hours longer, I would have been thrown into fever. There were three private soldiers in a room adjoining; one was an East Tennessee soldier, one of Andy Johnson's Union men. [Applause.] He was put there for having attempted to escape from Belle Isle. I will never forget the remark of that poor fellow when he said to me, "Major, is there any chance for exchange soon?" and added, "I don't know but sooner than that my Government would compromise itself, I won'd stay in prison for seventeen years." I never had the reputation of being a thief even though I was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, but I have often seen the time that, if it hadn't been for robbing others as bad off as myself, I would have stolen a crust of bread. The Sanitary Commission, God bless it [cheers], sent us, however, a quantity of provisions which we were very glad to receive. On Christmas day, when I had been buoyed up by expectations of an early exchange, and having been invited by a brother officer to take dinner with him, I was called out of prison. I hoped that the day of my deliverance had come, and when I was informed that I was to be taken down stairs brother officers came up and had numerous messages to be sent home. I promised them that I would deliver them, of course. When I went down stairs I was told to occupy a cell there. I didn't think that locked much like exchange. I was informed that I was to go to Salisbury, North Carolina; that General Winder had so ordered. In due season I was started out. It was Christmas day. As I walked through the streets of Richmond these Ping-Tiglies told me I needn't be alarmed; I was not going to be exchanged till the war was over. I saw there no smiling visage, no cheerful countenance, no prosperous business houses. Everything seemed to presage the doom that ultimately awaits that city. God grant that that day may soon come! [Cheers.] I arrived at Salisbury in due time. I had some greenbacks with me. I found them of great service. I hid them in my boots. I was searched, however. They took every letter from me and examined them—each thoroughly—and laid them on the table. In taking off my boots I slipped the greenbacks on the table amongst the letters, and after they had completed their examination, I put letters and greenbacks all back in my pockets. I was placed in a dungeon eight feet long and three feet wide. There was a guard at the door who was instructed to allow no communication from me. There was no light in the dungeon. Shortly a person came along and put down on the floor, without plate, or knife or fork, some iron-clad bread, as we used to call it. All this treatment I suffered because I happened to be a Senator in Pennsylvania, and of a political creed they didn't like. I was a prisoner of war, and was entitled to treatment as such; but, from my political position, I was treated in the manner I have stated. I was deprived of all privileges, whether of writing to my friends or receiving any manner of kindness from any one. It is a principle of the Confederate authorities to weary out the life of any one to whom they take any dislike. I found, from conversation with the guards, that a majority of people of North Carolina were anxious for peace, and for the Union; and I believe from what I have seen there, that if the majority of the people dared they would be cheering for the stars and stripes. In due season I was placed in a cattle-car, and started for Macon. We only got as far as Chester, S. C., when we succeeded in escaping, by breaking out of the back of the car. I never felt so glad in my life as I did to feel myself free again. But we were unfortunate, and in four days were recaptured. We had four days, though, to look around, saw in those days how we were nourished by the inveterate blacks. I never appealed to the slave for bread in vain. I found them loyal to our cause. We were again put on the cars for Macon, and again sawed our way out of the cars. We were among the swamps of Georgia. Of course I needed subsistence, and to whom do you suppose I went? To the negro. [Applause.] I had only to tell him that I was a Yankee trying to escape, and he gave me all that was in his reach. An "aunty," as they call them down there, when I was sick for some days, brought me down some chicken broth daily. They by some sort of instinct seemed to know that the Yankees were their friends, and they determined to be the friends of the Yankees. I was recaptured. Three negroes, whose acquaintance I had made, hauled me in a wagon forty miles during one day. They took me through the town in which lives Hon. Alex. H. Stephens. I didn't call upon him that day. [Laughter.] They stopped at a place to water their mules, and got into a conversation about the war with a woman. She said, "Why, there's Yankees all around. Why, Mr. So-and-so gave a supper the other night to Yankees. They represented themselves to be Southern soldiers. They were almost frightened to death when they knew it, and they set out in search of them, and they captured them." The darkey lied to her that night and said that he would be back in a short time. He didn't come, so I had to get some place to hide. I got into a watermelon patch. I hadn't been there long when one of the darkeys came to me and told me that a white man had seen me, and that they were getting out the dogs, and would soon be after me. He told me to go to a certain creek, so that the dogs would lose the scent. I got into the creek and travelled about three-quarters of a mile. I got into a pine forest, and was there but a few minutes when the bloodhounds were upon me. They merely bayed me, and I soon recognized horses and the familiar rebel yell. They soon came upon me. They approached me like skirmishers, got behind trees, cocking their pistols. I thought it was a cowardly way to attack an unarmed man. I finally cried out to them that I was an unarmed man, and that they had better keep the hounds off. One of them said, "No arms; you surrender?" I said, "Certainly!" I had nothing to surrender. That's their manner of catching Yankee prisoners. I was taken to Macon, and put under the strictest guard. I mention these matters as illustrations of Southern chivalry. You can determine whether the negro is faithful to our cause. God bless the negro, I say. [Cheers.] I feel it to be my duty to say that I am unwilling to see the war ended until every slave in the Southern States is free. [Great cheering.] I am satisfied that Abraham Lincoln, when he issued his emancipation proclamation, knew its influence; and I say God bless Abraham Lincoln. [Cheers.] I do not believe that any travelled in the South is ready to admit that the people of the South have to rely upon slavery as an element of strength. I am sorry to see amongst the people of Pennsylvania any dissension as to the war policy. People might talk about compromise; but the only compromise with Jeff Davis that I would have would be with the army drawn up, and if he would refuse to lay down his arms to say fire. That kind of compromise would not be successful this year, but I believe it will next year. If you can, on the battlefield, on the 8th of November, present a united front, and say that the war must go on under Abraham Lincoln and it will be ended under Abraham Lincoln. [Cheers.] If the Copperheads are successful it will have more influence over the minds of the people of the South than a crushing victory by Lee over Grant. Thanking you for your kind attention, I bid you good night.

