

nothing to encourage us, or to give us any hope of a victory, as yet; and after five days fighting, the enemy still have possession of their entrenchments back of Fredericksburg. We occupy the extreme left of the army, which now lies below Fredericksburg on this side of the river. The left wing re-crossed the river night before last. What the issue of this battle will be, God only knows. The rebels have everything in their favor, and I think some other plan would work better than to fight them in their entrenchments. The battle commenced last Thursday. We broke camp at Brooks Station the day before, and were lying in the woods some five miles from Falmouth when the cannonading commenced. I have heard artillery before, but never heard the like of this. One would think that the destroying Angel had started his fearful engines of destruction and death. The cannonading continued nearly all day. Friday morning, about 10 o'clock, we crossed the river about two miles below Fredericksburg, and were ordered to the front as skirmishers, but were ordered to the rear again by the General in command; and we stayed in the rear all through the fighting, now and then a stray shell striking in amongst us, but without doing any damage to speak of. The fighting continued through the afternoon of Friday, and all day Saturday, and Sunday morning we re-crossed the river and came down here on the old ground we occupied last spring. We have a fair view of the hills back of Fredericksburg, which is swarming with rebels. Gen. Bayard was killed by a shell on Saturday, and our Lieut.-Col. was placed in command of the cavalry. It is rather cold to-day and looks like a storm. We have to keep our horses saddled all the while, and are liable to get out of here any minute. Good bye. H. C.

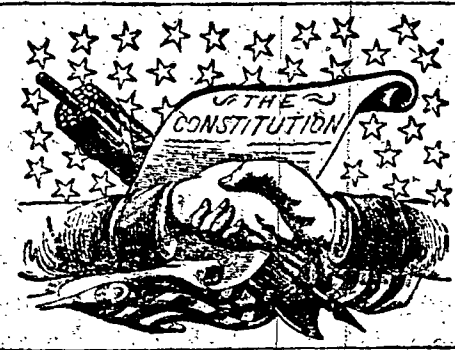
#### FROM T. P. MILLS.

CAMP NEAR BELLE PLAINS, Va.   
fearing is inter Dec. 22, 1862.   
If they attack us—\* \* \* I suppose in the vanguard of our performance here, I dare say that I am still among living, having passed through another storm of death shots. The report of the affair in the papers so far as I have seen, give a very poor chance to judge of what occurred. The main facts that we crossed the river, fighting all the time—did some desperate fighting while there—re-crossed in the night—completely outwitting the rebels—in these points at least are true, but as to how the fighting was done, and who did it, you can form but little idea. The reports are given by persons wishing to give credit to particular parties, making of some veterans and heroes, and seeing nothing of others. Of course, it is to try to give a description, it would be liable to the same objection. I will not offer any more than this:   
The Pennsylvania Reserve, as usual, had to lead in the work—went in supposing that a general fight was to ensue, and as the enemies line was to be broken, we meant to do it. But we were disappointed—the whole line did not advance. The whole three miles of the left looked on to see what we would do, and the right did about the same thing by the Irish brigade. Well, we went forward, and when in reach of the rebels, went at them; drove them across a narrow strip of woods, across the railroad track, which was the completest kind of work for defence—up a hill, in another piece of woods captured four pieces of artillery, and properly supported, would have held all and taken more. But not so. The divisions on both right and left advanced till in good range of the rebels, who lay concealed, and there stood and took it, they firing at random. This left both our flanks exposed, and allowed the rebels to concentrate too heavily upon us. The consequence was that when the men found themselves overpowered, they fell back confusedly—not able even to carry off the battery. We had the whole ground to pass over again under a destructive fire from the now elated rebels. Were not relieved till we arrived at the place of starting, under cover of our batteries. The credit is all claimed by those who relieved us there—they "saved our batteries," &c. But no subsequent advance was made over that ground. Our falling back, as related by some, looks a little discreditable. Gen. Meade's remark hits the case well. He said: "He could take that hill every day, but he could not hold it with his division alone." We only had one man killed and one wounded of our company. The one killed was A. T. Ely. We were very lucky. In the advance we were not much exposed, and yet we had a little the best show at the rebels we ever had. The right of our regiment got a cross fire on them as they lay on the railroad bank firing at another regiment. They bore it without turning on us till it became too hot, and then got off into the woods "right smart." We got them so close as to take thirty prisoners for our regiment. But this is all past, and all is quiet on the Rappahannock.

