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Leading Matter from Yesterday's Evening Gazette.

THE WESTERN CONSPIRACY.

Official Exposition by Judge Advocate General Holt.

We are unable to give the *full* report of Judge Holt on the Western Conspiracy, but we give its substance below, and ask for it a careful perusal:

ITS ORIGIN, HISTORY, NAMES, ETC.

This secret association first developed itself in the West in 1862, about the period of the first conscription of troops, which it aimed to obstruct and resist. Originally known in certain localities as the "Mutual Protection Society," the "Circle of Honor," or the "Circle" or "Knights of the Mighty Host," but more widely as the Knights of the Golden Circle," it was simply an inspiration of the rebellion, being little other than an extension among the disloyal and disaffected of the North of the association of the latter name, which had existed for some years at the South, and from which it derived all the chief features of its organization.

During the summer and fall of 1862 the Order, both at the North and South, underwent some modifications, as well as a change of name. In consequence of a partial exposure, which had been made of the signs and secret forms of the Knights of the Golden Circle," Sterling Price and Vallandigham and P. C. Wright, of New York, a secret order, intended to be general throughout the country, and aiming at an extended influence and power, and at more positive results than its predecessor, and which was termed, "Order of Knights," and which was known as the O. A. K., or "*Order of American Knights.*"

The opinion is expressed by Colonel Sanderson, Provost Marshal General of the Department of Missouri, in his official report upon the progress of the order, that it was founded by Vallandigham during his banishment, and upon consultation at Richmond with Davis and other Rebel chief traitors. It is indeed, the boast of the order in Indiana and elsewhere, that its "ritual" came direct from Davis himself; and Mary Ann Pittman, formerly attached to the command of the rebel General Morgan, and a most intelligent witness, whose testimony will be hereafter referred to, states positively that Davis is a member of the order."

Upon the initiation of the principal organizations, it is represented that the "Corps de Belgique" was modified by Price, and became a Southern section of the O. A. K., and that the new name was generally adopted for the order, both at the North and South.

The secret signs and character of the order having become known to our military authorities, further modifications in the ritual and forms were introduced, and its name was finally changed to that of the O. K. L., or "Order of the *Sons of Liberty*," or the "Knights of the Order of the Sons of Liberty." These later changes are represented to have been first instituted, and the ritual compiled, in the State of Indiana in May last, but the new name was at once generally adopted throughout the West, though in some localities the association is still better known as the "*Order of American Knights.*"

It is to be added that in the State of New York, and other parts of the North, the secret political association, known as the "*McClellan Mystic Guards*," would seem to be a branch of the O. A. K., having substantially the same objects, to be accomplished, however, by means, expressly suited to the localities in which it is established. For, as the Chief Secretary of this association, Dr. R. F. Stevens, stated in June last to a reliable witness, whose testimony has been furnished, "those who represent the McClellan interest are compelled to preach a vigorous prosecution of the war, in order to secure the popular sentiment and allure voters."

The strength and significance of this organization lie in its military character. The secret constitution of the Supreme Council provides that the Supreme Commander "*shall be commander-in-chief of all military forces belonging to the order in the respective States as are called into actual service;* and further, that the Grand Commanders "*shall be commanders-in-chief of the military forces of their respective States.*" Subordinate to the Grand Commanders in the State are the "*Major Generals*," each of whom commands his separate district and army. In Indiana the Major Generals are four in number. In Illinois, where the organization of the Order is considered most perfect, the members in each Congressional District compose a "*brigade*," which is commanded by a "*Brigadier General.*" The members of each county constitute a "*regiment*," with a "*Colonel*" in command, and those of each township form a "*company*." A somewhat similar system prevails in Indiana, where also each company is divided into "*squads*," each with its chief—an arrangement intended to facilitate the *guerrilla* mode of warfare in case of a general outbreak or local disorder.

The "Mobilitian Minute Guard," as appears from a circular issued by the Chief Secretary in New York in March last, is organized upon a military basis similar to that of the order proper. It is composed of companies, one for each election district, ten of which constitute a "brigade," with a "brigadier general" at its head. The whole is placed under the authority of a "commander-in-chief." A strict obedience on the part of members to the orders of their superiors is enjoined.

The greater part of the chief and subordinate officers of the order and its branches, as well as the principal members thereof, are known to the government, and those not already arrested, may regard themselves as under a constant military surveillance. So complete has been the exposure of this secret league that, however frequently the conspirators may change its name, signs, grips and signals, its true purposes and operations cannot longer be concealed from the military authorities.

