

THE MONTROSE DEMOCRAT.

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The Oldest Insurance Co. in the Union.
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THE rates are as low as those of any good company in New York, or elsewhere, and its Directors are among the first for honor and integrity.
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NO. 37 PARK ROW, New York, and 6 State Street, Boston, are our agents for the following named goods, and are authorized to make advertisements and subscriptions for us at our lowest rates.

Importance of the Coming Election.

The coming election, now so close at hand, is more important than any one which has preceded it. A Governor, to whose hands will be committed the destinies of this great State for three years, in this most eventful period of time, is to be chosen. A Judge of the Supreme Court, on whose decision may hang our dearest rights as citizens, is to be elected. Besides these, the most important offices in the Commonwealth, we are to choose members of our legislature, the men who are to make the laws which are to be passed upon by the Supreme Court, and enforced by the Executive. No election could be more important when viewed in its bearing upon the State alone. But the condition of our national affairs gives it ten fold interest; and it is not easy to estimate the importance of a triumph of proper principles in the coming contest in the great State of Pennsylvania. All true lovers of their country, every conservative man in the nation, multitudes of men even in the revolted States, who yet hope to see the Union restored, are looking anxiously at the struggle here going on, and praying earnestly for the triumph of the great Democratic party. There are vital principles to be settled by the coming election. The best interest of the nation, of our good old Commonwealth, and of every American citizen, are to a greater or less extent to be influenced by the result. We are to decide among other things—

Whether the Constitution of the United States is to continue to be regarded as the sacred and supreme law of the land, alike binding upon the rulers and people, and to be preserved inviolate, or whether it is to be trampled upon by any man who may chance to occupy the presidential chair.

Whether the rights reserved by it to the States are to be respected, and the great Democratic doctrine of State rights maintained.

Whether the rights of the individual citizen, as derived from nature and defined by civil law, are to continue secure, or to be subject to the whim of a temporary ruler.

Whether we are still to enjoy the great Anglo Saxon rights of the writ of *habeas corpus*, and trial by jury.

Whether we are to be protected in life, liberty, and property by the majesty of the civil law, or whether all these are to be subject to the caprice of any man who may happen to be in command of the military forces of the nation.

Whether, in short, this is to continue to be a constitutional government, having the powers of its rulers limited by well established and known laws, or to degenerate into a military despotism.

Whether the Union as our fathers made it is to be restored by a wise system of policy or its restoration to be rendered impossible by the mad schemes of a set of miserable fanatics whose sympathies seem to exhaust themselves entirely upon the negro.

Whether the white man is to continue to rule in America, as is his right by virtue of superiority of race, or whether we are to consent to see the negro elevated to social and political equality.

Whether the war is to be managed for the benefit of the white race, or for that of the negro.

Whether we are to be taxed for ages to come that the slaves of the South may be freed.

Whether they are all to be freed, as Mr. Lincoln in his late letter declares they shall, and turned loose to compete with the poor white man of the North in his struggle for a livelihood.

Whether we are to have a speedy and an honorable peace, by extending a cordial invitation to the people of the South to return to their allegiance in the Union as it was under the Constitution as it is, or to see the war protracted for years upon the policy avowed by Abraham Lincoln in his late letter.

Whether we are to have free elections in the future or to be mocked by a farce carried on while the bayonets of soldiers surround the ballot-box.

Never were more momentous questions submitted to the decision of any people. All the best interests of the nation are hanging on the result. The eyes of all conservative men are turned anxiously to watch the issue of the coming elections. We have a high and solemn duty to perform. Every ballot is big with destiny. No voter should lightly esteem his great privilege as a freeman. A grand triumph of the Democracy will be a glorious victory for the people. The election of Woodward and Lewis will insure such an administration of the affairs of the Commonwealth as will make glad the hearts of the people, while the great moral effect of the victory will be of even greater importance. Freedom of Pennsylvania, you must rebuke the spirit of fanaticism that is hurrying our country to destruction. If you value your dearest rights, you must make a united and determined struggle to maintain them. The work before you is one that demands all your zeal and all your energy. Let not a day pass unimproved between this and the second Tuesday of October. Work earnestly and unflinchingly and a glorious triumph will be the result.

