

Montrose Democrat.

A. J. GERRITSON, Editor.

Thursday, Feb. 25th, 1864.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.—At a meeting of the National Democratic Committee, held in New York Jan. 12th, it was unanimously voted, that the next National Democratic Convention, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States, be held at Chicago, Illinois on Monday, July 4, 1864.

By a vote of the Committee, at a meeting held September 7, 1863, the number of delegates for each State was fixed at double the number of its electoral votes.

AUGUST BELMONT, Chairman.
F. O. PRINCE, Secretary.

By a resolution of the State Committee which has been heretofore published, the Democratic State Convention will meet in Philadelphia on the 24th day of March next, to elect delegates to the Chicago Convention, and nominate an Electoral Ticket.

We publish to-day a call for a meeting of our County Committee, for the election of Delegates—Senatorial and Representative—to attend the State Convention.

Lincoln's office-holders have held a meeting at Washington to raise money and men to carry the New Hampshire election in March. Last year Mr. Lincoln dismissed Lieut. Edgerton from his position for only voting to suit himself in that State. Such is Lincoln Liberty.

The reference to the N. Y. Herald, by the Montrose Republican, as a Democratic journal, is a notorious falsehood, as all know. Few papers have been as bitter revilers of Democracy as the Herald; and it has never claimed to be, or considered a party paper.

There is no chance to doubt that the manager at the War Department is a very mean fellow. He kept McClellan's Report from the public for a long time, and when finally making it public the printer was not allowed to use the original, but must take a copy made out by an abolition strap; and now the copy printed by "authority" is reported to contain not less than fifty errors and omissions of importance, and in one instance a page and a half of the manuscript Report has been left out. Could all these have been accidental?

When it was announced that the siege of Charleston had been abandoned, the public were grieved to hear that so great a waste of time and money had resulted in nothing; but as it was understood that the place could not be taken, the country was consoled by the idea that the troops who had vainly striven to reduce the city, would be sent to some point where they could strike a telling blow at the rebel army. In this, however, a disappointment has been met. The troops, instead of being used to fight rebels, have been sent under the charge of a private Secretary of Lincoln, to take possession of points in Florida and make arrangements for holding an election under the President's self-rejecting scheme. The Tribune frankly admits this, and publishes an official order relating to the affair. As there is no rebel army in Florida to be whipped, the allegation of the Tribune that the troops are sent there for "the simple purpose" of carrying out Lincoln's election game is clearly evident.

How many of the coming 500,000 are wanted, not to fight rebels, but to conduct elections for Old Abe's benefit?

Party Spirit.

The action of the Republican members in keeping the State Senate so long unorganized has brought down upon them the disapproval of several republican journals. The Montrose organ quotes a very mean assault upon the conduct of its party; and the abolition organ at Honesdale after arguing the question sums up with the plain charge that the Republican Senators are clearly and incessantly wrong, and responsible for the delay; and the Carbondale Advance, a republican paper, under the caption above, says:

"We are out of patience with politicians. Look at the Senate of our State. Convened on the first Tuesday of January for the purpose of legislating for the interests of the Commonwealth, and still unorganized! An adverse fortune of war threw Maj. White, one of the Republican Senators, into the hands of Jeff Davis, and the remaining thirty-two, sixteen of each party, cannot, on that account, elect a Speaker. The Democratic half of the Senate, a little shrewder than their opponents, on the first week offered through Senator Clymer of Berks to divide the offices equally, giving the Republicans the first, they taking the second; and thus alternating until all the offices were filled. This was a fair proposition and should have been accepted. It was rejected leaving the onus and blame of the long delay at the door of the Republicans. We consider it a great blunder, and a serious fault."

The New Orleans correspondent of the Tribune, with a cynicism characteristic of the partisanship of absolutism under popular forms, in speaking of the proposed military "election" in Louisiana, says:

"This election will be in some respects an *ex parte* affair; those who are opposed to the policy of the administration having little or nothing to do with it."

