

THE JEFFERSONIAN

Devoted to Politics, Literature, Agriculture, Science, Morality, and General Intelligence.

VOL 20.

STROUDSBURG, MONROE COUNTY, PA. JANUARY 2, 1862.

NO. 49.

Published by Theodore Schoch

TERMS.—Two dollars per annum advance. To subscribers a quarter, half yearly, and if not paid before the end of the year, Two dollars and a half. No numbers are sent gratis, but all arrears are repaid, except at the option of the Editor. Advertisements of one square (ten lines) or less, one or two insertions, \$1.00. Each additional insertion, 50 cents. Longer ones in proportion.

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TO TALKERS.

Give us action—speech no longer;
Cheer no fellows to the fray;
Words are well, but deeds are stronger—
Out yourselves and lead the way.

Should each man but urge his neighbors:
“Go ye forth and reap the plain”—
Holding back himself from labor—
Where would be the ripened grain?

When goes up the roar of battle
Stoutest voices are but weak;
Not of cause and duty prattle—
Let your silent service speak.

Have your wives!—do soft eyes pleading,
Hold you with their gentle spell!
Other hearts are torn and bleeding,
Other men have homes as well.

Urgè them not the smoking altar
With such gifts as those to strew,
If you feel your bosom fester
When the gods appeal to you.

Point not out a plan to others
Which your feet refuse to tread;
Follow with your earnest brothers,
Though it lead among the dead.

Even now the forest arches
With the tramp of men are rife;
Join your brothers on their marches,
Join them in the surging strife.

Whether drummer-boy or Colonel
Matters not, be duty done,
Battling for a truth eternal,
All are equal—ranks are one.

Should you win a brave dismissal
From your country's holy wars,
Yours shall be a high commission,
Bearing date among the stars!

But bring deeds, not mouthings merely,
Urging others to the fray;
You that see the path so clearly,
Yours the feet should lead the way.

A Hard Witness.

Mr. Jones lent Mr. Smith a horse, which died while in his (Smith's) possession. Mr. Jones, brought a suit to recover the value of the horse, attributing his death to bad treatment. During the course of the trial, a witness (Mr. Brown) was called to testify as to how Mr. Smith treated horses. Lawyer (with a bland and confident invoking smile): Well, sir, how does Mr. Smith generally ride a horse? Witness (with a merry twinkle in his eyes, otherwise imperturbable):—Astraddle, I believe sir. Lawyer (with scarcely a perceptible flush upon his cheek but still speaking in his smoothest tones): But, sir, what gait does he ride? Witness: He never rides any gait, sir, his boys ride all the gaites. Lawyer (his bland smile gone, and his voice slightly hoarse): But how does he ride when in company with others? Witness: Keeps up, if his horse is able; if not he goes behind. Lawyer (triumphantly and in perfect fury): How does he ride when alone? Witness: Don't know, never with him when he was alone. Lawyer; I have done with you, sir.

“A pious old negro, saying grace at the table, not only used to ask the blessing upon his board but he would also petition to have some deficient dish supplied. One day it was known that Cato was out of potatoes, and suspecting that he would pray for some at dinner, a wag provided himself with a small measure of the vegetables, and stole under the window, next which stood the table of our colored Christian. Soon Cato drew up a chair and commenced:
“O, Massa Lord, will dow in dy provident kindness condescend to bress eberyting before us and be pleased to bestow upon us a few taters, and all the praise.”
Here the potatoes were dashed upon the table, breaking plates and upsetting the mustard pot.
“Dem’s em, Lord,” said Cato, looking with surprise: “only just luff em down a little easier next time.”

Revision of the Revenue Laws.

Hon. D. M. Snyser, of Montgomery county, Wm. McClelland, of Franklin county, and James P. Sterrent of Allegheny county, Commissioners appointed by Governor Curtin, under the act of Assembly of May last, to revise the Revenue laws of the State, are now at Harrisburg organized and engaged in the task assigned them.

A Yankee in Iowa has taught ducks to swim in hot water with such success that they lay boiled eggs.