SPEECH OF COLONEL BURNHAM.

The chairman next introduced Col. H. B. Burnham, of the 67th Pennsylvania Volunteers, a life-long Democrat, formerly secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee, and an active representative in the Charleston Convention, who was cheered enthusiastically, especially by the soldiers. He said he had not expected to address so vast an audience as that present; his position and responsibilities had not been favorable to speechmaking; but he felt it a grave duty to bear his testimony in a great cause. After paying a graceful tribute to his old friend, General Birney, he said it was true he had long been a Democrat, but after going to the field, on the march, in rain and sunshine, in bivouac, in all the sore experiences of war, he had meditated long, and with care, on the issues before the country, and now believed there was no policy which could preserve the country and unite the people, save bringing the rebels to their knees. [Applause.] The day of compromises and armistices has past. Armistice can only come by the prayer and submission of the violators of the Constitution and laws. [Renewed cheers] He scouted the idea of conciliating armies of rebels trying to destroy the institutions of this country. He had no terms to make with such men. He did not believe that the four years of war had been a failure. The Union has grown stronger day by day. It has been cemented by the blood of brave men fallen; it has been rendered more sacred by the suffering endured in its defence by the sons, fathers, and husbands who have composed our armies. The present state of the contest, and the history of the four years past, belies the Chicago platform. The war began as the result of a conspiracy, which had been organized and spreading for over thirty years. Once before it threatened to burst forth, but an old hero, the Democrat Jackson, crushed it. It was then good Democratic doctrine to punish treason and coerce rebellion. [Applause.] It is still true doctrine, whether Conventions call it Democracy or not. [Renewed cheers] These machinations were revived, and finally culminated in the disruption of the Democratic party. Col. Burnham gave a vivid picture of the breaking up of the Charleston and Baltimore Conventions of 1860. He alluded in striking terms to the great uprising of men of all parties to rescue the Government in the spring of 1861, as an evidence of the highest moral qualities in the people. Returning to the question whether the war is a failure, he showed by Jeff Davis' Macon speech the abject condition of the South, and substantial effect of our arms—the people of the South were, in fact, being subjugated to the Constitution and laws of the land. He denounced Pendleton and the platform, called on all to support Lincoln, and, after an able speech, adhering great enthusiasm, closed amid tumultuous applause.

Colonel A. K. McClure followed in a spirited speech, which was necessarily short owing to the lateness of the hour. Thus closed a meeting unsurpassed in patriotism and enthusiasm. It was worthy of Philadelphia.

UNION LEAGUE HALL.

SPEECH OF ALEXANDER McCLURE.

Last evening Col. Alexander McClure spoke at Union League Hall on the issues of the day. Mr. E. C. Knight presided. Before the hour at which Mr. McClure was announced to speak, the large audience was entertained by music from a brass club and Mr. Paul Berger, who has, on several past occasions, acted a similar pleasant part. A few minutes before eight o'clock Mr. McClure was introduced to the audience by the president.

