The Pittsburgh Gazette.

MONDAY, OCT. 17, 1864.

NATIONAL UNION NOMINATIONS.

FOR PRESIDENT:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, of Illinois.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT:

ANDREW JOHNSON, of Tennessee.

THE SOLDIERS' VOTE.

The Union County Committee is convinced that many soldiers' votes were lost at the late election for want of being assessed or for want of tax receipts.

The Committee appeals to the various Vigilance Committees of the several wards, boroughs and townships, to cause a thorough canvass to be made, immediately, and have every soldier assessed promptly and his tax receipt forwarded.

No time is to be lost. Whatever is done in the matter should be done at once.

The Committee also appeals to all Union men throughout the county to give immediate attention to this matter, and see to it that every soldier known by them to be unassessed is placed at once on the assessment lists.

All the necessary blanks for proxies can be had at the Union Committee rooms, Wilkins Hall, and all needed information will be given at the daily meetings of the Committee, from 2 to 3 o'clock P. M.

[A. M. BROWN, Ch'n.

A. HILLMAN, Sec'y.

Arming the Slaves.

Nothing that has yet appeared is so expressive of the desperate straits to which the Rebels are reduced as the deliberate proposition of the Richmond *Enquirer* to liberate and arm 250,000 slaves. In its own language the proposition is "*to present them with their freedom, and the privilege of remaining in the States*" The *Enquirer*, be it remembered, is the organ and mouth piece of JEFF DAVIS, and this proposition, although it may be regarded as only a feeler, we may be sure was not ventured upon without the fullest deliberation.

That a set of conspirators, whose object in breaking away from the Union, and inaugurating the most tremendous civil conflict upon record, was to defend and perpetuate Slavery, should be driven to such extremity as to destroy with their own hands the very thing for which they began the fight, is one of those strange turns in human affairs which can only be referred to that Supreme overruling Power who uses the worst passions of men to correct the hugest wrongs. These men began the war to make Slavery the ruling principle and controlling power on this continent—to build up a new empire of which it was to be avowedly the corner-stone; but the stress of war has so changed their towering ambition into mere diabolism, that the *Enquirer* frantically declares that "neither Negroes nor slavery will be permitted to stand in the way of our cause." What cause? What are they fighting for now? What object have they in view for the sake of which they are ready to cast from them their darling peculiar institution upon which their boasted superior civilization rests, and become a nation of spoliationists?

It is folly, and they know it, to talk of converting a quarter of a million of able-bodied slaves into freemen and soldiers, and yet retain the residue of their blacks in bondage. If they wish to have the scenes of Saint Domingo re-enacted in their midst they will try that experiment; but, madmen as they are and always have been, they know better than to do any thing of the kind. Indeed the *Enquirer* says so when it declares that slavery will not be tolerated to stand in the way.

Well, then, through sheer hatred towards a portion of their countrymen—with no rational object in view—these men are about to pull their coaxed, racial fabric upon their own heads, and possibly bury themselves under its ruins. But what will the northern copperheads, whose horror of abolitionism has found utterance in countless howls and maledictions, say to such wholesale abolitionism as is here proposed by their dearly beloved and much abused brethren now in rebellion?

What a mighty revolution has taken place in our country since the election of Mr. LINCOLN. It began with the mere intention, by a popular vote, of the further spread of slavery into free territory, and in less than four years it has advanced not only to a proclamation of emancipation by the national authority, as a war measure, but to an abandonment of it on the part of those who have long worshipped it as the god of their idolatry, and clung to it as the foundation of their domestic life and their entire social fabric.

But suppose they do resort to this desperate expedient, will it do them any good? We think not. Their cause is too far gone to be saved in that way. They may gather up a vast number of negroes in a little time, to be sure; but is it likely that GRANT and SHERMAN will give them time to make efficient soldiers of them? Under General MCCLELLAN'S style of warfare the thing might have worked very well; for he would have given them ample time to bring their able recruits up to the highest point of discipline of which they are capable; but we cannot promise that the present leaders of our armies will be so accommodating.

Should this last desperate expedient be determined upon, is it likely that the proprietors of these 250,000 able-bodied slaves will tamely acquiesce in this wholesale conversion of their most cherished *property*—property which was worth, before the war, at least $25 0,000,000? Or, suppose this vast army of freed slaves were sent to the field, would they fight against their colored brethren who are battling on our side? Southern negroes are ignorant, but they are noted for their shrewdness and sagacity, and they will not be slow to discover that their masters only made soldiers of them *because they could not help it*; and seeing their advantage, they will be very apt to throw the battle to their own advantage, and perhaps hold the balance of power between the contending whites. Four hundred thousand armed negroes (counting both sides) would be a very formidable power in a nation divided against itself, as ours is. Our impression is, that should JEFF DAVIS resort to this desperate measure as the dernier resort of his tottering Confederacy, that it can only result in the more complete overthrow of the Southern oligarchy, and the more speedy extinction of slavery. We have no reason to be alarmed at that which can result in nothing but a complete subversion of both the social and political systems of the South.

Judge Taney's Successor.

The President has a very onerous task imposed upon him in selecting a successor to Judge TANEY. Let him select the very best jurist to can find, and one who is not only a sound jurist, but whose heart beats true to Liberty and humanity, and who has faith in God and in the rights of Man. Let him be one who will adorn and magnify his office, as Chief Justice Marshall did, and not one who as Chief Justice Marshall did, and not one who as Chief Justice Marshall did, and not one who