Later advices show that Greeley's hiring is not quite accurate in his theory, although his statement will prove to be practically true. When Lincoln proclaimed that none should vote unless they swore to an approval of his negro schemes, past present and future, although such a test was infamous beyond parallel, it was supposed tyranny had gone to its limit, and could reach no further. But the infamy of abolitionism is boundless, and there is still a lower depth into which to plunge. It was thought that good citizens could quietly remain at home on "election" day and await the good time coming, when treason and tyranny being dead, the ballot-box would again be regulated only by law. Vain hope: Lincoln directs his partisan straps to order that citizens must vote; that "indifference is crime, and faction is treason." So, to decline voting is punishable as criminal, while to vote aught but Lincoln's tickets, is treason!

One man who imagined that he was free, expressed a feeling of indifference as to the election, remarking that he shouldn't vote. For this he was arrested and fined fifteen dollars.

And this is Lincoln Liberty! Nope can vote till they swear fealty to a new party platform—but all shall vote, and vote for whom Lincoln & Co. dictate. Odious as it might be, such tests are yet to be made at the North, if the dominant party deem it necessary to retain power, just as soon as they can be enforced. But if Northern men deserve to be not slaves, no such step can be attempted by any administration except at the expense of its head.

But a sure preventive for future abuses is to turn out the men who usurp powers, and fill their places with better men. This is now the pending duty of Freemen, and they should prepare for the contest.

The Montrose Republican says that those who were willing to let the South go out of the Union in 1861, are now also opposed to the Union. No doubt this is generally true. They were abolitionists who wanted the South to leave us—and the organ of the Republican party led the immense for disunion. Of course the old disunionists are now as much against the Union as ever; but some of them are willing to let the Union be restored or preserved, if the South can be induced to adopt the republican or abolition party platform for their law. Greeley, in the Tribune in 1860-61, led the disunion party, and leads it now; and his disunion ideas were never repudiated by his party. Let us quote specimens from the Republican party organ:

Nov. 9, 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. 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 by bayonets."

Nov. 26, it said:

"If the cotton States unitedly and earnestly 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 it (Declaration of Independence) justified the secession from the British empire of three million 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."

This promise the Tribune party keeps.

First Gun for 1864!—The election for Mayor in the City of Lancaster, on Tuesday, resulted in the triumph of the Democracy. Hon. G. Sanderson, the fearless and independent editor of "The Intelligencer," the Democratic organ of Lancaster county, was elected Mayor by a majority of 127, a gain of 78 over the October election.

The loss by the fire at Gloucester, Mass., is estimated at \$389,000, on which there is an insurance of \$160,000.

The New Conscription Act.

We append an abstract of the important features of the amended Conscription Act. In filling future drafts the quota of each town, &c., shall be proportioned to the number liable to draft, crediting for all who have been furnished, and for all who enlist before the day of the draft.

If the quota of a town is not filled by any draft, further drafts are to be made till it is filled.

Any enrolled person may furnish a substitute (not liable to draft) before the draft, and be exempted for such time as the substitute be accepted; and drafted men may furnish substitutes, but shall be liable on future calls when the enrollment is exhausted if the substitute is liable to draft.

Payment of \$300 commutation shall hereafter only relieve conscripts from that call, and their names are retained on the roll to fill that quota, and future quotas; and in no case shall it exempt them from draft more than one year.

All are now to be enrolled who may have been heretofore omitted, all who arrive at the age of 20 before the day of the draft, all who declare their intention to become citizens, all who may be discharged from the army or navy who have not served two years, and all who were exempted under the second section of the old act—including sons of widows and aged and infirm parents, &c.

All who reach the age of 45 before the day of draft are free.

No persons are now exempt from draft except those mentally or physically unfit, those now in service, and those who have served two years and been honorably discharged.

Both classes, or all between the ages of 20 and 45, are now put into the wheel.

Those who are from religious scruples, &c., opposed to wars, are to be detailed to duty in hospitals, or to take care of negroes, or they may pay money for the benefit of sick and wounded soldiers.