He said that there was a contest now going on in the North between love of the Union and the laws, and a sympathy with the rebels who are now in arms against both. There was an unswerving attachment on the one side to truth and honor, and on the other a total disregard of plighted faith and common honor. It was well that this should be so, since the rebellion was begun in perjury; robbery, and aided in its advent into the world by giving all the aid and comfort to treason that they could, they find their friends going down before our patriot hosts, and, true to their old affiliations, they take their traitor brethren to their hearts, and hope to sustain them by Northern division. Now, could any loyal man sustain this Democratic party? [Applause.] Pray, what peace could they keep? What would be the peace given by the Democratic party? Should it be a peace secured by disunion? Should it be a peace with compromise? It would be such a peace as would last long enough to strengthen weakened rebellion, and enable it to again rise with renewed strength and bitterness. Who were the men that intended to vote for McClellan on the 8th of November? Go and sit down with them at their fire-sides, meet them in the streets, or at their places of business, and what do they say when you ask them why they are for McClellan? Do you mean peace or war? Do you wish to compromise with traitors and make an unconditional surrender of this Government? War men will tell us because he is for war; Peace men because he is for peace. Their platform affords no better information than they do, for it assures us that McClellan is for war and for peace and compromise. When we come to inquire, we discover that the Chicago Convention does not tell us how we may obtain peace. Turn where we will, we find no straightforward answer. Even the candidates, McClellan and Pendleton, differ. We can only learn what the principles of their party are from our own observation; from our own neighbors when we meet them; voice to voice, eye to eye, heart to heart. When you find a neighbor who fears for the safety of the rebel capital, who is as sad and sorrowing as if he had lost his best friend when he hears of a rebel defeat, ask him how he intends to vote. And he will tell you that he heartily endorses McClellan and his party's policy. Regard the man who rejoices even above his fellows if there be a great Union victory—if Early flies before Sheridan. You will find him warmly anxious for the preservation of this Republic; he will vote for Abraham Lincoln. [Applause.] He who rejoices at our disasters assumes George B. McClellan as honorable and able, and would be ready to do any anything rebellion bid. But who is foolish enough to believe that McClellan can bring us peace on a basis of a union of the States? No one assumes it, except, perhaps, it be the small politicians, who, regardless of both, seek only their own emoluments. Does any one imagine that a peace can be brought about in any way better than Mr. Lincoln's? He makes no proposition of surrender to the rebel power; he asks nothing but obedience to the law. We know not now, and there were none, the speaker thought, who could tell how we were to be relieved of this desolating war, and guided to a lasting and honorable peace. None knew that fact better than the bulk of the people of the North, and there was no man in this country whom the rebels would rather not treat with than Abraham Lincoln? They would accept any one rather than him, and why? Simply because he has sworn, and observes the oath, that the laws of this Government must be maintained throughout the entire land until treason died a deserved death; until it was crushed so deep that it could never rise again. Mr. McClure granted that the rebels loved any man better than they did Abraham Lincoln? They hated him because he was most faithful to his oath of office, and conscientious in the discharge of his duties. They would be glad to have such men as robbed our treasury, tried to destroy our credit, surrendered the best part of our regular army, and exhausted our resources four years ago: they would be glad to have such men as sided them in filling thousands of graves with our murdered Northern men, elevated to the slaves by treason—Abraham Lincoln they must *obey!* [Loud applause.] But grant that General McClellan is faithful and desirous of the preservation of this Government, and desires to restore the Union in his peculiar way. Do we wish to make treason honorable—to save it in its extremity—to save it from impending death—to enable it to rest and make itself mighty, by the new nourishment it may receive from the Union but temporarily restored to health? His policy would undoubtedly have such an effect; but the subject hardly needed consideration, for he would not be the next President. [Applause.] So much for negotiation. Now what was asked of the Southern States? They were asked simply to submit to the laws, and to the consequences of their own misdoing—they were asked nothing more. There could be no compromise with them, for there was nothing to compromise about. Let the majesty of offended law be vindicated; let the law-breakers be punished; let those who have mustered our sons, and fathers, and brothers suffer the penalty of their crimes. All that we require is that the Southern soldiers lay down their arms, and submit willingly. If they do not so submit, we will compel them to; for why should we give to treason, criminal, unjustifiable, infamous treason, all that we have gained; all our hundreds and thousands of untimely graves; all our hopes, our fears, our prayers, our untold sacrifices, become traitors in our midst counsel us that the rebel murderers must be forgiven? No! Justice, humanity, law, government demand not to let this war be stopped until its legitimate fruits are gathered. [Applause.] No man can suggest nor advise such a step, and be at the same time faithful to the country, faithful to our struggling armies, to humanity, to law, to order. There is no man on the continent more anxious for peace than Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States. [Applause.] His heart is warm, and he earnestly desires it. But he has taken upon himself a sacred trust, and he is determined to be true to the people and the law. [Renewed applause.] Is the only refuge indeed that to be gained from compromise? Is there not a safer refuge in defence of the law in our brave army, in our patient, indomitable people? The rebel army in the struggle to-day is weakened and broken. One army is now all they can put against us. Their only hope is, as they themselves admit, that there may be a counter-rebellion in the North, or a success of the Opposition candidate at the next election. This is the last hope that glimmers in the horizon of treason, and with the result of the next election it will die out in gloom. The people will then declare that this Republic shall live, and extend its beneficent influence over both the North and the South. [Applause.] But the war must continue as long as there is no suing for peace. There are wrongs to redress, and the wrong doers must be crushed by power, and our efforts must not nor be relaxed when treason is in its last throes. We have only to stand firm for the maintenance of the Government in the prosecution of this war. We have conquered back the Mississippi, and one-half the territory they formerly held, and all their armies but one are broken, and reeling and staggering before the victors. The other defends the rebel capital, but Grant's army will soon wave its ensigns over that long struggled for. [Applause.] There are those who feel no favor for the country's cause—who have no love for the soldier—who say that the war is a failure, but they know as well as we that the rebels are in their direst extremity. It is strange that there could be among an intelligent people a sympathy for the traitors who have deluged our land in blood. It is peculiarly strange now, when their power is in the last shiver of death. But it was stranger still that men could be in our midst violating solemn pledges, and teaching us that murderers are not worthy of our condemnation; making sympathy for men who seek to destroy our Government by assuring us that the defeat of such men will bring on us anarchy and ruin. [Derisive applause.] There is nothing honorable in their position; nothing to be proud of. From their position we can judge them, and recognize the motives of their actions, and the motives of that platform which the Chicago Convention prepared for the people of the United States. It does not counsel us to be grateful for our victories in the South; it does not counsel how to preserve the Union through the peace it recommends, which is advocated by the Democratic leaders in Pennsylvania and the North. They do not counsel us how to crown our arms with continued triumphs, and thus attempt to form the opinions of the people so as to continue them faithful to old traditions. They teach us exactly what Vallandigham learned at the South, and what he has transplanting into Northern minds. They teach us neither how to preserve the Government, nor how peace will subserve the country's dearest interests. [Applause.] The position of the Secretary of State under James Buchanan is the same as that his party now adopt, and the leaders would have adopted them, had circumstances favored. The speaker referred to Chief Justice Black of Pennsylvania, who is to speak before the Democracy of Philadelphia on Monday night next, to teach them how this Government has not the power to make obedient to the law those who have desolated our households and endangered the safety of our institutions and our country; that we have not the power to make examples of those who make wanton war upon us. There was Charles R. Buckalew, a defeated candidate for Congress, who taught the same thing, and William Bigler and Vallandigham. From week to week, and month to month, the loyal people are told to sacrifice this Government to its numerous foes. [Loud applause.] He did not wrong them when he said this, although the President they had nominated at Chicago is said to be a war man. He is not more so than his peaceful companion, who once boasted that he never voted a man nor a dollar to carry on the war. And yet, while they throw every difficulty in the way of the prosecution of the war, they tell you in the same breath that they love that Union for whose salvation that war is waged. [Applause.] Gen. McClellan may be right in what he proposes for himself, but then, since they stand upon the same platform, Pendleton must also be right in what he proposes, and they could not, if elected, act faithfully toward each other. Here they are now, hand in hand, with a common purpose, with diverse views. McClellan cannot act against his party nor his associate. He has, in the acceptance of the nomination, shown no love for his country, but rather reflected his party's sympathy with treason. He is the Democratic candidate, and yet he is at variance not only with his associate, but, by previous acts, at variance with the party itself. They protest against arbitrary arrests, and yet McClellan, not long ago, took down a whole State Legislature before breakfast; he arrested them all, not allowing one to escape. Mr. McClure did not affirm that General McClellan was right in this act, but he believed he was right. He would affirm, however, that McClellan was ashamed of doing what was right. [Laughter.] When McClellan was at the head of the army, he even averred that none but loyal men should vote in the elections of Maryland. He not only excluded traitors in arms, but even those who were suspected of disloyalty; and this was done, it should be particularly remembered, by the present Democratic candidate for Presidency. In that State—Maryland—the change was great, since, during McClellan's lease of power, oaths and military force were necessary to keep the State from being disloyal. Now, its loyalty had grown so warm and sincere that Gen. Early thought it well to try to stump the State for the peace ticket. [Laughter.] When that general was defeated on our border, the Democrats regretted, not so much that he had lost thousands of men, but they mourned that it would result in the execution of the draft and the maintenance of the laws in Pennsylvania. [Applause.] They mourned that General Early had taken from the Democratic party the hope of revolution in our State. There is not a victory of our arms, I care not whence it come; there is not a shout of victory that does not sink ladly into the hearts of the friends of McClellan, and drive the nail in the coffin of Democracy. "Talk with whom you will, I don't care how unscrupulous the man may be, and to whom the question is asked what best can help the Democratic cause, his answer is the failure of the Union armies. Disaster to our arms is the only hope of Democratic success; and, thank God, the Democratic party will fail in that. [Applause.] Did you ever consider who are the men who would rejoice if General McClellan was chosen President? Did you ever sit down in your own home, and look around your own household circle, and think who would rejoice for McClellan's election? Would it be loyal men who would be glad to hear of that sad event? Would it be the men who desire to maintain your armies and your Government? Turn where you will, and you will find that the faithful man, the man whose heart is enlisted in the success of this Government, will alone be disheartened at the triumph of our enemies. Why, in the event of McClellan's election, would make your streets howl with hideous shouts? Need it be told you that if the winged lightning, on the 8th of November next, should bring us an intimation of McClellan's election to the Presidency the Fourth ward would vomit forth its unwashed herds? and that the Five Points of New York would turn out and make night hideous with their shouts of rejoicing? Turn to your own hills, and show me the man who has bid defiance to your laws, and I will show you a man who will rejoice in all his might for McClellan's election. I care not whether you live in the North or the South, if there be a man who is at heart the foe of this Government, he will rejoice with exceeding gladness at the triumph of George B. McClellan as President of the United States.