A great many persons undertake to build fortunes as Pat tried to build the chimney—they begin at the top and build down.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

BATTLE OF THE UPPER POTOMAC.
Precipitate Flight of the Rebels—60 Killed and 19 wounded—Our Loss Two Killed and Three wounded.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 20, 1861.
The following dispatch to Gen. Marcy, Chief of Staff, from Gen. McCall was received this evening:

DRAINESVILLE, Dec. 20.

To Gen. Marcy:

Gen. Ord's Brigade, with the 1st Rifles and Easton's Battery, had a brisk affair with four regiments and a battery of the Rebels at 12 m. to-day. I arrived during the action, and sent for Gen. Reynolds, who was left at Difficult Creek. The enemy was defeated, and fled before Gen. Reynolds arrived. We have found 40 killed of the enemy, and 10 wounded on the field. Our loss, 2 killed, and three wounded. We have taken two caissons with the harness, the horses having been killed. The Rifles behaved finely. Col Kane is very slightly wounded, but still in the field. I have collected the dead and wounded, and am about to move back to camp.

GEORGE A. McCALL,
Brig. Gen. Commanding.

On receipt of the above dispatch Gen. McClellan rode over to Gen. McCall's headquarters to acquaint himself with the particulars. He returned late this evening with intelligence that the event was more disastrous than supposed to the Rebels. Twenty more dead bodies had been found upon the field.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.

This morning at 6 o'clock a portion of Gen. McCall's division proceeded in the direction of Drainesville for a foraging expedition, and for the purpose of making a reconnaissance in the locality. Drainesville is about midway between Gen. McCall's headquarters and Leesburg. On arriving in that vicinity they encountered the enemy, who had four regiments of infantry, South Carolinians, Alabamians and Kentuckians, with a battery of six pieces and a regiment of cavalry, under command of Gen. Stewart.

The only troops on our side that engaged in the affair were Gen. Ord's brigade, the 1st Rifles, and Easton's battery of four pieces.

At four o'clock, after the action, Gen. McCall sent two officers to count the rebels killed and wounded, when it was ascertained that they left on the field fifty-seven killed and twenty-two wounded. Three of the latter died on being removed, making their loss sixty killed and nineteen wounded—a total of seventy-nine killed and wounded; and they no doubt carried off many more. They also left nine horses killed or disabled.

They were completely routed, and fled precipitately, after a fight of an hour and a half, leaving two caissons, a quantity of small arms, blankets, great coats, &c., more than our troops could bring away. Our men also brought in some prisoners, beside the wounded. Our loss, as near as can be ascertained at present, is about ten killed and fifteen wounded.

The expedition returned to their camp at Blangley's at 9 o'clock to-night. Gen. McCall, in a dispatch received at headquarters to-night, says too much credit cannot be given to Gen. Ord for gallantry and skill throughout the day. Easton's battery was admirably served, and did good execution. The Rifles also behaved finely.

LATER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

Defeat of Commodore Hollins—His Ship Sunk by the Massachusetts—Destruction in Louisiana—Nothing to feed Negroes Upon—Slave Insurrection in Mississippi. Destruction of the Quitman Estate.

PORT ROYAL, Dec. 14.

I have just been aboard the Wabash. I write this on the steamer Spaulding to leave at daylight to-morrow. I suppose the Connecticut will carry the news of Hollins's defeat, and the sinking of his ship by the Massachusetts; and also the Pickens business; but I have had some conversation with an officer of Wabash, who—conversed with a deserter from the Confederate Navy—an intelligent man. He says there is universal depression throughout the South, and that the whole game is up. New Orleans is particularly despondent. The sugar planters are Union at heart, and if we take New Orleans or Mobile, the cotton planters would all bring their cotton for sale.

There is great destitution, and planters have nothing to feed their negroes on. There has been a great negro insurrection in Mississippi, and an immense quantity of property destroyed—\$150,000 on the Quitman Estate alone.

AFFAIRS IN KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, Friday Dec. 20, 1861.

Gen. Johnson's brigade made a reconnaissance in force to-day, six miles south of Green River, without finding a trace of the enemy. No official account of the Mumfordsville fight has yet been received at headquarters, nor anything from Gen. Schoff.

Cincinnati, Friday, Dec. 20.

