

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.—The appointment of Gen. Cameron, as Chairman of the State Central Committee, was a complete surprise; but every one admits that no better choice could have been made.

The Legislature adjourned on Thursday last. During the last week of the session, several hundred bills were passed.—The number of bills on file was over one thousand.

The rebel editor of the Selingsgrove Times, referring to our article on high prices, says we are wrong. It is a common thing for lunatics to imagine all the world, but themselves, crazy. The editor must have either very obtuse or very good natured readers else he would not attempt to make them believe that poor persons are not known or classed as people.

The total contributions from States, counties, and towns, for the aid and relief of soldiers and their families, have amounted to over one hundred and eighty-seven millions of dollars (\$187,809,698.92), the contributions for the care and comfort of soldiers, by associations and individuals, has amounted to over twenty-four millions (\$24,944,866.56); the contributions at the same time by soldiers abroad have been \$9,380,140.74; and the contributions for freedmen, suffered by the New York riot of July, and white refugees, have been \$699,043.13, making a grand total, exclusive of the expenditures of the Government, of more than two hundred millions of dollars (\$212,273,250.49).

UNION STATE CONVENTION.—The Union State Convention met at Harrisburg on Tuesday last week, agreeably to the call of the State Central Committee. Hon. George Johnson, was chosen temporary chairman, who, upon taking the chair, made a few remarks pertinent to the occasion.—The list of delegates was then called, after which the usual committees on organization, constitution, &c., were appointed, when the convention adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

On the re-assembling of the Convention, the Committee on organization reported for President, Hon. George V. Lawrence, of Washington, and one person for Vice President, from each Senatorial District, with the usual number of Secretaries. The President on taking the chair delivered a patriotic address. A committee to prepare an address and resolutions was appointed by the President, after which the Convention proceeded to select four delegates at large to the National Convention, which resulted in the choice of Hon. Simon Cameron, Hon. A. K. McClure, Hon. M. B. Lowry, and Hon. W. W. Ketchum. A resolution to instructing the Delegates at large to support the re-nomination of Abraham Lincoln, for President, was unanimously adopted.

The following Electoral Ticket was then chosen:

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The Committee on Address made a report. The address sets forth that the honor and glory of the people were sufficient reasons for urging the re-election of Mr. Lincoln, whose administration has presented all the powers and resources of the Government in their strongest light. It was necessary for the successful prosecution of the war, that there should be no change in the Administration at Washington, for any such change would involve a change of measures and of military and civil labors, which could only result in ruin to the national credit and national cause. If, on the contrary, President Lincoln is re-elected, it will in effect reaffirm the principles which he has upheld, and the rebellion will be crushed.

The address pays a high tribute to the influence of the personal virtue of the President, to his firmness and impartiality, and concludes with a statement that his success in the next campaign will not be a triumph of party merely, but the triumph of a great principle.

The resolutions are five in number. The first endorses the policy of the National Administration in the prosecution of the war and punishment of traitors—a policy which, if carried out, will result in the triumph of the arms and power of the Government.—The second resolution tenders thanks to Governor Curtin, who deserves the respect of all loyal men, and who is entitled to credit as a just and tried officer who has sustained the honor of Pennsylvania and its dignity.

The third resolution eulogizes the alacrity of Governor Curtin in contributing to the national defense with all the resources of the Keystone State. The fourth resolution thanks loyal Senators and members at Harrisburg for a faithful performance of their trust, particularly for giving the right of suffrage to soldiers.

The fifth resolution returns thanks to brave soldiers in the field, who have sacrificed the comforts of home for the maintenance of the principles of our Government.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Senator Lowry was called on for a speech. He was followed by Messrs. McClure, Ketchum, and others. The Convention continued in session to a late hour.

The speakers, without exception, eulogized President Lincoln, and were highly applauded. The Convention adjourned sine die.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Particulars of the Burning of Madison Court House. WASHINGTON, May 5. The expedition which was sent out last week and destroyed Madison Court House, met no rebels till about a half mile from that town; a slight skirmish then took place in which the rebels lost five men and the Union soldiers none. The enemy then returned to the Court House.

The Star has the following further particulars. The rebels suddenly disappeared but on our force entering the town we received a volley of musketry from the windows of the houses, and they were for a time compelled to withdraw. The officers in command of the reconnoitering party ordered another advance, when again a destructive fire opened on them from the houses, and there being no other way of attacking the rebels out orders were issued that the town should be fired.

