Pittsburgh Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1864.

Union State Convention.

The loyal men of Pennsylvania, comprising the National Union party, will meet in State Convention in the Hall of the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, on Thursday, April 28th, 1864.

Each district will be entitled to the same representation as it now has in the State Legislature, and the delegates will be chosen at such time and in such manner as shall be directed by the respective county committees.

The State Convention is called for the purpose of placing in nomination an Electoral Ticket, selecting delegates at large to the National Convention of the Union party, to be held at Baltimore on the 7th June next, and taking such action as it may deem proper in reference to the approaching Presidential canvass.

The selection of the district delegates from Pennsylvania to the National Convention is left, where it properly belongs, to the people assembled in their county conventions; but the different county committees are earnestly requested to adopt such measures as will secure a full attendance at their respective conventions, and thereby secure, in the choice of delegates, a full and fair expression of the will of the people.

The committee cannot forbear to congratulate all lovers of liberty and the Union upon the recent triumphs of the good cause in New Hampshire and Connecticut, and to express the hope, shared by all loyal men, that they are only the forerunners of more splendid victories soon to be won in the same cause alike by the bullet and the ballot.

WAYNE McVEAGH, Chairman.
W. W. HAYS, } Secretaries.

GOLD is up again. Yesterday it was 174¾ in Wall street.

TO-DAY the election of delegates to represent the Union voters of Allegheny county in a convention to be held in this city on Tuesday next, takes place between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock, P. M. As the convention will be called upon to consider questions of the gravest importance, it is earnestly to be hoped that *the very best* men of the party may compose it.

THE probability of an early movement of the Army of the Potomac is everywhere conceded. LEE is said to be getting ready to anticipate GRANT's purposes, and of course whatever he may attempt to do must be checkmated at once. There is, however, another rumor afloat that LEE will act strictly on the defensive. In either case a battle seems to be imminent.

THREE hundred years ago this day, according to the commonly received opinion, was born WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, an English dramatist. We would gladly pay our feeble tribute of respect to the almost inspired genius of the Great Bard if we had the requisite space at our disposal. Thus it is that the homage we would express is confined to a repetition of these lines of one of our youngest American poets—R. H. STODDARD:

"Shakespeare! What Cheops are conjured up
By that one word! They come and go,
Mere real shadows though they be,
Than many a man we know."

Sambo.

One of the worst features of the institution of negro slavery is, the *inhumanity* it engenders. We will not insult the intelligence of our readers by proving this proposition to be as true as the teachings of Holy Writ itself. The scarred backs, the brandings with hot iron, the cowhidings, the separation of families, the prostitution of women, the selling into slavery of one's own flesh and blood; the burning at the stake of men and women who had dared to escape from the bonds of an institution which degraded them to a condition below that of the beasts of the field—all this and much more has long been familiar as household words in the mouths of this generation. Before the war we knew it all from an occasional example; since its commencement the nation has been brought face to face with the horrors of the cruelest of all cruel systems. The Southern slaveholders themselves seem to have taken especial delight in displaying to us and the world the savage nature which their "peculiar institution" has created for them. Their last barbarous display at Fort Pillow was the very climax of fiendish audacity.

Inhuman as Southern Slaveholders have become, as a result of their nursing of an institution unknown to the christian world in the Dark Ages, the philanthropist might well hope and the christian pray that their inhumanity might never be apologized for or imitated by any people not cursed with that institution. But it has found both apologists and imitators, and among a people whose homes are threatened with the incendiary's torch, and whose lives are placed in jeopardy by hostile armies. So depraved is human nature that it may be made, under blighting circumstances, the tool of the worst passions and the worst men. The Democratic party of the North, by reason of its long association with slaveholding allies in the South, to its everlasting disgrace became a criminal participant with those allies in upholding all the inhumanity of their slave institution. They sustained them in all their political assaults upon the freemen and freedom of the North, and when those allies took up arms to destroy the Government they could not pervert to their own uses, only a portion of the Northern Democracy refused to condemn them. The rest cried "*Abolitionism* has done this; *slavery* is innocent." And they became Copperheads; and ever since have been glorifying the men who have *spat* upon them, and who *hate* them. Thus does slavery not only rob slaveholders of their humanity, but it also robs of their manhood those who simply touch the vile thing compared with whose cringing servility the condition of the negro slave is independence itself.

Instances of this debasement of Northern white men at the feet of the barbarous slave power of the rebel South, are constantly occurring. The last to which our attention has been called was contained in a recent number of a Copperhead paper, published, we are ashamed to confess, in one of the most loyal cities in the Union. A writer in its columns (for the honor of the profession we trust he is not one of its editors) takes advantage of the cruelty practiced a few nights since upon a negro regiment passing through the loyal city aforesaid, to—do what? Sympathize with the victims of that cruelty? Ask that the author of their ill treatment may be punished? Not either. But, he writes half a column of inhuman mockery of those cruelly treated soldiers, and not of them only, but also of their dead negro comrades who have, in many battles with rebel slaveholders, laid down their lives for the Union, for Liberty, *and for this Copperhead.* We quote a few sentences:

"It has become quite common to hold the officers of colored regiments to a strict account for *every* little harshness or peccadillo towards these especial pets of abolitionism, and many pens are heated with swifts and darkflowing ink, ready at a moment's notice to flourish a spread eagle compliment or sweep away a reckless maligner. * * Be assured the historian is not idle when Sambo is about. He has many salient points of interest—has Sambo. * * If he has not as yet sculptured himself creditably in the field, it has not been for want of ample encouragement. With every assistance that power and resources could insure, and every apology for failure, he has not more than justified the expectations of those who are of little faith in his genius."

Just now he is above par with those who desire to exact from him a pledge to avenge his slaughtered brethren at Fort Pillow, but rather low in the market with those familiar with his doings around Memphis, in Louisiana, and elsewhere. The frequent dose of tone, and elsewhere. The frequent dose of tone, and elsewhere. The frequent dose of tone