

Miscellaneous.

WAR MEETING.

In presence of public notice, by hand-bills, a meeting was called at the Court House...

On motion of Chas. J. Brander, Esq., Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions...

Resolved, That, in the language of the immortal Jackson, 'The Union must and shall be preserved'...

Resolved, That the proceedings of this of this meeting be published in all the papers of the county.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to solicit subscriptions, to be applied to defray the expenses...

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THE AMERICAN.



SUNBURY, PA. SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1861.

H. B. MASSEY, Editor and Proprietor.

TO ADVERTISERS.-The circulation of THE AMERICAN among the different towns in the Sunbury region is not exceeded by any paper published in Northern Pennsylvania.

The new schedule of the Pennsylvania Railroad company went into effect on the fifth of this month.

Rev. D. Menigo of the Baptist church at Milton, baptized five persons in the river at that place on Sunday week last.

ANOTHER BANK BILL.-The Committee in banks in the House have reported another bank bill, which legalizes the suspension for another year, and provides various liberal privileges.

READING AND COLUMBIA RAILROAD.-The work of grading this road, from Columbia to Ephrata, was sublet by Col. Moore to the original contractor, and the work will be commenced on the several sections at once.

The original contract binds Col. Moore to have the road completed by the fourth of July, 1862.

The new Court House at Williamsport nearly finished, is 123 feet in length and 66 in width.

When the news of the firing on Fort Sumter was received, the new flag was run up the tall hickory pole in Market Square, and the stars and stripes were unfurled to the breeze.

Lectures.-Andrew N. Brice, "Temperance" Methodist Church-Northumberland, Monday evening, 22d instant.

Our borough wears quite a military appearance. The war feeling has absorbed everything else. The stars and stripes are unfurled from many of the public and private houses.

OUR FLAG.-Our neighbors of the Democrat have run out the Stars and Stripes, a handsome flag. We congratulate them on their liberality. The Colors have one almost ready, and ours will be forth coming, as a matter of course.

THE SUNBURY AND ERIE. Our amiable cotemporary of the Bloomsburg Democrat, a Breckenridge organ with accession proclivities, calls us some hard names, and says:

Harry B. Massey, of the "Sunbury American," last week opened upon the flood-gates of his vituperative vengeance, for exposing the recent exposure of the Road Signaler, Massey approves of the conduct of the Legislature-pronounces their action "fair and honorable," and swallows the rancorous robbery (of millions of the people's money) without even grunting.

Unfortunately our neighbor, in attempting to expose a swindle made a slight mistake, and only succeeded in "exposing" his own ignorance, while "the flood-gates of our vituperative vengeance" consisted, simply, in pointing out the fact. Our cotemporary further says, we swallowed the robbery "without even grunting." Therein the chivalric Colonel no doubt, thinks, we differ from himself, as he requires no little grease to aid him in the deglutition of some very nasty things which frequently appear in that model paper. Could not the Colonel, in connection with Col. Freeze his aspiring local editor, point out wherein we were not correct? The Colonel's antipathy to corruption influence, it is well known, is not constitutional, and only objectionable when not properly "greased." Hence he suspects all others of the same weakness.

The fact is, our cotemporary, intending to make some capital out of the Sunbury and Erie, pitched into the member from Columbia, and instead of replying to Mr. Kline's facts, got up some of his own make, and accused Mr. Kline of ignorance and bad grammar.-Knowing that Mr. Kline was right in his facts we deemed it proper to put the saddle of ignorance on the right horse, the "bob-tailed neg" of old, and his aid. This, the two gallant Colonels of the "Floating Battery," call vituperative vengeance, an old dodge, but so decidedly cool as almost to make one Freeze.