The torch was applied to a number of houses affording cover for the enemy, whereupon they hastily decamped, leaving our forces in full possession of the place. The flames, however, spread very rapidly, and there being no means at hand whereby the fire could be checked, a general conflagration was the result, and in a short time almost the entire town was in ashes.

The act was certainly not a wanton one on the part of the Union officers, but was rendered necessary by the desperate act of the rebels, who used the house as a shelter for the purpose of slaughtering our troops. A military expedition sent out from Vienna on Thursday last, under the command of Col. Lowell, returned to that place yesterday after having visited Leesburg, Rectortown and Upperville.

Near the latter place, a portion of Mosely's band was encountered, when a sharp fight ensued, which resulted in the capture of 23 prisoners. Colonel Lowell lost three men killed and four wounded. He returned in safety to Vienna with the prisoners captured from five houses, a large quantity of weapons, and other contraband goods picked up on the route.

The War in Virginia.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—The councils of the military authorities are kept remarkably secret. However, on the eve of a battle, some idea could be formed of the contemplated movements, but now they are matters of mere speculation, both among prominent civilians and even army officers. The utmost confidence, however, is reposed in those having the direct conduct of affairs, and due credit is given for their wisdom in preventing premature disclosures.

The Navy Department has received copies of the Richmond Examiner of the 25th ult. Frederickburg correspondent of the Examiner, writing under date of April 27th, says: The opinion prevails in Washington that Lee's army, in numerical strength, does not exceed fifty thousand men. To oppose this force, or rather for the purpose of attack, Grant has required that the Army of the Potomac shall be reënforced one hundred thousand strong. To this end reënforcements that are being continually passing up the Orange and Alexandria railway for the past ten days. Ten days hence it will be ready for the advance, which is universally desired in the United States, from Lincoln down, or up, whichever phrase you prefer.

The commonly received opinion that Grant will attack Lee in front and in his fortifications is erroneous. He will seek to turn the flank of our army, and his policy is, evidently, to maintain his present position until his organization and equipment are thoroughly accomplished, and then, by suddenly attacking his strategy, to surprise Gen. Lee. He may march rapidly and without announcement either to some point of crossing on the Rapidan, or Rappahannock, or to Port Republic, thence to Staunton, thence to Lynchburg. I think that an attempt to flank on the east more probable, his army crossing at some of the fords of the Rappahannock. This, however, is all conjecture, and but the echo of Washington gossip.

A despatch to the Enquirer from Orange Court House, under date of April 27, says: "The Army of the Potomac has received reinforcements over the Alexandria Railroad."

The Fort Pillow Massacre.

WASHINGTON, May 2. The sub-committee on the conduct of the War, consisting of Senator Wade and Representative George Gooch, have returned from Fort Pillow. They report that they had all the evidence necessary to confirm the newspaper accounts of the massacre. They say that it would be impossible to exaggerate the cruelties committed.

Among the witnesses who were examined by the sub-committee were several negroes, and one of the latter was dug himself out of his own grave. There is no doubt of the fact that one or more persons were nailed through their flesh to pieces of wood and their burned alive.

Only on the day of the surrender were the negroes treated as rebels, and on the next day, in cold blood. The victims seen by the committee were most of them cut and pierced in the face and eyes with bayonets and swords, while other parts of their bodies were maimed and disfigured either by steel or lead.

FROM REBELDOM.

WASHINGTON, May 2. A Richmond paper of Thursday last, says the languor in the commercial market shows that the town people will have to live on half rations until the country people who have provisions to spare shall have heard of the defeat of Grant's army. We may then expect supplies from all quarters, and a revival of business on a descending scale of prices.

A despatch from Orange Court House, April 27th, says that all the Yankees have left the valley to reinforce Maude.

A telegram from Frederickburg of the same date, says as yet there are no indications of Grant's movement toward Frederickburg, except that the telegraph from Occoquan to Alexandria is being repaired by the Yankees.

From North Carolina.

NEW YORK, May 4. News from North Carolina, dated the evacuation of Washington, N. C. by order of Gen. Butler.

Interesting from North Carolina.

NEWBURN, April 24.—The capture of Plymouth, including General Wessels and his command, is confirmed. Nothing is known here of the movements of the Rebels; but it is reported that they are gone to Virginia. Should they attack Little Washington or Newbern, their punishment would be fearful.