It is to be remarked that the Supreme Council of the Order, which annually meets on February 22d, convened this year at New York city, and a special meeting was then appointed to be held at Chicago, July 1, or just prior to the day then fixed for the convention of the Democratic party. This convention having been postponed to August 29, the special meeting of the Supreme Council was also postponed to August 27, at the same place, and was duly convened accordingly. It will be remembered that a leading member of the convention, in the course of a speech made before that body, alluded approvingly to the session of the Sons of Liberty at Chicago at the same time, as that of an organization in harmony with the sentiments and projects of the convention.

ITS EXTENT AND NUMBERS.

The "Temples" or "Lodges" of the order are numerously scattered through the States of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, and Kentucky. They are also officially reported as established, to a less extent, in Michigan and the other Western States, as well as in New York, and also in Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Tennessee. Dodd, the Grand Commander at Indiana, in an address to the members of that State in February last, claims that at the great annual meeting of the Supreme Council (in February, 1863,) every State in the Union will be represented, and adds, "this is the first and only true national organization the Democratic and Conservative men of the country have ever attempted." A provision made in the Constitution of the Council for a representation from the *Territories* shows, indeed, that the widest extension of the order is contemplated.

The actual *numbers* of the order have, it is believed, never been officially reported, and cannot, therefore be accurately ascertained. Various estimates have been made by leading members, some of which are no doubt considerably exaggerated. It has been asserted by delegates to the Supreme Council, of February last, that the number was there represented to be from 600,000 to 1,000,000; but Vallandigham, in his speech last summer at Dayton, Ohio, placed it at 500,000, which is probably much nearer the true total.

It is to be noted that the order, or its counterpart, is probably much more widely extended at the South even than at the North, and that a large proportion of the officers of the rebel army are represented by most reliable witnesses to be members. In Kentucky and Missouri the order has not hesitated to admit as members not only officers of that army, but also a considerable number of guerrillas, a class who might be supposed to appreciate most readily its aims and purposes. It is fully shown that as lately as in July last several of these ruffians were initiated into the first degree by Dr. Kalfus, in Kentucky.

THE ARMED FORCE.

In March last, the entire armed force of the order, capable of being mobilized for effective service, was represented to be 540,000 men. The details, however, upon which this statement was based are imperfectly set forth in the testimony, and it is not known how far this number may be exaggerated. It is abundantly shown, however, that the order, by means of a tax levied upon its members, has accumulated considerable funds for the purchase of arms and ammunition, and that these have been procured in large quantities for its use. The witness Clayton, on the trial of Dodd, estimated that *two thirds* of the order are furnished with arms.

There remains further to be noticed, in this connection, the testimony of Clayton upon the trial of Dodd, to the effect that arms were to be furnished the order from Nassau, N. P., by way of Canada; that to defray the expenses of these arms or their transportation, a formal assessment was levied upon the lodges, but that the transportation into Canada was actually to be furnished by the Confederate authorities.

ITS RITUAL, OATHS, AND INFERIOR FORMS.

The ritual of the order, as well as its secret signs, passwords, &c., has been fully made known to the military authorities. In August last one hundred and twelve copies of the ritual of the O. A. K. were seized in the office of Hon. D. W. Voorhees, M. C., at Terra Haute, and a large number of rituals of the O. S. L., together with copies of the constitutions of the councils, &c., already referred to, were found in the building at Indianapolis, occupied by Dodd, the Grand Commander of Indiana, as had been indicated by the Government witness and detective, Sidger. Copies were also discovered at Louisville, at the residence of Dr. Kalfus, concealed within the mattress of his bed, where, also, Sidger had ascertained that they were kept.

Each degree has its commander or head; the Fourth or "Grand" is the highest in a State; the Fifth or "Supreme," the highest in the United States; but to the first or lower degree only do the great majority of members attain.

The oath which is administered upon the introduction of a member into any degree is especially impressive in its language. It prescribes as a penalty for a violation of the obligation assumed, "a shameful death;" and further that the body of the person guilty of such violation shall be divided into four parts and cast out at the four "gates" of the temple. Not only, as has been said, does it enjoin a blind obedience to the orders of the superiors of the order, but it is required to be held of *paramount obligation* to any oath which may be administered to a member in a court of justice or elsewhere.

Members are also instructed that their oath of membership is to be held paramount to an oath of allegiance, or any other oath which may impose obligations inconsistent with those which are assumed upon entering the order. Thus, if a member, when in danger, or for the purpose of facilitating some traitorous design, has taken the oath of allegiance to the United States, he is held at liberty to violate it on the first occasion, his obligation to the order being deemed superior to any consideration of duty or loyalty prompted by such oath.

The *signs, signals, passwords*, &c., of the order are set forth at length in the testimony, but need only be briefly alluded to. It is a most significant fact, as showing the intimate relations between the northern and southern sections of the secret conspiracy, that a member from a Northern State is enabled to pass without risk through the South by the use of the signs of recognition which have been established throughout the order, and by means of which members from distant points, though meeting as strangers, are at once made known to each other as "brothers."