WAR COMMENCED. Fort Sumter Taken by the Secessionists. When the telegraph announced the fact, on Saturday night, that Fort Sumter had been bombarded, our people were greatly excited, but on Sunday evening when it was announced that the fort had surrendered on Saturday, and that the President had issued his proclamation calling for 75,000 men, the excitement was intense. With very few exceptions, all felt that the time had arrived when partisan considerations should be buried in the past-that whatever difference of opinion might have been entertained in regard to the policy of the administration, the time had come when every true patriot must take sides either for or against his country. No patriot will stop to discuss abstract questions of policy, when traitors and rebels, led by reckless men, trample into the dust the glorious banner under which our forefathers achieved our independence.

On Saturday, John H. Lane and William B. Lane, who opened a "bill store" a short time ago in Williamsport, were arrested on the charge of maintaining a lottery. After a hearing before Justice McClure they were held in \$200 bail to answer at Court-Thursday evening.

This is a move in the right direction. The next step should be to arrest those who aid and abet these lottery enterprises by advertising for them.

Judge Douglas called on the President and offered his services and counsel in defense of the Union. He told him he was politically opposed to him and his administration, but would support him in defending the flag of his country.

When such distinguished democrats as Judge Douglas can sink the partisan in the patriot, puny, half-edged politicians should hide their diminished heads in shame, when prating about noble rights. What a contrast with the conduct of Breckinridge, who unable to drag his State (Kentucky) out of the Union, has, like Joe Lane, gone over to the secessionists.

JAMES CAMERON.

POSTSCRIPT.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH. BALTIMORE, April 19, 1861.-9 o'clock A. M.-Virginia has seceded, and troops are raising to take all public property. Harper's Ferry is taken by the State troops. Difficulties are encountered in getting troops together from Baltimore. Troops may have to go by sea up the Potomac to Washington.

THE WAR MEETING, held at this place on Wednesday evening, the proceedings of which will be found in another column, was one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever held in the Court House. The speeches of the Rev. Mr. Rizer and Gen. John K. Clement were received with rapturous applause. Whatever difference of opinion might have been previously entertained by some of our citizens on political or rather partisan grounds, all gave in their adhesion, and the proceedings were adopted with unanimity and great applause.

After the close of the meeting a paper was handed around by J. P. Shindler Goble, Esq. and over fifty names were immediately subscribed for the formation of a company.

We did not see the proceedings until in print and regret they were not more fully reported.

LARGE SALMON.-The Pottsville Record notices a large Susquehanna salmon, served up at the "Exchange" in Pottsville. The salmon alluded to, was captured by Mr. Benjamin Krohn, near the coal-wharves at this place. Having ventured too near shore, Mr. Krohn took advantage of his position, and clubbed him into submission. He weighed 1 1/2 pounds, and was purchased by Mr. Covert of the "Washington House," and was sent as a union pledge to the host of the "Exchange." Mr. James Boyd sent another, weighing nine pounds, submerged in a fair contest, to Danville.

MAJOR ANDERSON.-The New York Courier charges Major Anderson with treachery in the surrender of Fort Sumter, but the New York Post contends, that the surrender was a piece of military strategy or the part of General Scott, to divert attention from the reinforcements.

Major Anderson, who was accomplished, and which is of much greater importance than Sumter.

AN EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS.

The President has issued his proclamation calling an extra session of Congress, to meet on the fourth of July, to consider the difficulties which surround the Government.

The following of the non seceding States have not yet elected their representatives to the new Congress: California where the election is in September; Maryland, in November; Tennessee and North Carolina in August; and Virginia, where the election will be held in May. It is, probably, to give an opportunity to these States to call special elections of Representatives, that the called session is postponed until the fourth of July.

The present emergency demonstrates the necessity of a law for the election of Representatives, in all the States prior to the close of a previous Congress.

The Miltonian says there will be eight or nine schools this summer in that borough, taught by private subscription. From this we should judge that the public schools there, are not in very good repair.

THE CONFERENCE OF FRIDAY. Major Anderson, during the greater part of Friday, directed his fire principally against Fort Moultrie, the Stevens and Floating Batteries; these and Fort Johnson being the only five operating against him. The remainder of the batteries on Morris Island, were ordered to cease firing.