The success of the Rebels at Plymouth will not compensate them for the loss they sustained. From all accounts General Wessels was his little band of fifteen hundred veterans fought like heroes for four days and nights, leaving in every street heaps of Rebel dead, which admit will number seventeen hundred. We hear all sorts of reports in regard to the Rebel ram on the Neuse River, above the city.

The Newbern Times of the 27th inst., says that on Friday last, April 23d, a large Rebel force appeared in front of Little Washington, but their lines were deserted, and it is said a vigorous stampede towards Richmond commenced.

A military gentleman direct from Newbern, 27th inst., furnishes the following additional particulars from North Carolina:—It appears that the Rebel ram locomotive, which sank some of our best gun-boats, and which assisted so materially in capturing Plymouth, was injured in the fight, but as soon as she is prepared, which will not take long, the enemy say that they will assert their authority over the rivers and sounds of North Carolina, including all the towns now in our possession. They expect to act in concert with the other ram on the Neuse River, which is reported ready to move down on Newbern.

The Newbern Times of the 27th inst., contains the following additional particulars of the capture of Plymouth:—A military gentleman under the command of Brigadier General Hoke, and was much larger than we supposed. It must have amounted to at least twenty thousand men. The Rebel cavalry was under the command of Brigadier General Ransom. The first attack was made on the morning of the 23d, which was situated about a mile from the mouth of the Roanoke River. The Rebel battery which commanded this fort, it is said, was planted on Polk's Island, about a mile distant.

On Wednesday morning the Rebels prepared to attack our works in Plymouth. They accordingly massed their forces and precipitated them upon Fort Wessels. Battery Worth, Fort Gray and Fort Williams. These places were taken in detail, and after several repulses, were finally captured. But even then, it is said that General Wessels still held out, and fought the Rebels in the streets of Plymouth, throwing up rifle pits for the protection of his men, and was only overpowered by sheer force of numbers, being nearly twenty Rebels to one Federal soldier.

It is also said that General Wessels pulled off his coat and went into the work himself with the most indomitable energy, throwing hand grenades. On the surrender of the place the colored soldiers and Second Royal North Carolina Cavalry were ordered to the place. Most of the negroes, we regret to hear, are said to have been massacred. The conduct of the Rebel soldiery or the officers, or both, is said to have been barbarous in the extreme, and that they even went so far as to threaten the lives of the gallant old soldier who had commanded for so long and nobly pushing them. It is reported that the Rebel loss was between sixteen hundred and two thousand killed and wounded, while our loss was comparatively small.

All honor to the brave old hero, who escaped from here at the time of the surrender, and reached here on Sunday morning.

The following members of company E, Second North Carolina Union Volunteers, also escaped from the enemy at the surrender of Plymouth, and have reached our lines safely, viz: James H. Howard, NIXIE P. OVERTON, MITCHELL HOWARD, and MARCUS CUFFIELD.

The "ram" still lies in Roanoke River, prepared to run anything that attempts to enter the river. We venture to predict that the ram will not be long.

"Most of the citizens have left Plymouth for Roanoke Island."

The Times remarks editorially:—"The past two months have left impressions on the minds of thousands of people in Eastern North Carolina, which long years to come will scarcely efface. These two months encompass a period of deep anxiety, naturally produced by passing events, and our close proximity to our Rebel enemies. Ever since the formidable Confederate raid on the first of February, there has been an interval, the forbidding evidence of a determination on the part of the enemy to retake Eastern North Carolina. Time and again the most positive testimony has come within our lines that at least two iron-clad rams were preparing by the enemy on the Neuse and Roanoke rivers, with a view of descending the same and making an attack whenever circumstances seemed to indicate a favorable moment."

"The fact that these iron-clads were vigorously preparing was published in the most conspicuous manner in the dispatches sent to the Associated Press, and other rep at a warping. There seems to have been at the North nothing but doubt and distrust on the subject. All these representations seem to have been treated as fabrications too flagrant to require a moment's attention, and the devoted town of Plymouth and this city have been left to meet the onset as best they could."

"The thrilling events of the past week have furnished the most overwhelming testimony that the views entertained here by General Peck and other vigilant, intelligent officers, as to the designs of the enemy, have been well and completely founded."

From Washington.

The Army Movements a Mystery. WASHINGTON, May 3. The councils of the military authorities are kept remarkably secret. Heretofore on the eye of the public, and other rep at a warping. There seems to have been at the North nothing but doubt and distrust on the subject. All these representations seem to have been treated as fabrications too flagrant to require a moment's attention, and the devoted town of Plymouth and this city have been left to meet the onset as best they could.