T. P. MILLS.

The Pottstown Ledger says, two negroes in that county recently visited a house in the absence of the men, knocked down a girl and plundered the house. Father Abraham, take the people's money and give us four millions more!

## Montrose Democrat.



A. J. GERRITSON, Editor.

Tuesday, Jan. 13th, 1863.

THE UNION AS IT WAS;   
Before abolition, secession, etc., disturbed its harmony.   
THE CONSTITUTION AS IT IS;   
Enforced and respected in all sections of the country.

Young men desiring to attend a Commercial College at Birmingham, Pittsburgh, or at Philadelphia, New York, etc., can obtain information of practical pecuniary value by calling upon or addressing the editor of this paper.

All private Letters intended for the editor of this paper should, until further notice, be addressed to

A. J. GERRITSON,   
House of Representatives,   
Harrisburg, Pa.   
Jan. 13.

During our absence at Harrisburg, Mr. Boyd, Foreman in the office, is authorized to attend to the books and accounts.

#### THE LATEST NEWS.

Up to the 1st inst. Vicksburg had not been taken by our forces. If this is the sole extent of our misfortune, we shall be in luck, for at the last accounts nothing less than the total demolition of our forces, or a disastrous retreat on their part seemed left to us.

Gen. Rosecrans has left Murfreesboro ten miles behind him, and is moving as fast as circumstances will allow after the enemy, who, it seems to be generally conceded, has fallen back upon Tullahoma. Thomas's division is in the advance. Gen. Rosecrans has ordered rebel officers into custody in view of Jeff. Davis' recent orders.

From Springfield, Mo., we learn that the rebels on the 8th succeeded in getting inside our stockade, and that our commanding general is severely if not fatally wounded. Springfield is a very large depot for the munitions of war, and has probably fallen into the hands of the rebels.

#### The Roll of Honor.

We propose to publish, the first week in February, a list of the names of those who pay for the DEMOCRAT during the month of January, with the amount paid by each, in cash. This will show who are our friends—who are aiding us to sustain the paper. Those who pay for the year in advance will be duly accredited for their generosity in the printed list. Give us a good list for January. New subscribers will look well in this Roll of Honor. Shall we have your name, friend?

#### Subscribe for the Democrat.

Now is the time to subscribe for the Montrose Democrat. Our recent victories throughout the country, in the State, and in our new district, must tend to inspire our friends with new zeal in supporting their paper. The necessity of maintaining our party ascendancy in the district against Grow & Co., should nerve every true Democrat to active exertion. Without a well sustained paper in this county, we may soon lose our recent glorious triumph. Send on your name and \$1.50 for the coming year, and urge every Democrat to do likewise. We ought to have one thousand new subscribers this year; and we could get out a paper that would please and surprise our friends, and largely increase our party vote. Let us all go to work to redeem old Susquehanna from the chains worn so long. The skies brighten on every hand—we have felt much encouraged during the last month by our receipts, and our prospects. Let Court week be a time to enter new names, and credits.

The message of Gov. Seymour of New York is an admirable document, worthy the careful reading and approval of all loyal citizens. Our first page is partly occupied by the excellent speech of C. E. Wright; and in our next we shall copy those portions of Seymour's message that relate to national topics, and trust our readers will give it their careful attention. We will speak more fully on this subject in our next.

#### OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

CAPITOL HILL, JAN. 8, 1863.