Besides the signs of recognition there are *signs of warning and danger*, for use by night as well as by day; as, for instance, signs to warn members of the approach of United States officials seeking to make arrests. The order has also established what are called *battle signals*, by means of which, as it is asserted, a member serving in the army may communicate with the enemy in the field, and thus escape personal harm in case of attack or capture. The most recent of these signals represented to have been adopted by the order, is a five pointed copper star, worn under the coat, which is to be disclosed upon meeting an enemy, who will thus recognize in the wearer a sympathizer and an ally. A similar star of German silver, hung in a frame, is said to be displayed by members or their families in private houses in Indiana for the purpose of insuring protection to their property in case of a raid or other attack, and it is stated that in many dwellings in that State, a portrait of John Morgan is exhibited for a similar purpose.

ITS WRITTEN PRINCIPLES.

The "*Declaration of Principles*" commences with the following precious proposition:

"All men are endowed by the Creator with certain rights, equal as far as there is equality in the capacity for the appreciation, enjoyment and exercise of those rights." And subsequently there is added: "In the Divine economy no individual of the human race must be permitted to encumber the earth, to mar its aspects of transcendent beauty, nor to impede the progress of the physical or intellectual man, neither is himself nor the race to which he belongs. Hence, a people, upon whatever plane they may be found in the ascending scale of humanity, whom neither the divinity within them nor the inspirations of divine and beautiful nature around them can impel to virtuous action and progress onward and upward, should be subjected to just and humane servitude and bondage to the superior race, until they shall be able to appreciate the benefits and advantages of civilization."

To these detestable tenets is added that other pernicious political theory of State sovereignty, with its necessary fruit, the monstrous doctrine of secession—a doctrine which, in asserting that in our federative system a part is greater than the whole, would compel the General Government, like a Japanese slave, to commit "hari kari" whenever a fad there or insolent State should command it to do so.

Thus, the ritual, after reciting that the States of the Union are "free, independent, and sovereign," proceeds as follows:

"The Government designated 'The United States of America' has no *sovereignty*, because that is an attribute with which the people, in their several and distinct political organizations, are endowed and is inalienable.

To this is added, as a corollary, "It is incompatible with the history, and nature of our system of government that Federal authority should coerce by arms a sovereign State."

The declaration of principles, however, does not stop here, but proceeds one step further, as follows:

"Whenever the chosen officers or delegates shall fail or refuse to administer the Government in strict accordance with the letter of the accepted Constitution, it is the inherent right and the solemn and imperative duty of the people to resist the functionaries, and, if need be, to *expel them by force of arms!* Such resistance is not revolution, but is solely the assertion of right—the exercise, of all the noble attributes which impart honor and dignity to manhood."

ITS SPECIFIC PURPOSES AND OPERATIONS.

1. *Aiding Soldiers to Desert, and Harboring and Protecting Deserters.*—Early in its history the order essayed to undermine such portions of the army as were exposed to its insidious approaches. Agents were sent by the K. G. C. into the camp to introduce the order among the soldiers, and those who became members were instructed to induce as many of their companions as possible to desert, and for this purpose the latter were furnished by the order with money and civilians' clothing. Through the schemes of the order in Indiana, whole companies were broken up; a large detachment of a battery company, for instance, deserting on one occasion to the enemy, with two of its guns, and the camps were imbued with a spirit of discontent and dissatisfaction with the service.

Soldiers, upon deserting, were assured of immunity of punishment, and protection on the part of the order, and were instructed to bring with them their arms, and, if mounted, their horses. Details sent to arrest them by the military authorities were in several cases forcibly resisted, and, where not unusually strong in numbers, were driven back by large bodies of men, subsequently generally ascertained to be members of the order. Where arrests were effected, our troops were openly attacked and fired upon on their return.

2. *Encouraging Enlistments and Arming the Brotherhood.*—It is especially inculcated by the order to oppose the reinforcement of our armies either by volunteers or drafted men. In 1862, the Knights of the Golden Circle organized generally to resist the draft in the Western States, and were strong enough in certain localities to greatly embarrass the Government.

Where members of the order were forced into the army by the draft, they were instructed, in case they were prevented from presently escaping, and were obliged to go to the field, to use their arms in battle against their fellow soldiers rather than the enemy, or, if possible, to desert to the enemy, by whom, through the signs of the order, they would be recognized and received as friends. It is to be added that whenever a member volunteered in the army he was at once expelled from the order.

3. *Circulation of Disloyal and Treasonable Publications.*—The order, especially in Missouri, has secretly circulated throughout the country a great quantity of treasonable publications, as a means of extending its own power and influence, as well as of giving encouragement to the disloyal and inciting them to treason.

