



DEMOCRATIC MEETING.

There will be a Democratic Meeting at the Court House, on TUESDAY evening, the 21st day of March next, as business of importance are to be attended to. The Democracy are invited to turn out in their strength.

The battle for the Constitution and the Union, yet demands the active efforts of every Democrat, as well as the just protection of personal liberty and private property, from the usurpation of power.

A. A. PURMAN,

Chairman Dis. Co. Com.

Constitution of the United States.

The so-called amendment of the Constitution of the United States, says the Jeffersonian, has been ratified by most of the Northern States. Delaware has rejected it.

The constitution confers upon the general government delegated or limited power; not absolute power; all other rights were reserved to the States.

There is no legal tribunal that would recognize the right of a majority in a joint partnership for a given purpose, to interfere with the private rights of one of the firm. So of the "amendment" to the Constitution that professes, to abolish a right reserved, and is not such an amendment as the Constitution contemplates; it is revolution, and meets the entire disapproval of all good Union-loving, law-abiding democrats.

The Inauguration Ball.

It is announced, in Washington, that the "Inauguration ball" will surpass any previous ball of that character ever given in Washington.

to God and men. We therefore hope that good sense and better judgment will prevail at Washington, and that, for no other reason, out of respect to the memory of those who have died for the country—out of sympathy for those who still weep and mourn, and out of decent regard for the Christian sentiments of the truest patriots in all the land, there will be no Presidential inauguration ball this year.

The War Progressing.

The Confederates have had a streak of bad luck running through the last few months—indeed ever since General Sherman commenced his triumphant march from Tennessee into Georgia, through the heart of the latter State to Savannah, and from thence into South Carolina.

Negro Equality!—The Whole Thing Out.

In a late debate in the Senate of the United States, Mr. Sumner indicated quite distinctly, that the object of himself and friends in their efforts in behalf of the negro, will not cease till perfect equality is effected—hear him!

Mr. Henderson (Rep., Mo.) advocated the proposition, holding that both Houses ought to admit the members from Louisiana, each without consulting the other.

Mr. Sumner (Rep., Mass) said he did not think he had never been out of the Union.

Mr. Henderson (Rep., Mo.) inquired if that were so, why not let Louisiana be represented in Congress!

Mr. Sumner replied because the government of the State had been subverted, and there was really no government there now.

Mr. Henderson said the Loyal men of Louisiana had recognized the existing government. Then why should not the Senator recognize it?

Mr. Sumner (Rep., Mass.) said when the loyal men, white and black, recognized it, he would do so; but not until then.

Mr. Henderson (Rep., Mo.) Does the Senator from Massachusetts assert that Congress has the right to interfere with the right of suffrage?

Mr. Sumner replied that under the Constitution a Republican form of government was guaranteed to the citizens of every State. It was the duty of Congress to guarantee perfect and complete freedom from all oppression and equality before the law to every man.

Mr. Henderson said that if no State government was Republican in form that did not permit negroes to vote, then the majority of the States in the Union were not Republican in form, and Mr. Sumner ought to move for the exclusion of the Senators from Connecticut, New York, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri and Maryland, and many other States.

Mr. Henderson—"The Union is consolidated," he said, "and that is the Union I am in favor of."

THAT STATE.

After further remarks by Mr. Henderson, the Senate, at 10 o'clock, adjourned.

Hope for Butler.

The pious friends of Gen. Butler in New England are consoled themselves from the following passage of Scripture that his removal will be only temporary:

Genesis xi.—"And it came to pass after these things that the Chief Butler of the King of Egypt had offended his Lord the King of Egypt. And Pharaoh was wroth against the chief of the Butlers. And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of the dream: Within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head and restore thee unto thy place."

Gen. McClellan received one million, eight hundred and thirty thousand one hundred and eleven votes for President. What an army of "disloyal" voters.

The New Republican Plank.

The right of freed negroes to vote is the new plank in the Republican platform. Wendell Phillips declares that "this is liberty according to the northern interpretation."

George Thompson, the Englishman from whom Republicans learn how America should be governed, says: "I agree with Mr. Phillips that your Constitution needs two amendments, one prohibiting slavery everywhere throughout the Union, and another forbidding the States to enact laws which shall make any distinction among their citizens on account of race or color."

Frederick Douglass, maintaining the fitness of the present hour for insisting upon the right of the freed negroes to citizenship, says: "This is the hour. Now is the time to press this 'right'; and William Lloyd Garrison claims in as follows: 'Gory, Alleluia, Amen and Amen.' Upon all the above the Independent comments thus: 'We think the above extracts are good reading—hearty, goodtempered, sound and durable. If any body differs with us in this opinion, let him sponge away from his 'mind the stain of old time prejudice against the excellent men whose names we have quoted, and whose 'good,' we trust may now cease to be evil spoken of.'"

The Independent is certainly right in demanding that the true leaders of the Republican party, Phillips, Thompson, Garrison, Fred Douglass, the men whose ideas guide and rule it, shall have recognition for their rightful authority.

Free Suffrage for Free Negroes. This is the new article in the Republican creed. Republicans! hear, and obey!—World.

Reverly Johnson, in the able speech, strong in sharp logic and legal lore, delivered by him in the United States Senate, and other day, on the bill professing to regulate commerce between the States, but really to put the railroads of the country under the control of the general government, took the following view of his duties which must have surprised many of his colleagues:

"We were sent here to take care, among others, of the rights of our States. Our oath to support the Constitution of the United States is not merely to execute all the powers which it confers, but to abstain from exercising any powers which it does not confer. It is an obligation, therefore, to preserve all the limitations upon the power of the Federal Government, in order to protect the inherent and original and un delegated powers which belonged to the States before the constitution was adopted."