Foreigners who have voted or held office, shall be liable to draft, though aliens.

Drafted men who get exempt by fraud or lying shall be deemed deserters, and arrested and held to service.

Any person attempting to procure a false report of the physical condition of a conscript, shall be fined and imprisoned for the period of the draft.

No attorney or agent shall accept from any claimant for exemption a greater fee than \$5; and no person connected with the Board shall take fees from a conscript under penalty of fine and imprisonment.

No one connected with the Board shall be in any way engaged in procuring substitutes.

McClellan's Report.

The publisher of the Constitutional Union, Washington, D. C., in view of the great demand for it, has determined to publish Gen. McClellan's Report, at the following rates: Single copies, (sent free of postage,) 50 cents; ten copies in one package, \$4.50; fifty copies, in one package, \$20; one hundred copies, in one package, \$37.50; five hundred copies, \$175; and larger quantities at proportionate rates. One hundred thousand copies will be printed, and orders are solicited at the earliest possible day. Address THOMAS B. FLORENCE, 330 E street, Washington, D. C.

War in Europe.

The late foreign news is important.—The Schleswig-Holstein war has commenced. An engagement lasting six hours had taken place at Missunde. The Danish outposts were driven in by the Germans, but the Danes repulsed their assault. The Prussians lost three hundred men in their attack, and the Danes from one hundred and fifty to two hundred.—A later telegram says the Austrians attacked Bistore, on mile south of Schleswig, on the 2d, and that the Danes held their own. It is asserted that England has offered to guarantee all that Austria and Prussia have demanded from Denmark. The rebel steamer Alabama was on the watch for vessels fifty miles south of Rangoon, on the 5th of January. This explodes the report of her being blockaded at Amor, China.

Severe fighting had been going on in Denmark; but the transmission of details had probably been prohibited by the Prussians. It is stated that Schleswig has been evacuated by the Danes, and had been occupied by the allied forces.

In a debate in the English Parliament the idea of British responsibility to America for the damages inflicted by the Alabama was repudiated. Earl Derby, in his speech, trusted that such a reply had been forwarded to Washington as would forever put an end to such demands.

RATS IN THE WHITE HOUSE.—The Commissioner of the Public Buildings reports, that "The basement of the White House is left untenanted, except by rats, and they have undisputed possession."—(Their possession, it is believed, is not in the basement alone, but in other stories.) "The rats" abound now in every department of the Government. The Commissioner adds: "During the latter part of the past summer, the effluvia from dead rats was offensive in all the passages."

The Cincinnati Gazette, the leading administration paper in Ohio, in reference to recent exposures of corruption at Washington, remarks:

"It disheartens the people in support of the war for the preservation of the government, when they see the public officers turning it to profit, and rapidly accumulating fortunes out of it. Extravagance and profligacy, and suddenly acquired wealth in the government officers, are more depressing to the patriotic people than the deadly hostility of the rebel enemy."

From the 17th Penn'a Cavalry.

CAMP NEAR CULPEPPER, VA.,
Feb. 18, 1864.

FRIEND GERRITSON.—The army of the Potomac is again quiet. After the last fight, we concluded by reports that came to us, that the "Jonnies of the Rapid" were about played out, as we had captured two brigades, two regiments had given themselves up, and the balance scattered over the whole of rebeldom, like the sands of the sea, never to be gathered up. But the report turned out as they generally do at the time of battle. Our squadron was out on picket and had no part in the affair; but the balance of the regiment were in, and with the 8th N. Y., did the most efficient part done by the division at the point the cavalry occupied.—They were ordered to charge a ford, which, if the order had not been countermanded must have resulted in great loss, as the opposite bank was swarming with Grey-backs.

No one knows but those who are connected with the cavalry branch of the service, how expensive it is. Gen. Halleck's report states that the waste of horse-flesh is at the rate of a horse for each man every two months. At this rate 438,000 horses will be required this season. But as the cavalry is the safety to an army, the expenses, though very great, are unavoidable. There are some who will use up ten horses to another's one. I know one man who used up, last summer, \$1,200 worth.