Having gone into winter quarters on the site of the famous buck-shot war, we propose to keep our readers posted in reference to affairs here, through the medium of a letter each week, which shall cover a brief outline of public business of importance, and all matters of local interest to the people of our county.

Both branches of the General Assembly organized on the 6th, all the members being present. In the Senate, the following officers were elected: Speaker, Geo. V. Lawrence, of Washington; Clerk, G. W. Hammersly, of Philadelphia; Assistant, G. S. Berry; Transcribers, W. W. Watt, J. R. McAfee, O. N. Worden, W. H. Huddleson; Sergeant-at-arms, J. G. Martin, with two assistants.

In the House, the officers elected are: Speaker, John Cessna, of Bedford; Clerk, Jacob Zeigler, of Butler; Assistant, R. Milton Spear, of Huntingdon; Transcribers, W. S. Ralston, of Armstrong, Wm. Gregory, of Phila., A. J. Sanderson, of Lancaster, H. C. Keyser, of Franklin; Sergeant-at-arms, B. F. Kelly, of Phila.; Assistants, Jacob Paul, Benj. Bennett, W. W. McClellan, J. Gerard; Doorkeeper, Sebastian Lieber, of Berks, with four assistants; Messenger, J. R. Templin, of Northampton, with four assistants; Postmaster, A. J. Gerritson, of Susquehanna.

On the 7th the Governor's Message and the reports of the State Treasurer and Attorney General were presented. Our Speaker and Clerk, in point of ability and experience, are second to none, and will enable the House to transact business promptly and correctly. With most of the other officers of the House, and those of the Senate, we are not sufficiently acquainted to speak definitely at present.

The address of Speaker Cessna, (which we append,) on taking the chair, elicits the praise of all liberal-minded gentlemen; and exhibits a spirit of fairness and political generosity in perfect keeping with Mr. Cessna's uniform habit—and is in striking contrast with the vindictiveness exhibited by the Speaker of the Senate, who took the occasion to allege that not to endorse Lincoln's proclamation, "is little short of treason." We had hoped that the rebuke given by a majority of the six great central States of the North, at the polls, would induce our political opponents to manifest a little better temper; but if such is not to be the case, and they choose to spit against the wind, let them take the consequences.

The Governor's Message is a rather docile affair; and the President's insane issue is coolly dodged.

Some unimportant bills were offered, and to-day an adjournment takes place to afford time for forming the Committees, and preparing for the election of Senator, which occurs next Tuesday, when we shall be able to inform our readers whether any Democratic member can be induced to vote for Cameron in consideration of the uncounted pile of "green-backs" which it is confidently alleged are at the disposal of any corrupt villain who may have crept into office by deception. Prominent politicians of both parties from all quarters are coming in to see the contest through. I trust that all will go well. I am too busy arranging affairs for my winter labors to write more than these hasty lines to-day.

A. J. G.

#### ADDRESS OF SPEAKER CESSNA.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:   
I return to you my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the honor you have just conferred upon me. I am about to assume the discharge of the duties of presiding officer of your body, with a full sense of the many difficulties and heavy responsibilities attending the position. I pledge to you, one and all, my firm determination to perform those duties with strict impartiality, according to the utmost of my ability. Without your aid, and cordial and generous forbearance and assistance, success will be impossible. These I earnestly invite at your hands. May I not confidently express the hope and belief, that in the discharge of our several duties, all personal and political differences will be buried, and that all will be actuated by an earnest determination to promote the welfare and prosperity of our noble State, and to uphold the Constitution and restore the Union of our beloved country, now distracted by an unjust but disastrous civil war.