4. *Communicating with, and giving intelligence to, the enemy.*—Smith, grand secretary of the order in Missouri, says, in his confession "Rebel spies, mail carriers, and emissaries have been carefully protected by this order ever since I have been a member." It is shown in the testimony to be customary in the rebel service to employ members of the order as spies, under the guise of soldiers furnished with furloughs to visit their homes within our lines. On coming within the territory occupied by our forces, they are harbored and supplied with information by the order. Another class of spies claim to be deserters from the enemy, and at once seek an opportunity to take the oath of allegiance, which, however, though voluntarily taken, they claim to be administered while they are under a species of duress, and, therefore, not to be binding. Upon swearing allegiance to the Government, the pretended deserter engages, with the assistance of the order, in collecting contraband goods or procuring intelligence to be conveyed to the enemy, or in some other treasonable enterprise.

The system of *espionage* kept up by the order, for the purpose of obtaining information of the movements of our own forces, &c., to be imparted to the enemy, seems to have been as perfect as it was secret. The Grand Secretary of the order in Missouri states, in his confession: "One of the especial objects of this order was to place members in steamboats, ferryboats telegraph offices, express offices, department headquarters, provost marshal's office, and, in fact, in every position where they could do valuable service."

5. *Aiding the enemy, by recruiting for them, or assisting them to recruit within our lines.*—This has also been extensively carried on by members of the order, particularly in Kentucky and Missouri. It is estimated that two thousand men were sent South, from Louisville alone, during a few weeks in April and May, 1864.

The same facilities which were afforded to recruits for the Southern army were also furnished by the Order to persons desiring to proceed beyond our lines for any illegal purpose. By these Louisville was generally preferred as a point of departure, and, on the Mississippi river, a particular steamer, the Graham, was selected as the safest conveyance.

6. *Furnishing the Rebels with Arms, Ammunition, &c.*—In this, too, the Order, and especially its female members and allies, has been assiduously engaged. The rebel women of Louisville and Kentucky are represented as having rendered the most valuable aid to the Southern army, by transporting very large quantities of percussion caps, powder, &c., concealed upon their persons, to some convenient locality near the lines, whence they could be readily conveyed to those for whom they were intended.

7. *Co-operating with the Enemy in Raids and Incursions.*—While it is clear that the order has given aid, both directly and indirectly, to the forces of the rebels, and to guerrilla bands, when engaged in making incursions into the border States, yet because, on the one hand, of the constant restraint upon its action exercised by our military authorities, and, on the other hand, of the general success of our armies in the field over those of the enemy, their allies at the North have never thus far been able to carry out their grand plan of a general armed rising of the order, and its co-operation on an extended scale with the Southern forces.

8. *Destruction of Government Property.*—There is no doubt that large quantities of Government property have been burned or otherwise destroyed by the agency of the order in different localities. At Louisville, in the case of the steamer Taylor, and on the Mississippi river, steamers belonging to the United States have been burned at the wharves, and generally when loaded with Government stores. Shortly before the arrest of Bowles, the senior of the major generals of the order in Indiana, he had been engaged in the preparation of "Greek Fire," which was to be found serviceable in the destruction of public property.

9. *Destruction of private Property and Prosecution of Union Men.*—It reported by Gen. Carrington that the full development of the order in Indiana was followed by "a state of terrorism among the Union residents of "portions of Brown, Morgan, Owen, Lawrence, Martin, Dubois, Daviess, Clay, Sullivan, Bartholomew, Hendricks, and other counties" in that State; that from some localities they were driven away altogether; that in others their barns, hay, and wheat ricks, were burned; and that many persons under the general insecurity of life and property sold their effects at a sacrifice and removed to other places.

In this connection the outbreak of the miners in the coal districts of eastern Pennsylvania, in the autumn of last year, may be appropriately referred to. It was fully shown in the testimony adduced, upon the trials of those insurgents, who were guilty of the murders, conflagrations and numerous acts of violence, as well as murder, that they were generally members of a secret treasonable association, similar in all respects to the K. G. C., at the meetings of which they had been incited to the commission of the crime for which they were tried and convicted.

10. *Assassination and Murder.*—After what has been disclosed in regard to this notorious league of traitors and ruffians, it will not be a matter of surprise to learn that the cold-blooded assassination of Union citizens and soldiers has been included in their devilish scheme of operations. Green B. Samuel, a member of the order, at a meeting in question, Dodd himself volunteered to go to Hamilton, Ohio, where Coffin was expected to be found, and there "dispose" of the latter." He adds that prior to the meeting, Dodd himself conveyed from Judge Bullitt, at Louisville, to Bowles and Dodd, at Indianapolis, special instructions to have Coffin "put out of the way"—murdered—"at least."