There is not a rebel in the South who would not rejoice. Jeff Davis has everything to hope in McClellan's election. Every other rebel will join in the rejoicing with Jeff Davis. Can any man doubt that there is a lawless man North or South who would not rejoice in the event of McClellan's election? Their hope is that he will yield to wrong, meet with disaster to history on that event. But a few weeks ago, on the borders of Franklin county, while Sheridan was fighting the enemy, there were hundreds of men rejoicing in the prospect that he might be defeated. Nothing would have pleased them better than a victory to Early. And there is not one of them who will not, in November, cast a vote for General Jacob B. McClellan. With one accord they are against the Union, and with one accord they are for McClellan and Pendleton. The only hope, then, for this nation is found in the reelection of Abraham Lincoln. [Applause.] I need not here, to-night, discuss the merits of his Administration. His whole career has had but one object, and that is the preservation of the Government. He has faithfully served the people. He has administered the Constitution as a thing having life. Could the men who made that Constitution have made it a shield of treason? But it is no such shield. It would be death to this nation if it were. Slavery defied that Constitution; it was fostered and yielded to, until it became so powerful as to turn upon the laws. Having turned against the Constitution, now by the Constitution shall it die. [Applause.] Four years of war have convinced us that slavery and the Constitution cannot live together. Let slavery die, rather than that the Government shall be sacrificed. [Applause.] This issue is law upon one side, and anarchy on the other. It is plainly made. Upon one side are lawlessness, treason, and death; and on the other are those who are, by instinct and education, for law, order, and government. Who can sacrifice this Government to lawlessness? There is no man so humble that this Government cannot protect. It protects every man in the exercise of his social, political, and religious rights. There is no man who sees the prosperity of this land who does not feel that it is due to the protection of the Government.