The session of the Legislature now about to commence may, and probably will be one of the most important ever assembled in the State. The eyes of our constituents and of the whole nation will

be upon us. Pennsylvania contains within herself all the resources of a great and powerful nation. She is to-day almost equal in population, and in all the elements of strength, to the whole nation in the days of its infancy. The conservatism and patriotism of our people have at all times had an important and controlling influence in moulding the public sentiment of the nation. May we not reasonably hope that, in this hour of our national troubles and national peril, the conservative views of our people, sustained and supported by the wise and patriotic action of their representatives, may go far to allay and rebuke the wild fanaticism of all extremists, and restore to the country its former condition of peace, prosperity and national greatness. [Applause on the Democratic side.] While we are justly proud of our State, of her power and greatness, let us not forget that all these depend upon her connection with the Federal Union. The destruction of the latter would sooner or later prove the overthrow of the former. The true greatness and prosperity of Pennsylvania can only be secured and preserved while our whole Union remains, and we continue to exist as one people, with one government, one Constitution, and one set of laws. [Applause.]

I sincerely trust that in our associations and deliberations during the coming session, those friendly and kindly feelings which should prevail among gentlemen, will be so far observed that when we come to separate, we may look back upon our past course without a single regret. When we return to our constituents may we be gratified with their hearty endorsement of our official conduct, and in the future may it have the approval of our own conscience and judgment. Above all, may our legislation be such as to aid essentially in allaying the angry passions which now swell the bosom of our Nation, and in upholding and cheering the patriot hosts who have gone forth to sustain the Government of our fathers, until our glorious old Union shall be permanently restored, our whole country once more peaceful and powerful, and the flag of a free, happy and united people again brightening our skies from one extremity of this continent to the other. [Applause.]

#### Meeting of the Democratic County Committee.

The Democratic Committee of Susquehanna County will meet at the Keystone Hotel, in Montrose, on Monday, Jan. 10th, 1863; it being the first week of Court. A full attendance of members is earnestly requested, as business of unusual importance will be presented. The following gentlemen were recommended as members of the Committee at the last County Convention:

Harford, A. Carpenter—Lenox, A. J. Titus—Clifford, Adam Wells—Dundaff, H. S. Plunney—Herrick, Henry Lyon—Gibson, Benj. Dix—Arrarat, B. H. Dix—Thomson, Chester Stoddard—New Milford, F. W. Boyle, Geo. Hayden—Susquehanna Depot, A. W. Rowley—Harmony, L. Norton—Oakland, Levi Westfall—Gt. Bend boro, Isaac Reckhow—Gt. Bend tp., W. D. Lusk—Jackson, O. H. Perry.

If it is not convenient for any of the above to become active members of the Committee, they will confer a favor by sending notice of the fact. Those not attending this meeting, or sending an explanation of their absence, and expressing a willingness to act, will be understood as not desiring to act, and another person will be chosen. This will be necessary, as it is desired to have a full Committee of active, working Democrats, who can devote some time and labor to the interests of their party and country.

The attendance of active Democrats of the County is also invited—especially from those towns that are not represented on the Committee.

The Committee will assemble at two o'clock, in their room on third floor.

FIRE!—About 6 o'clock on Wednesday morning last, the house of Dr. E. Patrick, in this village, was discovered to be on fire in the roof. The engines were soon on hand, and extinguished the flames in a few minutes. The fire caught from a defective stove-pipe, and run up a partition to the roof. The house and furniture were badly used by the fire and water, but we have not learned the amount of damage.

Col. Madill of the 141st P. V., writing to the Bradford Reporter, says:

"To Major Spalding and the Adjutant, Seale, is due a great deal of credit. They remained at their posts, on their horses, during most of the afternoon, ready for any emergency that might arise. They evinced great coolness in assisting in forming the regiment on the field, and in encouraging the men in their extremely hard march from the river. The Major narrowly escaped being hit with a shell, it glancing by his stirrup. To the Major and Adjutant I am under great obligations for their assistance during the day."