11. *Establishment of a Northwestern Confederacy.*—In concluding this review of some of the principal specific purposes of the order, it remains only to remark upon a further design of many of its leading members, the defenders of which they are represented as having deeply at heart. Hating New England, and jealous of her influence and resources, and claiming that the interests of the Western and Southern "are connected as they are through the Mississippi valley, are identical, and actuated further by an intensely revolutionary spirit as well as an unbridled and unprincipled ambition, these men have made the establishment of a Western or Northwestern Confederacy, in alliance with the South, the grand aim and end of all their plotting and conspiring.

It is with this steadily in prospect that they are constantly seeking to produce discontent, disorganization, and civil disorder at the North. With this view, they endeavor every reverse of the armies of the Union, and hope that the rebellion shall be protracted until the resources of the Government shall be exhausted, its strength paralyzed, its currency hopelessly depreciated, and confidence every where destroyed. Then, from the anarchy which, under their scheme, is to ensue, the new Confederacy is to arise, which is either to unite itself with that of the South, or to form therewith a close and permanent alliance. Fulsome and extravagant as this *scheme* may appear, it is yet the settled purpose of many leading spirits of the secret conspiracy, and is their favorite subject of thought and discussion.

Lastly, it is claimed that the new confederacy is already organized; that it has a "provisional government," officers, departments, bureaus, &c., in secret operation. He concludes, it is necessary to be made upon this treason, not now contemplated for the first time in our history. Suggested by the present rebellion, it is the logical consequence of the principle and view sympathy therewith which is the life and inspiration of the secret order.

But, although the treason of the order has been thoroughly exposed, and although its capacity for fatal mischief has, by means of the arrest of its leaders, the seizure of its arms, and the other vigorous means which have been pursued, been seriously impaired, it is still busy with its secret plotting against the Government, and with its perfidious designs in aid of the Southern rebellion. It is reported to have recently issued new signs and passwords, and its members assert that four months will be used to prevent the success of the Administration at the coming election, and threaten an extended revolt in the event of the re-election of President Lincoln.

The leaders of the traitors in the loyal States, who so completely fraternize with these conspirators, and whose machinations are now unmasked, it is as clearly the duty of the Administration to prevent and punish, as it is its duty to subjugate the rebels who are openly in arms against the Government. In the performance of this duty, it is entitled to expect, and will doubtless receive, the zealous co-operation of true men everywhere, who, in crushing the truculent foe embraced in the treason of this secret order, should rival in courage and faithfulness the armies which are so nobly sustaining our flag on the battle-fields of the South.

Respectfully submitted.

J. HOLT, Judge Advocate General.

Latest Operations in Oildom.

The Franklin *Union* of Wednesday notices the following new strikes on the Allegheny river and French Creek: Messers. Dale and Morrow struck a well last week on the Cochran Farm, two miles below Franklin, which yielded 240 barrels at the first forty-eight hours pumping. It is considered good for 100 barrels per day. John Lee has also obtained a flowing well on the Martin Farm, just above the Hoover, and nearly opposite the Cochran Farm, which flows over fifty barrels daily. Besides this, a well has been struck on the island opposite the Hoover well, which promises to be a first class well. It has not been tubed yet. In addition to this, Mr. Hubbs, who owns a lease on the Smith Farm, four miles below Franklin, now the property of the Excelsior Oil Company, and who had been pumping but four barrels a day at the depth of 408 feet, sunk his well to the depth of 424 feet and struck a vein which produces forty barrels in twenty-four hours. Two good wells have also been struck on French creek, about a mile above Franklin. All these strikes have been made within ten days, and there are good prospects of a number more in a short time.

The Oil City *Monitor*, of Thursday says: Morrow & Co., on the Obochran Farm, two miles below Franklin, made a strike last week. The well flows 100 barrels per day. The company on the David Smith farm, five miles below Franklin also made a good strike last week. A large show of oil was struck on Pit Hole Creek, by the Pit Hole Oil Company, on Friday. On Saturday the well was tubed. All the barrels to be obtained were filled, and operations suspended. Our informant is Mr. Colwell. We have a report of a good show of Oil being struck on the Van Buren Furnace property, on Two Mile Run, below Franklin.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

Supreme Court.

TUESDAY, NOV. 18.—Present, Chief Justice Woodward, and Judges Strong, Thompson, Read and Agnew.

Dean vs. Sloan and others. Crawford. Argued by D. M. Farrelly for plaintiff in error, and by Church, contra.

Selden Marvin and F. F. Marshall, of Erie county, were, on motion of Benjamin Grant, Esq., duly admitted and qualified to practice in the Supreme Court.

Miranville vs. Silverthorn. Erie. On motion of Mr. S. E. Woodruff, the continuance ordered yesterday was taken off.