The Commercial's Frankfort dispatches of to-night say there is nothing from Somerset to-day.

Two Union men and one Secessionist write from Owensville, 10th, saying it is reported and generally believed that Gen-

erals Marshall and Williams have 15,000 troops between West Liberty and Pikeville, with scouts extending to near Owensville. The gentleman receiving the letters fears it is true, though it is not generally believed at Frankfort.

In the Kentucky Legislature, the House adopted, by the usual party vote, a resolution, by the usual party vote, a resolution that Kentucky would assume the payment of her portion of the direct tax imposed by Congress.

The Senate adopted the House resolutions indorsing the present action regarding General Fremont's proclamation and Secretary Cameron's report, and requesting the President to dispense with Secretary Cameron. The vote was unanimous on the amendment.

REBEL ATTACK ON WILLIAMSPORT.

POINT OF ROCKS, Friday, Dec. 20.

The rebel Jackson left Winchester on Tuesday with 5,700 men, and 100 boats, each calculated to carry twelve men, and marched to Martinsburg, where he was re-enforced by 2,100 men. He was also re-enforced by upward of 2,000 men from Charlestown yesterday.

He advanced on Williamsport and commenced to shell the town from a position three miles below it. The fire was returned by Best's battery, and both fires ceased in the evening, after lasting several hours.

At the latest account all was quiet up there.

Williamsport, Mo., Friday, Dec. 20.

Affairs in and around this vicinity are quiet except an exchange of shots with the enemy at Dam No. 5 and Falling Waters. Jackson's battery, at the former place, including a 12 pounder rifled gun, has been endeavoring to destroy the dam, which now seems to be the principal object of his demonstration. His fire is responded to by two Parrott guns of Knapp's Pennsylvania battery.

At the latter place one section of Best's battery has been operating occasionally against two of Jackson's guns. The design of the enemy at Falling Waters appears to be to distract our attention from Dam No. 5. The effect of our fire has not developed. The enemy's gun produced no result.

The Connecticut 5th Regiment joined Gen. Kelly's command, and will report at Hancock or Romney in a few days.

Col. Kenley's 1st Maryland, Col. Murphy's 29th Pennsylvania, and Lieutenant Cushing's section of Best's battery arrived to-day.

There is not the least danger of Jackson's attempting to cross. Deserters say that he has been ordered to destroy Dam No. 5 at all sacrifices.

Col. Leonard's forces are so disposed as to prevent any danger of a surprise.

Last night a party of the Connecticut 5th and Lieut. Rickett's battery were sent over in a skiff, and burnt the mill at Dam No. 5, which has been occupied by the rebels as a stronghold. They captured some guns, tools for breaking up the dam, blankets, &c.

Two deserters from Jackson's force arrived yesterday, giving some important information. Jackson, it is said, has been promoted to the command of the whole valley of Virginia. He has five regiments in the neck opposite here with 15 guns.

All is quiet this morning. Col. Leonard arrested a man yesterday under suspicious circumstances. He is supposed to be a spy.

The Quakers of Montgomery and Frederick counties, Md., have formed sewing societies for soldiers, and are laboring with an alacrity which would astonish George Fox. It is said that when some committees were going the rounds in their neighborhood to get blankets, &c., for the soldiers, they came to a Quaker household, where the first thing that arrested their eye was a table loaded with blankets and quilts. The committee modestly preferred their request, and a placid lady replied:—“Friend we cannot assist thee in the work of bloodshed, even so far as to help those engaged in it; but there are some things on that table, and if they choose to steal them, it is equally against our principles to use violence to prevent them! Convinced that the articles were very carefully placed where they could be stolen, the committee took the sin upon their own shoulders, and left amid the most explosive laughter of the Quakeresses assembled, in which they joined.

Important Order.

Governor Curtin, on Monday last, issued an order to the effect that “All regiments or companies heretofore authorized to be raised in the State of Pennsylvania, if not filled by the 16th of January, A. D. 1862, will be consolidated.”

New Surveyor General.