The steamer Bavaria, from Hamburg for New York, was seized at the mouth of the Neuse River, and taken to Plymouth. The Bavaria had a large number of passengers on board. The ship and cargo are valued at \$12,000.

Garibaldi leaves England on the 17th, his health having given way. The ministers indignantly deny the Government had suggested his departure.

The Hansa was stopped by a frigate at the mouth of the Neuse, but after an examination of her papers, was allowed to proceed.

Germania from New York, at Southampton, would not go to Newburg. She landed her passengers, and would probably discharge at Southampton.

The War in the Southwest.

MEMPHIS, April 29, via Cairo, May 1.—Martin Smith was executed to-day, in Fort Pickering, for the crime of smuggling percussion caps to the enemy and violating his oath of allegiance. He stated at the gallows that he was guilty and that his sentence was just. Two other men are now in the Irwin prison for the same crime and will probably suffer the same penalty.

General Washburne is very actively preparing his troops for active duty in the field. General Sturgis has assumed command of the cavalry here and is remounting and equipping them.

CAIRO, May 1.—By the arrival of the steamer Mollie Able we have dates to the 26th, via Memphis to the 29th. It is reported that actual hostilities threatened, and measures are being taken to prevent Government property from falling into the enemy's hands, should they advance on the place. It is said 1,000 people from the country, including Paduch, and contrabands, are encamped within a radius of ten miles on the opposite side of the river from that city.

Col. Osborn, who was wounded on the 27th, has since died.

CAIRO, May 2.—Generals Ransom and Stone are passengers by the steamer Memphis, from New Orleans. The former is rapidly recovering from his wound. His statement goes to exonerate General Stone from the responsibility of the disaster resulting from the disposition of our forces at Sabine Pass. He further states that General Stone has endeavored to state that the Army of the Gulf by his gallant conduct in the battles of the 8th and 9th.

The party who captured the gunboat are represented to number about 200 men. The Rebels, with a mortar, which, with musketry, suddenly opened fire. The crew, though taken by surprise, quickly responded, and quite a brisk fire was kept up for some minutes, when a ball from the enemy pierced the boilers of the gunboat, but the whole power of the Government, and its whole means, both here and abroad, to checkmate them.

The Secretary of the Treasury relies upon the Army for victories, and upon Congress for adequate taxation.

The people will come to his help with every dollar that can be appropriated. This is their true interest; it is their true safety. The armies now will do their part—there is no alternative but victory. Congress will do its duty, and the people will follow. To those capitalists who complain that Mr. Chase ought to pay a higher rate of interest, we say, pointedly, that a 3 per cent. obligation against the American people is better than a bond at any higher rate of interest, free from extortion, generously invested for your country's cause, and will be through all time, VALD.

BOLD HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—On Friday afternoon, 22d inst., about 4 o'clock on Abraham Sheffer, a German and tanner in the employ of Mr. Chas. F. Koptach, soap manufacturer of this Borough, was returning with the team, from Ashland, he was attacked at the foot of Mt. Mountain, near the old toll gate, Fountain Spring, by four Irishmen. One of them seized the heads of the horses and held them; another who had a knife in his hand sprang on the tongue of the wagon, and after being struck once or twice by the driver, he fell from the wagon and the ship and cut it in two; the other two jumped into the wagon, and while one held Sheffer, by the throat almost choking him, the other robbed him of \$65 in notes; a chain lever watch, worth \$25, and a chain watch worth \$15. The robbery was accomplished in the struggle. Within ten minutes the Ashland stage reached the spot that the robbers had decamped with their booty. It seems that these men had solicited Sheffer in Ashland to take them to Portsville, but he refused. They then turned to the mountains near the old toll gate, Fountain Spring, by four Irishmen. One of them seized the heads of the horses and held them; another who had a knife in his hand sprang on the tongue of the wagon, and after being struck once or twice by the driver, he fell from the wagon and the ship and cut it in two; the other two jumped into the wagon, and while one held Sheffer, by the throat almost choking him, the other robbed him of \$65 in notes; a chain lever watch, worth \$25, and a chain watch worth \$15. The robbery was accomplished in the struggle. Within ten minutes the Ashland stage reached the spot that the robbers had decamped with their booty. It seems that these men had solicited Sheffer in Ashland to take them to Portsville, but he refused. They then turned to the mountains near the old toll gate, Fountain Spring, by four Irishmen. 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