Gov. Curtin and the Sinking Fund.

Governor Curtin and his friends, with their usual bare faced impudence, claim that his administration has exercised wonderful economy, and roundly assert that he was instrumental in the recent reduction of the State debt through the agency of the Sinking Fund. Never was a claim made that had less foundation in fact, as we shall be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of every tax-payer who desires to know the truth.

Not long since, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, comprising the Auditor General, State Treasurer and Secretary of the Commonwealth, notified the Governor that they had paid off some nine hundred thousand dollars of the State debt, whereupon the Governor, as required by law, issued his proclamation announcing the cancellation and extinguishment of the amount of debt certified to him as paid by these Commissioners. This was the beginning and the end, the sum and substance of Gov. Curtin's agency in this transaction. He had no more to do with the creation of the Sinking Fund and appropriating money to the cancellation of the State debt than the Emperor of China, not half so much to do with putting money into the Treasury as with taking it out to lavish upon his shoddy associates and needy partisans.

Now let us see who deserves the credit for proposing and creating this Sinking Fund, through the operation of which a portion of the State debt is annually extinguished. At the session of the Legislature of 1856, Charles R. Bucklew, then a member of the State Senate, and now member of the United States Senate, proposed certain amendments to the Constitution, and among them the section creating a Sinking Fund. These amendments were adopted by the Democratic Legislature of 1856, again adopted by the Democratic Legislature of 1857, submitted to the vote of the people at the election of 1857, adopted and made part of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in the following words:

"To provide for the payment of the present debt and any additional debt contracted as aforesaid, the Legislature shall, at its first session after the adoption of this amendment, create a Sinking Fund, which shall be sufficient to pay the accruing interest on such debt, and annually to reduce the principal thereof by a sum not less than \$250,000; which Sinking Fund shall consist of the net annual income of the public works, from time to time owned by the State, or the proceeds of the sale of the same, or any part thereof, and of the income or proceeds of sale of stocks owned by the State, together with other funds or resources that may be designated by law. The said Sinking Fund may be increased, from time to time, by assigning to it any part of the taxes, or other revenues of the State, not required for the ordinary and current expenses of government, and unless in case of war, invasion or insurrection, no part of the said Sinking Fund shall be used or applied otherwise than in extinguishment of the public debt, until the amount of such debt is reduced below the sum of five millions of dollars."

In accordance to the amendment to the Constitution, the Legislature of 1858, passed an act assigning certain revenues to the Sinking Fund, and directing their application to the payment of the interest and principal of State debt. Among the revenues thus applied to the Sinking Fund we find *tonnage tax paid by railroads*. Will Governor Curtin deny that he was instrumental in depriving the Sinking Fund of this source of revenue, amounting to more than \$300,000 annually, and that he approved of the bill repealing the Tonnage Tax?

We have thus established beyond controversy that the sinking Fund was created by the Constitution, that revenues were assigned to it by the Legislature as directed by the Constitution, and that so far from having any agency, even the most remote, in putting money into this Sinking Fund, Gov. Curtin has, by his action helped to take out revenues amounting to more than THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY. How absurd then to claim for him the peculiar glory of having paid off a million of the State debt, when the truth is, that his only agency in the matter was to issue a proclamation, announcing the amount liquidated through the operation of the Sinking Fund, created long before his official existence commenced.

The Abolition-Republicans are making rapid progress on the negro question. Wendell Phillips declares that "amalgamation is the divine mode of civilizing the world," and thousands of loyal leaguers say amen.—On the 4th of July, in Somerville, N. J., Rev. Dr. Jenkins said: "I would as soon have my daughter marry a respectable negro as a white man."