Phelps' Assignees' Appeal. Erie. Argued by James C. Marshall for appellants, Benjamin Grant for Hector M'Lean, appellee, and by H. Babbitt for Lahon Marcy, appellee.

Sanford & Co. vs. Hays. Erie. Argued by Selden Marvin for plaintiffs in error, and J. Gunnison, contra.

McConnell & Co. vs. Carey. Erie. Argued by S. E. Woodruff for plaintiff in error, and J. F. Vincent, contra.

Osborn vs. Chapin. Erie. On motion of Benjamin Grant, attorney for defendant in error, judgment of non pros.

Rands' vs. Watt. Erie. Argued by Cutler for plaintiff in error, and by S. E. Woodruff, contra.

The Court directed notice to be given to the attorneys, that the Allegheny county list will be taken upon Wednesday morning at nine o'clock.

Court of Quarter Sessions.

TUESDAY FORENOON, Oct. 18.—Present, Judges Lowe and Brown.

In the case of Bridget Ross, Adorah Jones and others, being cross suits for assault and battery, the jury found as follows: In the first case, that Bridget Ross, Elizabeth McCune and Margaret Kane are not guilty, and that defendant, Elizabeth McCune, pay the costs. In the second case, defendants are not guilty, and Elizabeth McCune to pay the costs. In the third case, defendants not guilty, and the prosecutrix, Adorah Jones, to pay the costs. In the fourth case, the defendants, Adorah Jones, Jane Doran, and Eliza Robinson are not guilty, and defendants, Adorah Jones, to pay the costs.

John Boyle was convicted of a charge of fornication and bastardy, on oath of Rosanna Fiedley, and sentenced to pay a fine of ten dollars to the Poor Directors of this county, forty dollars for the maintenance and support of the child till date, and the costs of prosecution.

John Flood was convicted of a charge of larceny, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. John is an old offender, and has long escaped what has come upon him at last.

Thomas Davis was convicted of the larceny of a bundle of clothes in the possession of a woman, and sentenced to one year in the penitentiary.

John Negle, charged with selling liquor on Sunday, was discharged on payment of costs, it appearing that the prosecuting witnesses had gone into the war.

James Murphy was convicted of an aggravated assault and battery, but when called for sentence did not appear. A process was issued for his arrest.

Michael Hageman plead guilty to a charge of illegal liquor selling, and was sentenced to pay the costs.

The Court then took a recess until two o'clock.

United States District Court.

TUESDAY, Oct. 18.—Before Judge M'Candless.

At the opening of the Court Day Grant was empanneled and sworn, and after receiving a verbal charge in reference to their duties, retired to their room.

In the case of Samuel D. Hedger, a police officer of Allegheny, indicted for interfering with a United States officer in the discharge of his duties, District Attorney Carnahan made a statement, setting forth the counter charges made by Hedger against the prosecutor in this case, alluded to the origin of the difficulty, and stated that parties had agreed to an amicable settlement. By leave of the court, a *non. pros.* was entered.

The case of Captain John J. Shutterly was then called up. The defendant, a captain in the Fourteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, is charged with forging the certificate of Joseph Lawson, a tavern keeper of West Alexander, Washington county, to the effect that he (Shutterly) had paid $240 for substituting forty men at said tavern. The case was, on motion, continued until the May term.

The case of Danfal and Elias Smith, charged with counterfeiting postal currency, was also continued.

The Grand Jury found a true bill in the case of Henry Black, charged with counterfeiting United States Treasury notes. The defendant in this case was under bail, but both he and his surety have fled for parts unknown.

Court adjourned until Wednesday morning.

The Late Fire on Oil Creek.

The Oil City *Register* gives some additional particulars in reference to the late fire on the Tarr farm, reported in our paper by special telegraph last week. The fire commenced at the Cornwell well, pumping at the time one hundred barrels per day. The tanks and some six hundred barrels of oil were consumed, the engine rendered useless and the well stopped. The fire extended to the Kehoe, Wessel, Dissmore & Co., and Kitwin wells, burning up both tanks, machinery and derricks. The wells were producing previous to the fire, about three hundred barrels per day; they are all stopped now. Preparations are making to start them again as soon as possible. The fire is supposed to have been occasioned by a party visiting the derrick with a lighted lantern. The total loss is estimated from $30,000 to $40,000.

Illegal Liquor Selling—Important Order in the Quarter Sessions.

The following order was made to-day in the Court of Quarter Sessions:

"It appearing that a large number of the constables of the county have failed to make returns of the persons selling liquors, as by law required, the District Attorney is directed to prepare bills of indictment against all defaulters, and prefer the same before the Grand Jury for their action."

There has been, for some time past, a marked decrease of inefficiency in the matter of district returns, but we apprehend that the above order will have the effect of stirring up those who have been wholly derelict in duty, and awakening the senses of those who see but few if any infractions of the liquor law in their respective districts.