Here is a Government of law and order, giving protection to all. Every man is eligible to all the honors of the country. There is no man so poor or so rich who can afford to peril the Government, and he who turns his back upon that Government is a foe to humanity, a foe to liberty, and a foe to God. [Applause.] There is but one hope and one guiding star for every American freeman, and that is in the re-election of the man under whose administration traitors have lifted their hands against the Government, and who must under that administration be brought again to obey the Constitution and the laws.

Speeches by William B. Mann and others followed, and the meeting adjourned with enthusiasm.

SERENADE TO GOVERNOR CURTIN.

At a late hour last evening a complimentary serenade was tendered to his Excellency Governor Curtin at the Continental. After being called upon, Governor Curtin came upon the balcony, and spoke as follows:

FELLOW-CITIZENS: I take this to be a compliment to me as the chief executive of this State. It is a little more than a year since I stood in this place and spoke to the people as my candidate for the high office to which the people have elevated me. It was then the privilege of the citizens of this Commonwealth to endorse my actions as Chief Magistrate. I had given my support to the soldiers on the field, and would to God I could give the wounded soldiers on the field greater support; would that I could carry the dead soldiers home, to be buried in the graves of their fathers. My actions were endorsed then, and I have continued to give the Government at Washington my entire support, and the support of the people of this Commonwealth; and while I hold opinions against every man in the South bearing arms, and every man in the North who by his actions gives them aid and comfort, I will give my support to the nation and to the national authorities. In one hour the war can stop, and they can have, as some of them pretend to desire, the Union as it was, and the Constitution as it is. They have only to lay down their arms; and, as long as they refuse to do so, I am in favor of compelling them to lay down their arms till submission to the law is established over the whole length and breadth of the land. We ask peace, and to-night, over the grave of the gallant Birney, would we make peace; but peace in unison with liberty and national honor, and no other kind of peace, will be consistent with the dignity of a great people. Regarding those who administer the Government as for the time being the Government itself, he would give all his power to them. I have given to my Government all my time, all the powers of my head and heart, and much of my health, with the expectation that a vigorous prosecution of the war will soon return peace and prosperity to our borders. Trusting that a kind Providence will soon give us a lasting peace, I wish you good night.

After the band had played another piece of music, Hon. A. K. McClure was called upon, and made a few remarks.

The Press.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1864.

The Union of the Union Party in Pennsylvania.