Herick Allen's Gold Medal Sale, at a manner as to render it use much more economical and healthy than any other. For ordinary purposes it cannot be equalled in the world. A lady who has tested its merits, refuses to try any other. It is much better than soda, and is perfectly healthy. Dr. H. Groves and Druggists sell it. Depot 112 Liberty street, N. Y.

CURTIN AND THE TONNAGE TAX. More Republican Testimony.

When Andrew G. Curtin canvassed this State for Governor, in 1860, he announced from every stump that he was opposed to the repeal of "of so just a tax as that imposed upon the tonnage of the Pennsylvania Railroad." Yet no sooner had he taken his seat and sworn before High Heaven to protect and defend the interests of the Commonwealth, than he approved a bill passed by the Republican Senate and House of Representatives, which deprived the State of a just and equitable revenue of three hundred thousand dollars a year; and actually released the company from the payment of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars, already due the State. With all this heavy load of iniquity upon his head, this man Curtin, has been re-nominated against the earnest protest of the honest sentiments of the Republican party, and he now again asks the suffrages of the people of Pennsylvania. The *Pittsburg Gazette* of July 22d says—

"We have already treated our readers to a curious chapter in the history of the administration of public affairs of this State under the auspices of Gov. Curtin. Whether it was calculated to recommend him for a second term they will be able to judge for themselves.

But there was another act more damaging by far, and that was his signature of the infamous bill to repeal the Tonnage Tax. He knew and confessed that it was atrociously wrong. He could not but know it was protracted—as has since been shown by the Committee of the House—by corrupt and illegal influences. He was solemnly admonished as was the Legislature, that it would be ruinous to the party and himself, and to the men who voted for it—outside of Philadelphia—would be left at home by their constituents. He admitted the probable consequences, as to the party and himself, and was solemnly and repeatedly pledged to refuse his assent. He signed it with indecent haste, during a recess of the Legislature, under the pressure of his principal counselors, Thomas A. Scott and A. K. McClure, in opposition to the remonstrances of his Attorney General (the Hon. S. A. Purviance, now of this city), and his Secretary of State, and after having given these gentlemen the most positive assurances that it should be vetoed. He signed it too, immediately after these assurances were given, without the knowledge of the former gentlemen, who were his constitutional advisers, and upon a private agreement in writing, made by Thomas A. Scott, for the Company, to pay the sum of \$75,000 per annum into the Treasury, which agreement he concealed from the people, and afterwards surrendered to the Company, without even preserving a copy of it. When interrogated at the next session upon this point, he admitted the fact of the agreement, and its surrender, and excused his conduct on the ground that the Company was actually paying more than that amount in taxes to the State already, and of course that it was of no further value to the people.—The record showed that they had not been paying the half of that amount, and the whole statement was contradicted by the testimony of the Attorney General himself, who swore before the Hopkins Committee that the paper was given by Scott, and placed in his hands as an official document; that it was afterwards demanded by John Edgar Thompson, President of the Company, on the ground that Scott had no right to give it; that he refused to surrender it for the reason that it was a Public Record; and that it disappeared from his office, without his privacy or any knowledge on his part as to the way in which it was withdrawn! These facts were before the Hopkins Committee, and ignored in their report; the Chairman, (Mr. Hopkins,) consenting reluctantly to their suppression, for the purpose of securing a unanimous report, which he could not otherwise have got from the Committee, whose good will the Governor, if not greatly misrepresented, had spared no pains to secure. They are still of record, and well known to the copperheads who favor his nomination, and will be duly prepared, of course, if the Union party of this State should be so unwise as to invite it, by selecting him as their candidate—a step which, by the way, neither the Pennsylvania Railroad Company nor his confidential advisers and managers, who, as the newspapers tell us, have been so recently summoned to Harrisburg on the occasion of the invasion of the State, nor any other of the parties who took so much interest in securing for him the promise of foreign employment, would be likely to desire.

The same Legislature passed three other acts, all part and parcel of the same gigantic scheme of spoliation and domination—one robbing the Treasury of seven millions of dollars, in the name of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company—and the other two, to perfect the whole arrangement by authorizing either the merger or transfer of that road itself to the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company, which has since been effected under the form of a ninety-nine year's lease.