The Oil City Branch Railroad.

No effort is now being spared to finish the branch of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway between Franklin and Oil City. The road is graded nearly the whole distance, and the iron is now being laid above the point at French creek. The completion of the road will be hailed with great satisfaction by the denizens of Oil City, as it will tend to materially reduce the cost of many articles of necessity. As high as eighty cents per bushel for coal is now being paid in some sections, and a dollar per bushel will be paid ere long. When the road is completed, abundance of coal can be obtained over the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad, at greatly reduced rates, and the reduction upon other needed articles that will go through to Oil City from the large manufacturing cities, will be very considerable.

Information Wanted.

If any of our readers have any knowledge of the whereabouts of Richard Jones, formerly of Guilford county, North Carolina, they will confer a great obligation on his wife, by advising her through "Wm. Claspitt, Westfield, Hamilton county, Indiana." Jones was conscripted by the rebels, but after serving some time he managed to escape, and is supposed to be somewhere in the free States. His wife, who was left utterly destitute, with two children to provide for, has since reached the State of Indiana, and is exceedingly desirous of hearing from her husband, who is not aware of her having escaped from the South.

CORRECTION.—In our report of the proceedings of the Sunday School Union of the M. E. Church, the number of scholars, as reported by Dr. Wise, corresponding Secretary of the Union, is put down at 85,000, instead of 850,000. The number of schools is 13,000; teachers, 135,000; scholars, 850,000. The amount of collections reported for last Sabbath was $550, instead of $5,50, as incorrectly given.

RECOMMENDED FOR ORDERS.—The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania have recommended as candidates for priest's orders the Rev Joshua Cowpland and Rev. Chas. E. Murray. Testimonials were signed to recommend Rev. C. C. Parker for Ordination to Priest's Orders. The Rev. Wm. A. Snively, (late a minister in the Methodist Church,) and Messrs. Samuel Harp and John H. McCandless, were also recommended.

STRANGE WORD ON BROADWAY.—Sozodont, which is fast becoming a household word, is derived from the Greek, and composed of two words, "Soso," to preserve, and "Odontes," the Teeth—Sozodont a preserver of the Teeth. For beautifying the teeth, invigorating gums, and sweetening the breath, it is without a peer in the world. Sold by all Druggists.

THANKS.—Col. James A. Ekin, Q. M. G. O. Washington, D. C., will please accept our thanks for copies of late rebel papers.

OFFICIAL WAR BULLETIN.

Situation in Gen. Sherman's Department.

HOOD'S FORCES NEAR LAFAYETTE.

Gen. Sherman's Army at Ship Gap.

SURRENDER OF RESACA AND DALTON DEMANDED BY HOOD.

Our Army All Right.

DISPATCH FROM GEN. SCHOFIELD.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, Oct. 18th, 1864.

Maj. Gen. Dix: The following dispatch has been received:

"*Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 17, 2 a. m.*—Hood's main force was about Lafayette last night, and Sherman's at Ship Gap. The report of yesterday that Hood was approaching Carpenter's Ferry was a mistake. He had not crossed Lookout Mountain last night. Signed,

"J. M. SCHOFIELD, Maj. Gen."

Following is another official dispatch, dated Chattanooga yesterday: "I left Gen. Sherman's army at Ship Gap, in Taylor's Ridge, at dark last night. The army is all right and in the best of spirits. Hood won't fight, though offered repeatedly. His dreadful repulse has made him very cautious.

"General Slocum is all right at Atlanta, with plenty of provisions and forage.

"Hood's raid has produced no military result as yet. If he falls to invade Tennessee, as he has promised his men, he will lose twice as many by desertion as he has captured. The losses in men, thus far, has been in our favor.

"Hood demanded over his own signature, the surrender of Resaca and Dalton, and said that if surrendered, the officers and men would be paroled in a few days, but that if the post was carried by assault no prisoners would be taken.

"Rome is all right.

Signed "O. A. DAVIS,
"Acting Secretary of War."

GEN. SHERIDAN'S CAMPAIGN.

The Affair of Last Saturday.

THE ENEMY DRIVEN BACK.

COL. WELLS MORTALLY WOUNDED.

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.—The caution Sheridan has shown in his campaign, has been nowhere more strongly evinced, than in the affair of last Saturday:

The *Herald's* correspondent says: At eight o'clock this morning the rebels appeared on our front in the woods, and along the hills on the South of Cedar Creek. Their presence caused General Sheridan to use the caution he has so often exhibited, with a view to ascertain his adversary's movement.

Shortly after noon to-day, the enemy suddenly opened a heavy artillery fire from a position on the Strasburg pike, directing it on the front occupied by the 19th corps, and its diagonal fire on the first division of Gen. Crooks' army of West Va. which occupied a position in a piece of woods at the base of the north point of Massanetin Mountain, on our extreme left.