There seems to be a great variance at the present time between the two papers published at Montrose. Just wait till this quarrel is over, and then you will have friends in both parties. We look with interest for a county paper, but seldom get a copy of the Democrat. Our Company is from Susquehanna county, and we are anxious to learn the news from home. The Company are in good health, generally speaking. We number about forty; 16 months ago it was near one hundred strong; but they are strung along now from Susquehanna to Richmond. There have been but few deaths.

I am in hope this season will end this war. It can be done, for there is the material in the North to do it with. The question is, why is it not done? Why not finish it up and have done with it, so that thousands of us can go home to our friends, who are as anxious about us as we are about them. The army is well provided this winter to what it was last. We are in shape to march on the enemy at all points, by marching from one to three days. If the rebels don't catch us, we had better fall back within the strongholds of Washington, and stay there. The army is in good health, generally; there have been a few cases of small-pox, but I have heard nothing about it of late. Hardly a day passes but rebel deserters or conscripts come into our lines; sometimes as high as six in a squad.

We all feel anxious for a permanent peace, and we will fight till doomsday to bring it about; but it is not necessary—it can be done this season, and it must be.

My former letter was perhaps too severe (and personal), but it was no more than the truth.

Yours for Peace and McClellan,
M. D. J.

THE ESCAPED PRISONERS.

WASHINGTON, February 17.

Twenty-seven of the escaped Union officers from Libby Prison have arrived here, and are nearly all from the west and northwest.

BALTIMORE, February 17.

The escaped Union officers reached here this morning and go to Washington this afternoon. The account of their escape is full of thrilling interest, but for prudential reasons many particulars are withheld from publication at present.—They were fifty-one days making a tunnel. Having managed to find access to the cellar they commenced work, relieving one another as opportunity offered.—Their instruments were case-knives, pocket-knives, chisels, and files. Twice they had to abandon their work and commence anew on account of the obstructions which they could not pass. They had hoped to have availed themselves of a culvert, but found it impracticable.

After getting through the wall they disposed of the excavated soil by drawing it out in a spittoon, which they attached to a cord. This would be filed by the party at work in the tunnel, and pulled out into the cellar by their companions, who disposed of it by spreading it in shallow layers over the floor, concealing it beneath the straw. The work was necessarily very slow.

So close was the atmosphere in the tunnel that they could remain in it but a few minutes at a time, and their candles would go out. At one time they got so near the street that a small hole, about the size of a stove-pipe, broke through, but fortunately this was not discovered by the guard, and was a great service, admitting air, enabling them to prosecute their work more rapidly. The tunnel, when completed, was about sixty feet long, and opened into an old tobacco shed beyond the line of guards. As soon as they found the way clear they emerged slowly, in small squads of two or three, and sauntered off until they got clear of the guards, making their way toward the Williamsburg road by the shortest route.

Gull only dreads freedom of speech. The ruler or the party which attempts to punish it, publishes his own villainy to the world. The man that answers a man's arguments with a Bastille acknowledges himself the scoundrel which he accuses of being.

THE WAR.

The news from the West is of great importance. General Sherman has occupied Jackson and Yazoo City, Mississippi both in an understood permanently, as depots of supply. Gen. Grierson is pushing southwardly from the vicinity of Corinth with his and Gen. Smith's cavalry corps. General Logan, with the Fifteenth corps, has left Chattanooga to co-operate with General Sherman's movement, and Gen. Grant's army is in motion for Tunnel Hill and Dalton, Ga. This indicates that the "spring" campaign is opening in the West. But little opposition has attended the movements of Gen. Sherman thus far, he having overcome the enemy at Black River bridge, on the stream of that name; and at Sotonia, on the Yazoo river.

