idaho and Oregon, and referred. A report from the Conference committee on the bill to sell marine hospitals, &c., was made and agreed to. The Senate resolution to prohibit the sale of liquors in the Capitol was amended so as to include all public buildings and grounds in Washington, and passed. Various bills were read and referred. The Senate bill to appropriate \$25,000 for relief of the poor in the District of Columbia was passed, 100 to 24. A message was received from the Senate announcing the adjournment as a mark of respect to the late Senator Foot. Eulogies on the deceased were pronounced by Messrs. Woodbridge, Banks, Washburn, Dawson, Grinnell, and Morrill, and the House adjourned.

Friday, April 13, 1866. SENATE.—On motion of Mr. Gray, the bill for the relief of Uriah W. Dudley, paymaster in the United States navy, was taken up and passed. A number of private pension bills were taken up and passed.

HOUSE.—The Speaker laid before the House a message from the President, enclosing a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, by direction of the President, taking preparatory measures for sending in seasonable time a naval force to the fishing grounds, which force, it is believed, will be adequate to protect the rights and interests of American citizens against any unlawful violence. The Secretary adds that the Department of State has reason to believe that there are not now any good grounds for apprehending a collision or the employment of force. The President has also called the attention of the British Government to the question whether negotiation or legislation cannot be advantageously employed in adjusting the differences which have heretofore existed. Mr. Washburn, of Illinois, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into and report back to the House the legislation necessary to prevent the introduction of cholera into the ports of the United States, which was agreed to. The House bill to reorganize and establish the army of the United States, reported by Mr. Schenck, from the Committee on Military Affairs, was taken up and considered by sections. After proceeding as far as the fourth section the House adjourned.

INTERNAL REVENUE DECISION.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has addressed the following letter, containing an important decision, to the assessor of the sixth Indiana collection district: "Sir: The first internal-revenue act took effect, as far as related to stamp duties, October 1, 1862. Instruments executed and delivered prior to that date, though they may be recorded afterwards, are not chargeable with stamp duties. If any instrument subject to stamp duty was issued after October 1, 1862, and prior to August 1, 1864, unexpired, or insufficiently stamped, the appropriate stamp must be affixed in the presence of the court, register or recorder, as provided by section 153 of the act of June 30, 1864. An instrument issued since August 1, 1864, unexpired, or insufficiently stamped, and for the State to take her former position in the Union and enjoy all her rights, and adjust all her obligations as a State, under the Constitution of the United States as it stands amended. His opinion is, and the sentiment of the people of Georgia is, that the exercise of the right of secession was resorted to from a desire to render their liberties and institutions more secure, and from a belief on their part that this was by reason of accident, mistake, inadvertence, or urgent necessity, and without willful design to evade or delay the payment of stamp duty. If the instrument is not presented within twelve calendar months, the penalty and interest must be paid to the collector before he can render it valid by affixing the appropriate stamp, without regard to the cause of the omission to stamp it at the time of its issue. The commissioner has no power to remit this penalty. Deputy collectors, unless acting as collectors under section 99, have no authority to affix stamps or remit penalties under section 158. The stamp to be affixed to any instrument is that required by the law existing at the time when the instrument was made, signed and issued. When an instrument is properly stamped under either of said sections, the stamping relates back to the time when the instrument was issued, and renders it from the

beginning as valid to all intents and purposes as if it had been stamped when made, signed and issued. The whole amount of penalties paid to collectors for validating unstamped instruments should be returned on form 58, with other unexpired penalties, and the money deposited to the credit of the treasury of the United States with other collections. F. A. ROLLINS, Commissioner.

New Advertisements.

STRAY—CAME INTO THE ENCLAVE. A pair of the subscriber, in Monroe township, April 9th, found twelve sheep and six lambs. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take the same away, or they will be disposed of as follows: JOHN G. GALE, Monroe, April 11, 37.

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New Advertisements.

NOTICE.—The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Barclay Coal Company, will be held at their office 104 South Fourth St., Philadelphia, May 7th, 1866, at 12 o'clock noon. The undersigned will be held for a President and Six Directors to serve the ensuing year. HARVEY SHAW, Secretary. April 12, 1866.

PIANOS, AMERICAN ORGANS AND ACCORDIONS. The undersigned most respectfully announces to the citizens of Towanda and vicinity, that he has purchased the Music business of G. T. COLZ, and will hereafter supply any of the above articles, together with VIOLINS, GUITARS, ACCORDIONS, STRINGS, &c., on as good terms as they can be had elsewhere. W. A. CHAMBERLAIN. He is also Agent for the CELEBRATED AMERICAN WATCH, and has always on hand, a good assortment of Swiss Watches, with a general assortment of JEWELRY AND FANCY GOODS, Silver and Plated Ware of the BEST MANUFACTURE, which will be sold at unusually low figures. A large variety of Clocks just received, among which may be found the Seth Thomas, which has no equal. He is also Agent for the CELEBRATED AMERICAN WATCH, and has always on hand, a good assortment of Swiss Watches, with a general assortment of JEWELRY AND FANCY GOODS, Silver and Plated Ware of the BEST MANUFACTURE, which will be sold at unusually low figures. 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