The soldiers were perfectly reckless of their lives, and at every shot jumped upon the ramps to observe the effect, and then jumped down cheering.

A party on the Stevens Battery are said to have played a game of cards during the hottest fire.

The excitement in the community was indescribable. With the very first boom of the gun thousands rushed from their beds in the morning to see the whole scene. The streets were thronged by ladies and gentlemen, viewing the solemn spectacle through their glasses. Most of these had relatives in the several fortifications and many a fearful eye detected the anxious affection of the mother, brother and sister.

Business was entirely suspended. Only those stores were open which were necessary to supply articles required by the army.

Governor Pickens remained all day in the residence of a gentleman commanding a view of the whole scene, a most interesting observer. Gen. Beauregard commanded in person the entire operations.

Troops were pouring into the town all day by hundreds, but were held in reserve for the present, the large force landed having been organized into regiments.

People also arrived every moment on horseback, and by every other conveyance.

The flag of Fort Sumter floated to the breeze all day. It was not struck by a single shot.

Quite a number of the contestants at the different secession forts were struck by spent pieces of shell, but not seriously injured.

About six o'clock on Friday evening it became necessary to convey dispatches from Sumter to Charleston. Capt. R. S. Parker undertook the mission, and started in a small boat. He delivered the dispatches to Gov. Pickens, after having rowed through the warm fire of Major Anderson, and escaped unhurt.

Several wrecks in the same manner bore dispatches to Morris Island, through the fire from Fort Sumter.

Two rain storms occurred during the day, but did not interrupt the firing. Many of those engaged were in their shirt sleeves. The water was very warm.

The regularity of the replies of Major Anderson during the day led to the belief on the part of the assailants that by some means he had received reinforcements of men.

At eight o'clock about five o'clock the rain commenced to pour, and the uncovered batteries on the islands were obliged to cease firing regularly, and content themselves with occasional guns.

The interval is believed to have been made use of by Major Anderson to repair damages. He is said to have received twenty-nine fall shots from the Stevens battery alone, making the bricks fly from the walls in all directions.

It is estimated that from twelve to eighteen hundred balls and shells were fired during the day. One or one hundred shells took effect inside the fort.

The shots from Sumter to Fort Moultrie generally went wide of the mark. They were from two of Anderson's barbette guns. The same was the case with the Floating Battery, which was very near to his batteries.

A ball penetrated the Moultrie House, where a party of gentlemen were sitting in the parlor, watching the fight. It entered the second story, and traveled into the kitchen. The gentlemen scattered in all directions, and sought a better position.

Vessels were stationed at different points in the harbor. One of these, the schooner "Patriot," Capt. S. F. Coste, received four shots, but suffering no material damage.

It was known before evening that at least three or more ships had been sunk. The vessels were outside the bar, and signals were believed to have been exchanged between them and Major Anderson.

The first shot was fired from Fort Johnson, on Morris Island, by Capt. James, and the second by Lieutenant U. H. Gibbs. This was not until three o'clock this afternoon. The first shot from the Stevens Battery was fired by the venerable Edmund Ruffin, of Virginia.

It was anticipated by the Secessionists that the Government would make an effort to reinforce Sumter during the night of Friday. To prevent this, extra forces were detailed to Morris and Sullivan's Islands, and guards were stationed both on the shores and in boats in the harbor, with orders to signal at once, if any reinforcements were sighted.

Orders were issued, and Major Anderson sent a bomb from all the batteries every twenty minutes during the night to keep him wide awake, making about two a minute.

So passed the night of Friday.

THE CONFLICT OF SATURDAY.

Early on Saturday morning the regular cannonade was resumed with increased energy, on the part of those in the shore batteries.

Light was visible in median on Fort Sumter all night, and Major Anderson was, doubtless, engaged in protecting his guns and making necessary repairs. He did not reply to any fire during the night.