A dispatch from Admiral Lee announces the destruction of four blockade-runners the West-Field, on the 4th, by the Sassafras the Dec, on the 5th, by the Cambridge; and the Emily and Fanny and the Jenny, on the 10th, by the Florida.

General Sherman's army passed through Jackson, Miss., in two columns, each over fourteen miles long, and drove the enemy before them with such precipitancy as to compel him to leave his pontoon bridge on which he crossed to the other side of Pearl River. Refugees report that great fear is entertained for the safety of Mobile, where there is a garrison of about fifteen thousand men. The rebel General Price has returned to Mexico on a continuous furlough, which would indicate that he has abandoned the confederate cause. The rebel Colonel Ferguson's command has been surprised in Wayne county, W. V., and sixty prisoners taken, four of whom were commissioned officers. Ferguson is the same person who recently captured Gen. Scammon on the Ohio river. The report states that 500 Union prisoners were released by the Union soldiers.

General McClellan was present at the reception of the First New York cavalry at Jefferson Market on Thursday, and was received with the most enthusiastic demonstrations of applause. He addressed the soldiers briefly as follows:

"MY FRIENDS AND COMRADES: I came here not to make a speech to you, but to welcome you home, and express to you the pride I always felt in watching your career, not only when you were with me, but since I left the Army of the Potomac, while you have been fighting battles under other, and your old commander.—I can tell you now, conscientiously and truly, I am proud of you in every respect. There is not one page of your record—not a line of it—of which you, your state, and your country may not be proud. I congratulate you on the patriotism that so many of you have evinced in your desire to re-enter the service. I hope, I pray, and I know that your future career will be as glorious as your past.—I have one hope, and that is that we may yet serve together some day again."

CONFESSED AT LAST.—That Herrick Allen's Gold Medal Saleratus is the best article known for making nice light Bread Biscuit, Pies, Puddings, &c. Baseless imitators are trying to palm off to the public their article, saying it is Gold Medal, or as good; therefore, all who would preserve their stomachs and health, look and see that the name of Herrick Allen is on the wrapper, and be not put off with the spurious because the Merchant tells you that it is as good. Have nothing but the genuine Gold Medal.—Dyspeptics can use it, and it will do them good. Try it.

It is worth bearing in mind that the men who have recently been detected in connivance with the blockade runners, in the shape of arms and ammunition, and employees of the Administration, and prominent Leaguers. Among the noisiest in charging others with disloyalty, these abolition-republicans were at the same time helping to furnish the rebel armies with bullets to shoot Union soldiers.

Gen. Rosecrans has signaled his advent to power in Missouri by removing the restriction which had been imposed upon the circulation of the Chicago Times and other Democratic papers by his predecessors.

For more than two hundred days the siege of Charleston has been in progress, and thus far it has been little more than an annoyance, to Charlestonians, and a source of enormous expense to the government.—N. Y. Commercial (Republican).

Persons from Idaho Territory allege that at this time no less than fifteen millions of dollars worth of gold, in dust and nuggets, is in the hands of miners and others at Banckock and Virginia City, awaiting shipment.

The total number of orders received at the government printing office for McClellan's report amounts to just thirty thousand copies; being a greater number than ever ordered of any other military document.

George A. Coffey, United States district attorney of Philadelphia, died on Saturday afternoon in that city of paralysis.

Ben Butler wants no more chaplains in the army. He says they are apt to be skulking behind, consoling rebel widows. We hear of some stealing silver spoons, &c., to sell and bring home.

Daily exposures of some of the most atrocious frauds in public offices, and in connection with the public services, are attracting attention, but Lincoln smothered investigation, generally, because it would embarrass the government, to expose the thieves.

Newspaper Patronage.

This thing called newspaper patronage is a curious thing. It is composed of as many colors as the rainbow, and is as changeable as a chameleon.

One man subscribes for a newspaper and pays for it in advance; he goes home and reads it with the proud satisfaction that it is his own. He hands in an advertisement, asks the price, and pays for it. This is newspaper patronage.