#### The Governor's Message.

The material points of the Governor's Message will be found below:

The Treasury commenced the last fiscal year with a credit balance of \$1,551,665.72. The receipts from all sources during the year, to Nov. 30, 1862, were—5,211,747.63

Making a total of—\$6,763,353.35   
For the same year the aggregate expenditures were 4,590,509.25

Leaving a balance in the Treasury, Nov. 30, 1862 of \$2,172,844.10

The public debt, on December 1, 1862, was \$40,448,213. What an obstinate sum is that forty millions! We have been reducing our debt for more than a decade; but as it was forty millions at the start, so it is forty millions still. Having, in time of peace, got it down to some thirty-eight millions, it has swung back, to the old point through the necessity of making the patriotic loan of three millions to arm and equip our soldiers, and to organize the glorious old Reserves in the spring and summer of 1861.

Again the debt we have in the Sinking Fund bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the Sanbury and Erie Railroad Company, and the Wyoming Canal Company, amounting to \$10,781,000; and from the balance of over two millions now in the State Treasury and from our increasing revenue there can be spared (if no unforeseen emergency occurs) about one and a half millions in the current year towards liquidating the debt.

Pennsylvania's quota of the United States direct tax, under the Act of Congress of August 5, 1862, was \$1,946,719.33. This has all been discharged by the State, mainly in the form of advances to our volunteers for the service of the United States, but in part by a direct appropriation from the Treasury of \$350,000.

There is a sum of three hundred thousand dollars still due the State from the United States, which will nearly cover this direct payment. Our State was the first to pay her quota, and this was done without adding directly to the burdens of taxation on real estate, which was the sole subject of the direct tax. Under the Excise law of July 1, 1862, the direct tax is limited to one year, so that the people of Pennsylvania, through the mode of liquidation adopted by their authorities, are not likely to feel the burdens of that tax at all.

In miscellaneous matters we note the following subjects treated in the Message. One hundred and ninety-nine miles of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad are finished, leaving to be completed eighty-nine miles, of which nearly all is graded and ready for the iron. The Governor thinks there are more incorporated banks in the State than public convenience requires. He is of the opinion however, that the existing provisions of law for paying the interest on the State debt in a specie equivalent falls too heavily on the banks, and he invites the Legislature to their relief.

The moneys appropriated by the municipal authorities of Philadelphia and the Commissioners of some of the counties, as bounty to encourage enlistments, the Governor suggests should receive some legislative attention with a view to equalizing an expense which operated equally to the advantage of the whole State.

Prior to the call of the President for troops in July last, Pennsylvania had furnished the armies of the nation with one hundred and ten thousand men. Since that requisition, she has sent forward forty-three additional regiments, two companies of cavalry and three batteries of artillery. That is all over and above the number furnished by the draft, which the Governor says was entirely successful. His statement of the aggregate number of troops furnished by the State is two hundred thousand.

A number of other matters are noticed in the Message which we must dispose of briefly. Acknowledgments are made to the militia who responded with such patriotic promptitude during the threatened invasion of the State by Lee's army. There was fifty thousand of these, and measures are in progress for their payment. Credit is given to the Anderson Cavalry, and to Generals Reynolds and Andrew Porter, for their services on this occasion. The militia law needs reconstruction. This should have been done in 1861, if not before. Captain Wrigley, of Philadelphia has made a report upon the defenses of the Delaware. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company's contribution of fifty thousand dollars to the Bounty Fund was declined by the Governor for want of authority to accept. He suggests that it should be devoted to the erection of an asylum for our disabled soldiers. The Governor invites the attention of the Legislature to an Act of Congress donating lands to such States as may provide colleges for the benefit of Agriculture and Mechanics.

This message of Governor Curtin is a clear, plain and unpretentious document. It deserves credit on two accounts: first, it meddles with little or nothing but the business of the Commonwealth; and second, it is almost wholly free from the somewhat turgid rhetoric affected by the Governor in his earlier State papers.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

#### Official Despatch from Gen. Rosecrans.

HEAD-QUARTERS, MURFREESBORO, Jan. 3.—To General H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief:—On the 26th of December we marched from Nashville in three columns—McCook's corps by the Nashville pike; Thomas' from its encampment on Franklin pike; via Wilson pike, and Crittenden's on the main Murfreesboro pike. The left and centre met with a strong resistance, such as the nature of the country; rolling or hilly routes skirted by cedar thickets and firs, and interspersed by small streams with rocky bluff banks, forming serious obstacles.