The fire of the enemy was rapid, the shell and shot falling directly into the camp of General Crooks' 1st division, which caused them to retire a little to the rear. Our artillery, under its chief, Captain Dupon, was soon brought into hand, and planted on the hills in front of our position and commenced a lively reply to the enemy, causing him, after a brisk cannonade, to retire with his guns.

A portion of the 19th corps advanced in line of battle from their camps to feel the enemy, which they did in good order, while Col. Thorburn's division of Crook's command came up and advanced along and to the left of the Strasburg pike. Our troops advanced under cover of the fire of our guns, and moved with celerity.

They had not proceeded far, when they became hotly engaged with the enemy's infantry, who were found occupying a secure place, and along the wooded hills. The musketry fire was very sharp, and lasted for nearly three hours. The 1st brigade of the 1st division, commanded by Colonel Wells, of the 34th Massachusetts, moving on the left of the pike, were hotly engaged during the entire affair, and although charged by the enemy repeatedly, they stood their ground nobly.

While this brigade was engaged and heavily pressed, Col Wells fell, mortally wounded. The ball passed through his left lung. He fell into the hands of the enemy.

It became apparent, as the firing was going on, that the demonstration on our left was for the purpose of covering another movement, which subsequently appeared to be an attempt to turn our position by flanking.

Our infantry front was changed so as to confront the rebel route of march, by order of Gen. Sheridan who was in a position that covered the entire field of operations.

Gen. Custer, commanding the 3d division of cavalry, was ordered to move from our left to the right, and in the middle of the afternoon met the enemy at or near a ford on Cedar Creek. He soon became engaged, and by dark had driven the enemy back. He posted his picket line on the east side of the creek, while the enemy occupied the opposite bank.

At dark the artillery firing ceased on both sides.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

The Baco-Coburn Affair Unsettled.

FRENCH MINISTER TRANSFERRED.

Uneasiness in Financial Circles.

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.—The steamer Scotia has just arrived here. The continued success of Sheridan gave great satisfaction to the friends of the Union.

The Confederate loan fell to 56, but subsequently rallied to 58.

B. B.'s Life says that neither Mace nor Coburn can claim the stakes, and that all bets are off, and recommends that Coburn accept Mace's challenge to fight in England, and says it is clearly Coburn's fault that no referee was chosen, and blames his friends for not observing secrecy.

M. Mercier, minister to Washington, has been transferred to Madrid, and M. Chatoauneuard appointed to Washington.

The Pope shows hostility to the New Franco Italian Convention.

Continued uneasiness was felt in the commercial and financial circles of England. The unfavorable bank returns, showing a heavy fall in the reserve of notes, dispelled all hopes of reduction and discount, and led to apprehensions of a further rise.

Funds heavy. Demand for money active.

GUERRILLA DEPREDATIONS RESUMED.

THE MANASSAS GAP RAILROAD.

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.—The *Herald's* Washington special says: The guerrillas have resumed their depredations on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and have almost entirely checked navigation. Four boats were destroyed between Edward's Ferry and the Monocacy, last week. The guerrillas are reported to be hovering in large numbers in the vicinity of the Southern defenses of Washington.

A considerable force of Mosby's men passed through Fairfax C. H. to-day.

The country along the line of the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Gap Railroad is being rendered uninhabitable to guerrillas. The Manassas Gap Railroad is in running order to its Western terminus, Strasburg.

The *Tribune* Washington correspondent says: Orders have been issued that if another attack should be made on a Government train, similar to the late one in which so many lives were lost, every house of a rebel within five miles of the Manassas road, on either side, shall be immediately destroyed. Meanwhile every train bears a party of rebel sympathizers, selected from the abundant number in Alexandria, to receive such bullets as their friends may chose to fire at them.

Decline in Gold.

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.—Gold lower and dull, closing this noon at 209.

UNION MAJORITY IN OHIO.

Hood East of Lafayette.

"A BATTLE CANNOT LONG BE DELAYED."

CINCINNATI, Oct. 18.—The returns from eighty counties in Ohio give a Union majority of 26,163. The estimated soldiers' vote will make the Union majority 74,000.

The *Commercial's* Nashville dispatch says that Hood was at Ship's Gap, three miles east of Lafayette, on the 16th, and that Sherman was close on to him, and a battle cannot long be delayed.

BOOKS, ALBUMS, &c.

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This new volume, by the author of "Among the Pines," is selling off like wild-fire, and can hardly be made as fast as the orders pour in for it. It is crammed full of material, most important to every one interested in public affairs, military or political, besides being as thoroughly attractive and absorbing in incident and story as the author's other books. 12mo, cloth. $1 50.

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