Complete harmony now exists in the ranks of the Union party of Pennsylvania. It is enforced by national necessities, inspired by general enthusiasm for the cause, and will be maintained by mutual concession. The late canvass taught a lesson by which this canvass will profit. Men who expected a great Union majority on the home vote, and thought the cause would prosper without their aid, have been shown the evils of indifference and over-confidence. All the friends of the Government are now united. They will make one undivided, irresistible effort to increase the Union majority on the 8th of November.

Bear in mind, friends of the Union, the difference between the State canvass just ended and the national struggle that is now nearing its end. We have now no Congressional rivalries; no local disputes; no difficulties between rival candidates for county offices. Individual preferences and prejudices have no part in this grand battle of principles, in which all minor disputes are engulphed and lost. The eyes of the nation are fixed only on four men—ABRAHAM LINCOLN and ANDREW JOHNSON, GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN and GEORGE H. PENDLETON. They alone give personality to this campaign—all else is Principle. The issues are absolute. Between honorable war and shameful peace, slavery and freedom, union and disunion, there can be no compromise, and every friend of a successful war, a free country, and a perfect Union, must be for ABRAHAM LINCOLN. The rest are for MCCLELLAN. When the struggle reaches this incomparable height, and the fate of the country hangs upon its result, the harmony of the loyal and sincere party must be without a break or flaw. This is the whole story. We *know* that the friends of the Government in Pennsylvania are united, acting together, and that nothing can divide them. We shall not conquer in November by a poor majority of six!

Thus united, all that remains is work, work, work! We have two weeks from next Tuesday to redeem every Union county which in October gave a diminished majority, and to increase our gains in all the others. It is true that many of the counties have sent thousands of Union voters to the field as soldiers. Nearly thirty thousand of our Union citizens have gone in the last year to charge with SHERIDAN or hold fast with GRANT, yet we polled a larger aggregate vote than ever before. We have begun well. We shall end better. *There is not a county in the State that cannot give an increased Union vote if the friends of the Union will work.*

The Great Meetings Last Night.

Nearly eight thousand people attended the great in-door Union meetings last night. They were thoroughly significant of the profound interest of Philadelphia in the hand-struggle for Union and Freedom so soon to be decided; and the presence and eloquence of such distinguished Pennsylvanians as Governor CURTIN, General OWEN, and Colonel MCCLURE showed that the canvass for the Presidency has taken fresh start with new vigor and earnestness. Major HARRY WHITE, whose long imprisonment in a rebel prison, has made him known to all who honor the true soldier, was also among the speakers.

The enthusiasm and spirit of such great meetings as were these show how perfect is the harmony, and how firm the resolution of our people. There was none of the ordinary sensational excitement of party gatherings in these. An intelligent comprehension of principles, a true appreciation of men, an unalterable devotion to the cause for which we will contend to the last, kindled the inspiration of audience and speakers. These are the elements which everywhere inspire loyal Americans, and insure the triumph of the just cause in November.

The Burial of a Soldier of Freedom.

When, at the beginning of the war for the preservation of the American Government, DAVID BELL BIRNEY volunteered his services, he had no doubts either as to the justice or as to the sequel of the great controversy into which our country had been precipitated; and when his sword was accepted his heart went with it. The career of this incomparable soldier, who died in consequence of health impaired in the service of his country before he had reached the age of forty, is a signal illustration of the truth that he who enters into a great fight with a sincere and religious belief in the morale of that fight, is sure to be remembered—sure to be honored, living, and to be mourned, dead. Many have gone into this struggle for the preservation of the Government without first considering and weighing the principles involved in that struggle, and, while perilling their lives, have allowed themselves rather to look upon their sacrifices as a cold duty. Such as these, however, have themselves only to blame if their deeds are not indelibly impressed upon the popular heart and forever cherished in the popular memory. Major General BIRNEY was not only a soldier of freedom, but a soldier of conscience. He fought for his country, not simply because he had the allegiance that we all owe to it, but he fought for it because he loved it, and because, above the mere matter of duty and obedience, he entertained the higher principle of intense and passionate attachment to the great idea that this war can never close until the entire institution of human slavery is extirpated.

There was something in the character of this young general peculiarly fascinating. The writer of this article does not remember, ever having met him, although it was our fortune, on more than one occasion, to assist his friends, and to stand between him and unjust antagonism. But no man could have been supported as BIRNEY was supported if he had not been a chivalric, an unselfish, and fearless patriot. It is related that one of the last acts of his life was to vote the Unconditional Union ticket in the Tenth ward of this city, on the 11th of October, just as he was returning home, utterly debilitated, from the Army of the Potomac.