Gov. Curtin has appointed Hon. Henry Southern, formerly State Senator from the “Wild-Cat” district, Surveyor General, in place of Gen. William H. Keim, resigned. General Keim resigned for the purpose of accepting a Brigadier-Generalship in the army, recently tendered him.

An honest Irishman, fresh from Hibernia, caught a bumble-bee in his hand, supposing it to be a humming bird. “Och,” he exclaimed, “how hot his little feet is!”

FROM MISSOURI.

Surprise of Another Rebel Camp—Capture of 1,300 Rebels.—All their Baggage, Equipments, and Horses Taken.

St. Louis, Mo., Friday, Dec. 20, 1861.

Further information received from the West this morning is to the effect that in addition to the expedition of Gen. Pope against the enemy at and near Clinton, another part of his forces, under Col. Davis and Major Marshall, surprised another camp of the rebels on the afternoon of the 18th inst., near Milford, a little north of Warrensburg. A brisk skirmish ensued, when the rebels, finding themselves surrounded, surrendered.

Col. Davis took 1,300 prisoners, including 3 colonels, 17 captains, 1,000 stand of arms, 65 wagons, 1,000 horses, and a large quantity of tents, baggage, and supplies.

Our loss is two killed and eight wounded. The Rebel loss is not yet known.

Information from Glasgow states that our troops captured about two tons of powder buried on Claib. Jackson's farm. Major Hubbard captured sixty Rebels a day or two since in Johnson County. The troops in Kansas have been stirring during the past week, and good news is expected from them daily.

Sedalla, Mo., Friday, Dec. 20, 1861.

Col. Palmer's Brigade arrived here last night, and Gen. Pope is expected to-day.

All information from the West and North is to the effect that no efforts have been spared to send Gen. Price an ample supply of clothing for the Winter. All, or nearly all, of this has fallen, or will fall, into our hands. Nearly 200 heavily laden wagons are already in our possession, together with a large quantity of ammunition and arms. A thousand horses, tents, camp equipage, &c., and between 1,800 and 2,000 recruits have been taken prisoners.

Major Hubbard of the 1st Missouri Cavalry has captured over 60 rebel recruits within the past few days, and killed several others. He has also taken a considerable number of tents, several wagons, a quantity of baggage and arms, and burned a mill which had been supplying the rebels for some time past.

Altogether the rebellion has received a terrible shock in this section of the country within the present week.

It is thought by many that Gen. Price will cross the Osage to assist his Generals, Stein and Slack, who are now in the river country with four or five thousand men to escort recruits and supplies to their main camp at Osceola. If he does, he will be compelled to stand a general engagement, in which event there is no question whatever but he will be badly defeated, and his army entirely scattered.

Early yesterday morning our scouts, brought in information that the large rebel train and re-enforcements, which we had marched south to intercept, had divided, and the larger portion was marching south, toward Waverly, intending to camp at night near Warford. Gen. Pope brought the main body of his army in position a few miles south of Waverly, and sent a scouting force, under Col. Jeff. C. Davis, a few miles south of Warrensburg and Knob Noster, to come on the left and rear of the enemy; at the same time ordering Merrill's cavalry to march from Warrensburg and come from the right.

Col. Davis pushed rapidly forward, and came up with the enemy in the afternoon, drove in his pickets, carried a strongly defended bridge by an assault, and drove the enemy into a timber, who, finding himself surrounded, surrendered, 1,300 men, including two Colonels, one Lieut.-Colonel, one Major, and seventeen Captains.—Sixty wagons, heavily laden with supplies and clothing and a large number of horses and mules, fell into our hands.

Our loss was 2 killed and 14 wounded. That of the enemy is considerably greater.

This was the best planned and executed action of the war, and reflects great credit on the General commanding, and the officers and men who so faithfully and promptly carried out his plans.

Leavenworth, Friday, Dec. 20, 1861.

The Conservatives of this city has'advices from Mound City, of the 15th, stating that a portion of the 3d Regiment, under the command of Major Williams, made a dash into Missouri on the 17th, and burned the Villages of Paperville and Butler (the latter is the county seat of Bates County), and returned with a large number of refugees, quantities of stock, &c.