McCook drove Hardee's corps a mile and a half from Nolansville and occupied the place. Crittenden reached within a mile and a half of Laverne. Thomas reached the Wilson pike, meeting with no serious opposition.

On the 27th McCook drove Hardee from Nolansville, and pushed a reconnoitering division six miles towards Shelbyville, and found that Hardee had retreated towards Murfreesboro. Crittenden fought and drove the enemy before him, occupying the line of Stewart's creek, capturing some prisoners, with slight loss.

Thomas occupied the vicinity of Nolansville, where he was partially surprised, thrown into confusion and driven back. Sheridan's Division repulsed the enemy four times, protected the flank of the centre, which not only held its own, but advanced until this untoward event, which compelled me to retain the left wing to support the right, until it should be rallied and assume a new position.

On January 1st, the Rebels opened by an attack on us, and were again repulsed. On the 2d, there was skirmishing along the front, with threats of attack, until about three in the afternoon, when the enemy advanced in a small division thrown across Stone River to occupy commanding ground.

While reconnoitering the ground occupied by this division, which had no artillery, I saw a heavy force emerge from the woods, and advancing in line of battle three lines deep, they drove our little division before them after a sharp contest, in which we lost seventy or eighty killed and three hundred and seventy-five wounded; but they were repulsed by Negley's Division and the remaining troops of the left wing, headed by Morton's Pioneer Brigade, and fled far over the field and beyond their entrenchments; the officers rallying them with great difficulty. They lost heavily; we occupied the ground with the left wing last night. The lines were completed at four in the morning.

The 3d was spent in bringing up and distributing provision and ammunition.

It has been raining all day, and the ground is very heavy.

W. S. ROSECRANS.

Major-General Commanding.

MURFREESBORO, Jan. 4, 1863.—To Major-General H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief.—Following my despatch of last evening I have to announce that the enemy are in full retreat.

They left last night. The rain having raised the river, and the bridge across it between the left and centre being incomplete, I deemed it prudent to withdraw that wing during the night.

This occupied my time until four o'clock and fatigued the troops.

The commencement of the retreat was known to me at seven o'clock this morning. Our ammunition train arrived during the night.

To-day was engaged in distributing the ammunition, burying the dead and collecting arms from the field of battle.

The pursuit was commenced by the centre, the two leading brigades arrived at the west side of Stone river this evening.

The railroad bridge was saved, but in what condition is not known.

We shall occupy the town and push the pursuit to-morrow.

Our Medical Director estimates the wounded in the hospitals at short of 5,500, and our dead at 1000.

We have to deplore the loss of Lieutenant-Colonel Garesche, whose capacity and gentlemanly deportment had already endeared him to all the officers of this command, and whose gallantry in the field of battle excited their admiration.

(Signed) W. S. ROSECRANS.

Major-General Commanding.

Later intelligence from Gen. Sherman's expedition confirms the report received through rebel sources that Vicksburg is still in possession of the rebels, or was in possession at the latest accounts from that place. The rebels attacked General Sherman in overwhelming numbers on Monday, Dec. 29, and caused him to fall back to his first line of defenses, after he had fought his way to within two miles of Vicksburg. The fighting on Sunday was most desperate, batteries being taken and retaken and the struggle at times being hand-to-hand. Gen. Hovey was sent out to execute a special order, but had not been heard from. Gen. Sherman had received no reinforcements either from Gen. Grant or Gen. Banks, while the rebels were being constantly reinforced, so that they had about 65,000 men.—Gen. Joseph E. Johnson is in command of the rebels at Vicksburg.