There is in this single act a text and a teaching far more eloquent than poetry or prose, and he, doubtless impressed with the belief that the seeds of death were gnawing at his heart, felt that in the enjoyment of this last and most precious privilege of human freedom he was proving, by his contribution to the civil power of his Government, the sincerity of his devotion in the tented field. His remains were yesterday followed to the cemetery in which they are now entombed by such a cortege of soldiers and citizens as will long be remembered. The highest dignitaries of the State came forth to honor him. The Governor of Pennsylvania showed by his presence how earnestly he appreciated his great qualities, and in the long line that accompanied the hearse to that mausoleum which shall hereafter be a shrine for patriotic citizens to worship at, came General SICKLES—the superior of General BIRNEY in more than one bloody battle—testifying by his presence, with his mutilated body, his sense of the high and soldierly ability that distinguished the lamented deceased, and how profoundly he mourned the loss of a brother soldier.

There is something in the life and death of such a man as BIRNEY singularly calculated to awaken the sensibilities of the dullest. It rekindles the fire of the men who are in the army, and lights a spark of patriotism in the bosoms of those who are not in the army. *The soldiers most successful in this great struggle for freedom are those who have believed in the justice of our cause.* The only defeated men have been those who have hesitated about the issues involved in it. Had General MCCLELLAN grasped the *baton* of command in the profound consciousness that he was not fighting as a mere martinet; that he was not called to obey the orders of certain military chieftains, but that the destinies of a free people had been entrusted to his charge, and that he was warring against slavery in the belief that slavery had begun the war against the Union—he would not now be the candidate of a party that denounces this contest for American freedom as a failure, and he would not now be a sort of potentate of peace and the only hope of those who expect to defeat and to destroy our country. HOOKER, SHERMAN, GRANT, FARRAGUT, SHERIDAN, SICKLES, and all the winning men, whether on the land or sea, *in this struggle have a religious faith, not simply in the justice of our cause, but in its victorious sequel.* We repeat, that no man has finally failed, on the land or the sea, who has really believed that the right was with us, and that God was with the right. There is not a disgraced general or a defeated commodore to-day who does not fall back upon Copperhead philosophy, and upon so-called Democratic arguments, for the purpose of attacking the Government that has retired him. Let us, then, honor the actions of those who live in the belief that our cause is just, and let us cherish the memories of those who, like BIRNEY, have fought, bled, and died in the consciousness that their country was never more worthy of their sacrifices than when, in order to save ourselves from death, she took up arms against human slavery.

The Democratic Mouse at Last.

For two weeks the Democratic mountain has been laboring, and now it has brought forth its mouse, and a nice little mouse it is. Thirty-five thousand Democratic majority was loudly announced the day after the election. Ten thousand was yesterday the smallest possible number. To-day the official home vote of the entire State shows a Democratic majority of *six!* We congratulate Mr. BELMONT on the results of his extravagant expenditure. These six men, on a fair calculation, cost his party $200,000 each. At this rate they might have obtained a moderate majority of fifteen hundred by spending $3,000,000,000. This mouse will be nowhere when the lions of the army are heard from.

The shrewder members of the Cincinnati Peace Convention, under the influence of FERNANDO WOOD and the other peace men who support MCCLELLAN, succeeded in adjourning it *sine die* yesterday without making any nominations. It was clearly understood that MCCLELLAN would be bound by the Chicago platform, that his letter had no practical effect, and that his election would really be a triumph for LONG, HARRIS, VALLANDIGHAM, & Co.

HERSCHEL V. JOHNSON has written a letter, published in the Richmond *Enquirer* of the 18th, which we may condense in very few words. He affirms subjugation to be better than submission to the Union, the only honorable peace to be based on the recognition of the South, *and that such a peace would result from the election of* MCCLELLAN. What need to point this moral?

HON. JAS. J. BLAINE's analysis of the national debt and the national resources, published on our first page, proves that the one will be easily paid by the other. Mr. BLAINE's figures defy criticism. He has made a complete *exposé* of the common Copperhead falsehood.

THE UNION STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE have received information that at the October election a large number of persons known to be deserters from the army presented themselves at different polls and voted the Democratic ticket. The county committees should at once investigate this matter, and in the localities in which such outrages have been committed the provost marshal of the district should be notified, in order that the rascals may be apprehended if they appear at the November election.

VICE PRESIDENT HAMLIN will give next week to Pennsylvania, speaking in several counties. He will have a hearty welcome from a people who know his patriotism, and honor his disinterested zeal.

POLITICAL.

GRAND DEMONSTRATION IN CHESTER COUNTY—THE INVINCIBLES IN WEST CHESTER.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

WEST CHESTER, Oct. 21.—This evening the streets of West Chester were filled with the beauty and elite of Chester county to do honor to the friends of Union, liberty, and justice. The greater part of the city was illuminated. Bunting was displayed in profusion, and patriotic males and females thronged the streets. Never before was there such an outpouring of the loyal people.

The Republican Invincibles, of Philadelphia, excited a great deal of admiration, and were enthusiastically received. They marched with the precision of well-drilled troops, and presented a very gentlemanly appearance.