They had two men killed at Butler. These towns have for a long time been the resort of a guerrilla band of rebels. Price was at Osceola at the time, and it was said that he designed making an attack upon Sedalla.

Two companies of the 4th Cavalry, regulars, arrived at Fort Leavenworth on the 18th, in twenty-two days from Fort Wise.

The First Capture.

The War Department received the following dispatch from its telegraphic agent in the West.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 19, 1861.

The St. Louis Democrat of this afternoon says the following is from official sources:

“Yesterday, an army in several detachments, under the general direction of Gen. Pope, made a series of concerted

movements upon the enemy at Clinton and the surrounding country, which resulted in driving the rebels into one common center at or near Clinton, where they were all taken and made prisoners of war; 150 captured in a body; other little squads of from 10 to 15 were also duly cared for. All their baggage, arms, ammunition, and papers were secured.—The loss of life on either side is not known.

This brilliant affair was planned by Gen. Halleck, and executed most admirably by Gen. Pope.

The Second Surprise and Capture in Missouri.

Headquarters, St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 20.

To G. B. McClellan, Maj. Gen. Com. A part of Gen. Pope's forces, under Col. J. C. Davis and Major Marshall surprised another camp of the enemy, on the afternoon of the 18th at Milford, a little north of Warrensburg. A brisk skirmish ensued, when the enemy finding himself surrounded, surrendered at discretion. We took 1,300 prisoners, including three Colonels and seventeen Captains, 1,000 stand of arms, 1,000 horses, 65 wagons, and a large quantity of tents, baggage and supplies. Our loss is two killed and eight wounded. The enemy's loss is not yet known.

Information was received last night from Glasgow, that our troops at that place had taken about two tons of powder in kegs, buried on Jackson's farm.—This effectually cuts off their supply of ammunition.

H. W. HALLECK, Major-General.

A later telegram received this evening announces the capture of 160 more Rebels by a portion of Gen. Pope's command. It is now believed that we have more prisoners in our possession than the Rebels.

The Temper of Congress.

Mr. Forney, writing from Washington to the Philadelphia Press, speaks as follows of the temper of Congress:

“A single day's observation and intercourse among the members of Congress has led to the conclusion that, with two or three insignificant exceptions, the Senators and representatives agree in utter detestation of the whole rebellion, and in the uncompromising spirit of putting it down at whatever cost. Among those most urgent and resolute in taking these positions are Democrats. There is, indeed, a good deal of difference as to the means or manner of giving effect to this policy. Some are for a declaration of emancipation of the slaves of the insurgents;—others for the confiscation of slave property; and another class for levying a tax upon the slaveholders, so that they may by such a process feel the heaviest burdens of the war. But on all sides, as well as on the part of Thaddeus Stevens, in the House, and Lyman Trumbull, in the Senate, as well among the ultra Republicans as among the ultra Democrats, there is open expression that the property of the loyal slaveholders shall be protected or paid for. A good deal of unnecessary clamor has been created by mischievous men on this subject. The friends of the Administration and the war have only to keep their eye on the issue on which they really do agree as above stated, and they cannot divide.

One great truth stands out prominently, that the property of the traitors and that it would be unjust to except property in slaves from this rule. All loyal people ask that the houses and lands, and gold and silver, and stocks and securities, and cotton and powder and cannon and ships of Jefferson Davis and his robber associates should be confiscated, and rather than it should be used to damage and destroy the Union, it should be annihilated. Would it not be monstrous if we excepted from this rule the slaves of Davis and his followers? How to dispose of the slaves, whether they shall be liberated or armed—whether the ownership in them shall be confiscated or taken—wisely left to the President and Secretary of War to the military authorities.—No doubt Congress will pass some law by which these authorities may be guided in the disposition of this vexed question but their action in my opinion be regulated by the suggestions of the President and the reasoning of his respective constitutional advisers.”

Death of Prince Albert.

Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, died in England at noon on Sunday, the 15th instant, after a short attack of gastric fever. His case was not considered dangerous until the 13th instant.

A Problem.

If twenty-seven inches of snow give three inches of water, how much milk will a cow give when fed upon turnips? Multiply the flakes by the hair of the cow's tail, then divide the product by a turnip, add a pound of chalk, and the sum will be the answer.