Gov. Curtin, with no apparent will of his own, approved them all, apparently not

cording to programme, thereby stripping the Sinking Fund of at least EIGHTEEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, and making this monstrous corporation the permanent master of the State and its Legislature!

Curtin's "Soldier Dodge" Played Out.

The following letter is from a responsible source—an intelligent soldier of the Reserve Corps, who went in a Democrat and intends to come out one, if he should survive the war. It is a genuine letter—not like most of those published in the abolition papers, manufactured for the occasion:

CAMP NEAR WARRENTON, VA., September 10, 1863.

MR. EDITOR: I am a Pennsylvanian, and have led the life of a soldier for nearly three years. I was a Democrat when I entered for the war, and am one yet. I have had great inducements held out to me if I would desert the old landmarks of Jefferson and Jackson, but I couldn't "see it."

In reading the abolition papers, which are circulated freely in this army, I find that "Heaven and earth" are about being moved for the purpose of impressing upon the minds of the good people of the old Keystone, that A. G. Curtin is the "soldiers' candidate for Governor—that he is the unanimous choice of all the soldiers from Pennsylvania in the army of the Potomac. Such talk is all balderdash. Curtin is not the choice of the "fighting sons" of Pennsylvania.—The abolition wing of the honored sons of Pennsylvania support Andy; but the large, conservative, Democratic wing jump over Andy and go in for the great statesman, George W. Woodward, for Governor. Curtin's most ardent supporters are found among the shoulder-strap braves. Judge Woodward's supporters are found in the ranks. The men that carry the muskets and do the fighting—the hard-fisted yeomanry—are the supporters and defenders of Democracy.

We know Andy's career by heart. The abolitionists can't learn us anything about him. We know what he has done for us, we know all. We know, too, that he has been well paid for all he ever did for us. We owe him nothing. He had better give up the soldier dodge—he knows he is acting the hypocrite. Come Andy, this won't do; you know very well you are not the unanimous choice of us Pennsylvania boys for Governor. There is no use in your trying to gulf the people any longer.

Pennsylvanians, be not deceived! A. G. Curtin is not the unanimous choice of the soldiers. There are thousands of Democrats in this army who are not his supporters. Vote for George W. Woodward, the soldiers' true friend! Arouse, Democrats, arouse! Elect Woodward Governor of Pennsylvania, and the sons of Pennsylvania in the army of the Potomac will thank you for it.

Yours, &c., HIGH PRIVATE, P. R. V. C.

Republican Loyalty and Unionism.

We quote a few extracts from Horace Greeley's editorials in the Tribune, reminding our readers that no Republican authority has ever repudiated or denounced the language. It stands recorded, therefore, as good Republican doctrine. Nov. 9th, 1860, it said:

"If the cotton States shall become satisfied that they can do better out of the Union than in it, we insist on letting them go in peace. The right to secede may be a revolutionary one; but it exists nevertheless; and whenever a considerable section of our Union deliberately resolve to go out, we shall resist all coercive measures designed to keep it in. We hope never to live in a republic where one section is pinned to another with bayonets."

Nov. 24, it said:

"If the cotton States earnestly and unitedly wish to withdraw peacefully from the Union, we think they should and would be allowed to do so. Any attempt to compel them by force to remain would be contrary to the principles enunciated in the immortal Declaration of Independence—contrary to the fundamental ideas on which human liberty is based."

Dec. 17, it said:

"If the Declaration of Independence justified the secession from the British empire of three millions of colonists in 1776, we do not see why it would not justify the secession of five millions of southerners from the Union in 1860."

Feb. 20, 1861, it said:

"We have repeatedly said, and we once more insist, that the great principle embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, that governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed, is sound and just; if the slave states, the cotton states, or the gulf states only, choose to form an independent nation, they have a clear moral right to do so. Whenever it shall be clear that the great body of the southern people have become conclusively alienated from the Union, and anxious to escape from it, we will do our best to forward their views."