Soon after the firing was commenced on Saturday morning, it was reported that some of the batteries in the interior of Sumter had caught fire. Smoke and flames were seen issuing from the port holes.

The secessionists were delighted. It was conjectured that the magazine of the Fort would explode. This was feared by Major Anderson, for his guns remained silent and it is believed that efforts were made to subdue the flames.

The principal antagonist of Fort Sumter was the battery on Cummings Point. The shells were thrown in there in the night almost without intermission. From Moultrie and Morris Island there was no abandonment.

Finally it appeared as though Anderson had yielded to the difficulties of his position. The flag at Sumpter was put at half mast-a sign of distress. It is believed that several of the smaller magazines exploded, and sudden clouds of smoke were seen to rise from Sumter. No aid was rendered by the Federal ships in the offing. It is not known whether they were able to cross the bar.

THE VESSELS.

An arrangement has been agreed upon by the parties to stay further proceedings until nine o'clock tomorrow.

CHARLESTON, April 13.-Evening.-The Fairfeld regiment, 1000 strong, have just passed the Courier office, on their way to Morris Island. There are now ten thousand men under arms in the harbor and on the coast.

NINTH DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, April 13.-Evening.-Fort Sumter has unconditionally surrendered. The news has reached the city by a private messenger.

Ex-Senator Chesnut and Ex-Governor Manning, and W. Porcher Miles have just landed, and marched to the Governor's house, followed by a dense crowd of people, who are wild with joy. They bring the particulars.

It was reported that ten of the garrison at Fort Sumter had been killed, but your reporter has just had an interview with W. Porcher Miles, who has just returned from a visit to Fort Sumter and is assured by him that no one was killed.

Major Anderson stated that he surrendered his sword to General Beauregard as the representative of the Confederate Government. General Beauregard would not receive it from so brave a man. He says Major Anderson made a staunch fight, and elevated himself in the estimation of every true Confederate.

During the fire, when Major Anderson's flag was shot away, a boat put off from Morris Island, carrying another American flag for him to fight under.

The exterior of the Fort presents a sorry appearance. The portion which suffered most was that exposed to the iron battery at Cummings Point. The walls, not constructed in a very durable manner (in spite of all that has been said), were honeycombed, and several breaches were made. A portion of one of the corners was completely carried away.

The heavy columbiads at Cummings Point, capable of throwing balls of eight or ten inch calibre for a distance of two miles, did not see execution.

It has been seen also that the forces of Major Anderson were entirely inadequate to effectually work the guns, and attend to the incidental requirements. It is not to be wondered at, under the circumstances, that Fort Sumter should have fallen.

The men were on duty thirty-six hours, with balls or shells striking the casemates and guns of the fort constantly. Competent military men state that the intense vibration or shock produced on the brain and nervous system of those in the vicinity is terribly exhausting.

At the siege of Sevastopol the men who worked the guns were relieved every twenty minutes, and grommed with whisky and brandy. The men at Fort Sumter had no such luxury. They were obliged to work the guns and attend to the incidental requirements of the fort, under the most arduous and exhausting circumstances.

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THE FORT SURRENDERED.

Throughout the whole exciting period during which Fort Sumter has been the scene of conversation, competent military men have doubted its ability to stand a prolonged bombardment. Neither Sumter nor Pickens were constructed to sustain a siege, but rather to defend harbors against hostile fleets.

For the latter purpose they are admirably adapted; no wooden walls could withstand the fire from their batteries, or do them serious harm; but a well-sustained fire from different points on the adjacent shores it has been shown has effectually silenced Sumter, what might be the effect of a similar order to Pickens.

The exterior of the Fort presents a sorry appearance. The portion which suffered most was that exposed to the iron battery at Cummings Point. The walls, not constructed in a very durable manner (in spite of all that has been said), were honeycombed, and several breaches were made. A portion of one of the corners was completely carried away.

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