The Commissioners of Northampton county have suspended payment to those families of volunteers who have received money from their friends in the army.

“I put outside my window a large box filled with mould, and sowed it with seed. What do you think came up? Wheat, barley, or oats? No a policeman, who ordered me to remove it.”

Pat Didn't Like to Say.
The Charleston Courier's Richmond correspondent gets off the following:

Frequently the ladies are in the habit of visiting the prisoners, but often from curiosity than sympathy. Another incident is told of an encounter between several of them and an Irishman.

It had become a matter of habit with the fair ones to open conversation with the very natural inquiry, “where are you wounded?” and accordingly when a party of three or four the other day approached our call they launched out in the usual way. Paddy made believe that he didn't bear distinctly, and replied, “pretty well I thank ye!”—“Where are you wounded?” again fired away one of the ladies. “Faith not badly hurt at all; I'll be travelling to Richmond in a week,” replied Pat, with a peculiarly distressing look as if he was in a tight place. Thinking that he was deaf, one of the old ladies in the back-ground put her mouth down to his ear and shouted again, “We want to know where you are hurt?”

Pat evidently finding that if the bombardment continued much longer he would have to strike his flag any how, concluded to do so at once, and accordingly with a face as rosy as a boiled lobster, and with an angry kind of energy he replied—

“Sure leddies, its not dafè that I am, but since you are determined to know where I've been wounded; its on my side, the bullet entered behind or me breeches. Please to excuse me feeling and ax me no more questions!”

I leave you to imagine the blushing consternation of the inquisitors and sudden locomotion of the crinolines out of the front door.

Since then Pat has been the hero of the hospital, and receives any amount of female visitors, for you know such a thing circulates among the sex like quicksilver on a smooth glass, but they bestow their sympathies in silence and no more ask him, “Where are you hurt?”

Secession Ladies.

An army letter in the Newark Advertiser says that “near the camp of the 2d N. J. Regiment there is a family of the name of Goodwin, in which there are seven sisters, all staunch secessionists, who are honored by having a sonny stand guard around their premises. If the band plays “Dixie,” they will come out and seem much elated; throwing up the windows and standing on the piazza, in front of the building. But it is very amusing to see them when the tune is changed to Yankee Doodle; then they run in the house, close the doors and shutters, draw down the blinds, and you would think the house was deserted. They are said to be somewhat intelligent, although I think this is no great evidence of their being so.

Not one person in a thousand estimates the value of newspapers in times of war. We have heard some people say “what a harvest for the newspapers!” they do not take into consideration that the proprietors scarcely get back the money the paper costs on which each issue is printed, and in those times additional expenses are sustained which are seldom incident to times of peace. In such times, too, advertising instead of increasing, falls off. The very life of a paper is actually taken away and additional burdens are imposed by the large amount of gratuitous labor that is asked by the public in way of calls for meetings, notices of various societies, military companies, etc. Accounts of a public character are chargeable in times of peace. The press, therefore, to-day, is really donating more in proportion to its means than any other institution in the land, and with, perhaps, the least appreciation and the smallest thanks.

Domestic Incident.

“Mamma papa's getting very rich isn't he?”
“I'm sure I don't know. Why child?”
“Cause he gives so much money to me. Almost every morning after breakfast, when Sally is sweeping the parlor, he gives me a sixpence to go out and play.”
Shortly after Sally received a notice to quit.

In Bavaria, Clermont County, Ohio, the boys who are too young to go to the war, have formed a company which they call the “Sawback Rangers,” the design being to saw the wood of those women whose husbands are in the war.

Ladies everywhere are knitting socks for the soldiers. They desire to put the army on a good footing; and thus enable our brave boys to “knock the socks off” the rebels.—*Lebanon (O) Citizen.*

Down east they put a fellow in jail for swindling. The audacious chup had dried stow and sold it for salt.

“A man who'll maliciously set fire to a barn,” said Mr. Slow, “and burn up twenty cows, ought to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I'd like to do it.”

A Dutchman being called upon for a toast, said, “Here is to de heroes what fir, pled and died at de battle of Bull Run—of which I am one.”