What Gov. Curtin Has Done.

Who appointed contractors that clothed the three mount men (in 1861) in shoddy, gave them blankets thin as air—furnished them shoes with pine shaving soles—and fed them on rotten Herring and Stinking Beef? A. G. Curtin.

Who rode over the terrible battle field at Gettysburg, and on hearing a wounded officer exclaim, "this is an awful slaughter of Pennsylvanians," remarked "it mattered little, there were plenty more to take their places"? A. G. Curtin.

Who keeps that miserable pack of shoddy contractors, horse thieves, and public robbers, that furnished the three months men with rotten blankets and worthless clothes, still in employ? A. G. Curtin.

Who approved a bill that took from the tax payers of Pennsylvania, eighteen millions of dollars, and gave it to the Pennsylvania railroad company? A. G. Curtin.

Who transferred the State and its Legislature into the hands of this plundering corporation? A. G. Curtin.

Who made an agreement with this same company, by which it was to pay the State \$75,000 per annum—concealed that agreement and afterwards surrendered it to the company, without even preserving a copy or memorandum of it? A. G. Curtin.

Who permitted the soil of our State to be invaded by the Confederates, and then said he had no power to defend the State when thousands upon thousands of our citizens were on hand ready to repel an invasion and protect our homes? A. G. Curtin.

Who crawled to Washington, like a poor miserable beggar, and there on bended knees implored Father Abraham to allow him to protect our State Capital? A. G. Curtin.

Who permitted the minions of Federal authority to enter the Capital of our State and drag from their homes honest patriotic citizens, and incarcerate them in the loathsome cells of military prisons, without warrant or cause? A. G. Curtin.

Who pardoned the Abolition miscreants at Bloomsburg, after they had been found guilty of rioting by judge and jury? A. G. Curtin.

Who gave a respite to a negro murderer in Philadelphia, and at the same time refused to grant a few days to an Irishman convicted of the same offence? A. G. Curtin.

Voters should remember that when the war first broke out, all parties agreed in Congress that it should be waged to put down rebellion and restore the Union with all the rights of the States unimpaired, and that when these objects were accomplished the war ought to cease. But Lincoln and his party now say that they do not want to restore the Union under the Constitution, and that they intend to use the army to abolish slavery and to defend and maintain the liberty of the negroes; and that when the fighting is over at the South, they will send the army to the North to butcher and exterminate the Democrats—or "copperheads" as they meanly call them.

OLD HICKORY.—When the Republicans quote from Gen. Jackson they ought to quote this expression of his:

"The abolition party is a DISLOYAL organization. Its pretended love for freedom means nothing more or less than CIVIL WAR and DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION. Honest men of all parties should unite to expose their intentions and arrest their progress."

Let us take Jackson's advice:

Prophetic.—"If the infernal fanatics and Abolitionists ever get the power in their hands, they will override the Constitution, set the Supreme Court at defiance, charge and make laws to suit themselves, lay violent hands on those who differ with them in their opinions, or dare to question their infallibility and finally bankrupt the country and deluge it with blood."—*Daniel Webster*.

CURTIN'S PLATFORM.

Three abolition patriots are now making speeches in favor of Curtin, whose words are worth noting by Union men.

Thad Stevens says: "The Union as it was, and the Constitution as it is—God damn it!"

Wm. H. Armstrong says: "It is better (for the Republicans) to lose a battle in the field than the election in Pennsylvania."

Gen. Butler openly opposes the restoration of the Union, and says: "I am not for the Union as it was."

The Bradford Reporter, a Curtin organ says: "Better defeat a thousand times in the army, than let Woodward be elected."

These people represent Curtin, and all who vote for him endorse them.

The villain Quantrel who led the rebel raid against Lawrence, it appears was once a good Republican. He went to Kansas for the avowed purpose of abetting all who were opposed to the abolition policy, and after a career of infamy in conjunction with Senator Jim Lane, he turned rebel and went to robbing and killing on the other side.

See this story Woodward man in at the Election and Votes.