The farmers turned out in all their majesty. Horse and foot delegations from all the surrounding country, with appropriate wreaths, devices, and transparencies, were in line. Old men and young men, armed with torches or lanterns, and decorated with flowers, joined the procession.

The procession was of a very imposing character. The Wyer's Cadets were out in full force, and presented a very fine appearance. They bore a transparency bearing the inscription, "McClellan slandered the Pennsylvania Reserves." The Union Club of Downingtown was another prominent feature. The Union Clubs of the surrounding townships turned out in goodly numbers. Mounted horsemen, each bearing lighted torches, were scattered through the line. Numerous transparencies were in line. Large bonfires were in full blaze, and the ladies lined the porches, and waved small flags and handkerchiefs as the cars passed slowly along. The procession broke up about half past ten o'clock, when the Invincibles were taken charge of by the loyal citizens of West Chester and property taken care of. The Club left the station about 11 o'clock for Philadelphia.

CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS IN MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 21.—Samuel Knox accepts the call of nearly 2,000 citizens, and announces himself as a candidate for Congress in the First district.

The Democratic Congressional Convention yesterday nominated B. D. Killyn for Representative in the First district. There are now three candidates in the field.

UNION CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION IN MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 21.—Col. Charles E. Phelps, lately of the 4th Maryland Regiment, who was wounded and disabled in the battle at Hanover Court House, was to-night unanimously nominated by the Union Convention of the Third district, in place of Henry Winter Davis, the present member.

THE OHIO PEACE CONVENTION.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 21.—The Peace Convention adjourned *sine die* without making any nominations.

WASHINGTON.

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.

A Day of National Thanksgiving and Prayer.

THE LAST THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER SET APART.

PRAYERS FOR UNION AND PEACE.

IMMENSE UNION DEMONSTRATION.

Grand Torchlight Procession.

A SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—The following proclamation was promulgated this afternoon:

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our national life another year.

Defending us with His guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad, and vouchsafing us in His mercy many and signal victories over the enemy, (who is of our household,) it has also pleased our Heavenly Father to favor as well our citizens in their homes as our soldiers in their camps and our sailors on the rivers and seas with unusual health.

He has largely augmented our free population by emancipation and by immigration, while He has opened to us new resources of wealth, and has crowned the labor of the workingman in every department of industry with abundant reward.

Moreover, He has been pleased to animate and inspire our minds and hearts with fortitude, courage and resolution sufficient for the great trial of civil war which we have been brought by our adherence as a nation to the cause of freedom and humanity, and to afford to us reasonable hopes of an ultimate and happy deliverance from all our dangers and afflictions.

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, do hereby appoint and set apart the last Thursday in November next as a day which I desire to be observed by all my fellow-citizens, wherever they may then be, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God, the beneficent Creator and ruler of the universe.

And I do further recommend to my fellow-citizens aforesaid, that on that occasion they do reverently humble themselves in the dust, and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the great Disposer of events for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, Union, and harmony throughout the land which It has pleased Him to assign as a dwelling place for ourselves and our posterity throughout all generations.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 20th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-ninth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President.
WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

DECISION UNDER THE DRAFT LAW—DESERTING CONSCRIPTS NOT TO BE CREDITED IN A QUOTA.

Provost Marshal General FRY, in a letter to the Mayor of Washington, says: "Credit will be allowed only for such men as are 'obtained' by the draft. Persons who are drawn and fail to report are not considered by the law officers of the Government, nor by the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, as *obtained* in the meaning of the law. They will not, therefore, be credited unless they shall be subsequently arrested and held to service." According to Gen. FRY's communication, it would appear that citizens are held responsible for drafted absentees.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND OUR WOUNDED IN THE VALLEY.

The Sanitary Commission has constantly kept a large and well assorted stock of supplies in its storehouses at Martinsburg and Winchester, besides the 3 car wagons of its field relief corps accompanying Sheridan's army. The officer having charge of the work of the Sanitary Commission in the Shenandoah Valley, left Winchester, on Tuesday morning, with a train of wagons filled with a stock for use upon the field.

Last night and this morning further supplies to the value of $10,000, and several additional relief agents, were sent to Martinsburg. The needs of those wounded in the recent fights have made heavy drafts upon the bounty of the Sanitary Commission, and the reports of its storehouses show a decrease of the stock on hand. Hence an appeal is officially made to Aid Societies throughout the land to forward largely to the various branch depots of the Sanitary Commission.

POTOMAC BLOCKADE-RUNNING BEING STOPPED.

Blockade-running across the Lower Potomac was, not long ago, extensively resumed; but, within the last three weeks, one of the Potomac flotilla, the Yankee, alone has destroyed thirty small boats found on the Virginia shore, and which had been used in the trade, and recently several runners have been captured.

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