Another man says, please to put my name on your list of subscribers; and he goes off without as much as having said pay once. Time passes, your patience is exhausted, and you don't him. He flies into a passion, perhaps pays, perhaps not.

Another man has been a subscriber a long time. He becomes tired of you, and wants a change. Thinks he wants a city paper. Tells the postmaster to discontinue, and one of his papers is returned marked "refused." Paying up for it is among the last of his thoughts; beside, he wants his money to send to a city publisher.

After a time you look over his account and see a bill of "balance due." But does he pay it cheerfully? We leave him to answer. This, too, is newspaper patronage.

Another man lives near you, never took your paper—it is too small—don't like the editor—don't like the politics too Democratic or too something else—yet goes regularly to his neighbor, reads his by a good fire—finds fault with it, disputes its positions, and quarrels with its type. Occasionally sees an article he likes—gives half a dime and begs a number. This, too, is newspaper patronage.

Another sports a fine horse, or perhaps a pair of them—is always seen with whip in hand and spur on foot—single man—no use for him to take a newspaper—knows enough. Finally he concludes to get married—does so—sends a notice of fact with a "please send me a half dozen copies." This done does he ever pay for notice or paper? No. "But, surely, you don't charge for such things!" This, too, is newspaper patronage.

Another man (bless you it does us good to see such men) comes and says, "the year for which I paid is about to expire, I want to pay for another." He does so and retires.

Reader! Is't newspaper patronage a curious thing? And in that great day honest men get the reward due to their honesty, which, say you, of those enumerated above, will obtain that reward?—Now it will be seen that while certain kinds of patronage are the very life and existence of a newspaper, there are certain other kinds that will kill a paper stone dead.

A few days ago G. A. Henderson, chief clerk of the Warrant Bureau, Treasury Department, was arrested for fraud, or something worse. The Albany Statesman, (administration), in its notice of the arrest, remarks: "As a matter of course he will be liberated to-morrow. Mr. Chase never goes back on a friend."

A movement is on foot among the Methodists in various sections of the North to kick politics and all political preachers out of the church. This we regard as a very sensible movement, and one that might be inaugurated everywhere, with great spiritual benefit to the churches.

The American Board has resolved to raise, the current year, five hundred thousand dollars for missionary purposes, which is one hundred thousand more than last year.

ALBANY, Feb. 15.—Governor Seymour to-day signed the bill perfecting the amendment to the Constitution which enables soldiers to vote, and appointing the second Tuesday in March for submitting the question to the people.

The present Legislature has obtained the first official statement of the canal in Pennsylvania. Although not complete the record is of importance. It shows that there are about 1,200 miles of canal in the State, having no less than 750 locks, and employing in the aggregate about 6,000 boats, the greater portion of which are owned by private individuals.

The Abolitionists of Lancaster, Ohio, intoxicated a set of soldiers and then instigated them to destroy the office of the Ohio Eagle. A counter riot occurred, and the houses of abolition leaders were gutted.

Gen. Grant's turn to be maligned has now come. He has done his country service, and deserves well of his fellow-citizens. That is enough for the sleuth hounds of the Administration. They now open on him with all the virulence engendered by "anticipation of rewards to come."

Gen. Butler's brother, who was with him at New Orleans, has recently died. The property of the two is currently rated at from two to seven million dollars.—The money-making opportunities at Fort Monroe are very slight compared with those at New Orleans.

The Albany Statesman, a Republican paper, says "every branch of Government seems to be seeking corruption, and what is still worse, praying hypocrites are preaching against exposing these rascalities lest it may hurt the war.—That joke is also played out."

A New York Jury have been fined \$250, each for bringing in a verdict of "We agree to disagree." The officer who suggested the verdict to the foreman of the jury, was fined \$100, and suspended from his pay, and duties until the further order of the Court.

In the Scott County Circuit Court, Indiana, a man named Kimberlin has been recently fined \$370 damages and costs for calling another man a "disloyal and a traitor to his country."