Connecticut. The Democracy of Connecticut have renominated Judge O. S. Seymour for re-election as governor.

Views of Ex-Senator Foote. One of the New York papers gives what purports to be the views expressed by the rebel Congressman Foote while in that city last week. We quote:

"Being questioned upon the power of resistance of the South, the ex-rebel Senator said that in all probability Charleston, Wilmington, Richmond and Mobile would be evacuated, for there were not men enough in the South to fight the Northern armies on an equal terms as they had hitherto done. Still he did not believe that the evacuation of these cities would be the signal for the saving in of the Confederacy, which, he said, could last for several years to come. Of course, left to herself, and without assistance from abroad, she was bound to perish; but the hour of her death was very remote. 'Mr Foote left for Europe Saturday last, with the intention of acting as a voluntary diplomat to England and France, to act as mediators in the present conflict, and to stop if he can, the shedding of blood on both sides.'"

Constitutional Amendment.

The amendment of the Constitution abolishing slavery has been approved and ratified by the Legislatures of the fifteen States as follows: 1. Feb. 1. Illinois—Senate and House. 2. Feb. 2. Michigan—Senate and House. 3. Feb. 2. Maryland—House; 31 Senate. 4. Feb. 2. Rhode-Island—Senate and House. 5. Feb. 2. New York—Senate; 81 Assem. 6. Feb. 3. Massachusetts—Senate and House. 7. Feb. 3. Pennsylvania—Senate and House. 8. Feb. 7. West Virginia—Senate and House. 9. Feb. 7. Missouri—Senate and House. 10. Feb. 8. Maine—Senate and House. 11. Feb. 8. Ohio—Senate and House. 12. Feb. 8. Minnesota—Senate and House. 13. Feb. 8. Kansas—Senate and House. 14. Feb. 10. Indiana—Senate and House. 15. Feb. 16. Nevada—Senate and House.

Rejected. 1. Feb. 8. Delaware—Senate and House. STATES YET TO VOTE. Connecticut, Iowa, Wisconsin, Vermont, California, Oregon, New Jersey, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Texas—18.

Traitors. The following is a list of the traitors to the old Constitution, who voted for the abolition amendment. Pass them round, that the people may know who they are.

- Joseph Bailey, Pennsylvania; Augustus C. Baldwin, Michigan; Alex. H. Coffey, Pennsylvania; James E. English, Pennsylvania; John B. Grison, New York; John A. Grisold, New York; Anson Herrick, New York; Wells A. Hutchins, Ohio; Austin A. King, Missouri; Archibald McAlister, Pennsylvania; Homer A. Nelson, New York; Moses F. Odell, New York; Wm. Radford, New York; James S. Rollins, Missouri; John B. Steele, New York; Ezra Wheeler, Wisconsin.

Hancock's Corps. Hancock's Veteran Corps is rapidly filling up. The enormous pay of three years' volunteer in this corps is: Government bounty \$500; local bounty, \$550; monthly pay, \$16 per month, \$575; clothing account, \$12 per annum, \$126; total, \$1,753.

Death of Jacob F. Ramer. The following is an extract of a letter received by Benjamin F. Ramer informing him of the death of his son, who we are requested to publish:—

PRERSON, C., WEST VA., February 16, 1865.

DEAR FRIEND:—With heart full of sorrow I write the sad intelligence of the death of your brave and noble son, who departed this life in the rebel ranks, at Salisbury, North Carolina, on the 15th of Nov. 1864. When I remember the many blood stained fields upon which Jacob F. Ramer, so gallantly fought to save this unprincipled Government from falling into the hands of proud and relentless tyrants, I feel overwhelmed with sorrow, and more so, when I reflect that this sad news will be like a dagger to your heart as well as to that of his numerous friends. Be assured that not only myself, but the entire regiment most deeply lament the loss of one so noble, brave and kind. The country has lost a brave soldier, and you a son upon whom any father might be proud. Although he fell into the hands of the enemy, and was placed into a filthy prison, to starve, languish and die, his priceless spirit lived and has taken its flight to Heaven. I MURDOCK, Co., A. 17th Reg., Va. Vol.

General McClellan in England. [From the Liverpool Courier, Feb. 4.] General McClellan the well known Northern General, and one of the late candidates for the Presidency of the Northern States, arrived in Liverpool yesterday morning from New York, on the Steamer China.

Who are the Happy? Lord Byron once said: "The me comes an old workingman who can maintain his families are, in my opinion, the happiest body of men. Poverty is wretchedness, but even poverty is preferable to the heartless, unmeaning dissipation of the high orders." Another author says: "I have no propensity to envy any one, least of all the rich and great; but if I were disposed to this weakness, the subject of my envy would be a healthy young man, in full possession of his strength and faculties, going forth in the morning to work for his wife and children, or bringing home his wages at night."

The Promised Peace. The greatest boon the Administration is now capable of bestowing upon the country is peace. We were promised it speedily if Lincoln was re-elected. He secured his re-election in some way, but there is no peace yet.

CONDITION OF CHARLESTON.—A correspondent says that that portion of Charleston exposed to our shells is almost in ruins, and has long been abandoned by its occupants. The buildings were either entirely demolished or so much destroyed as to necessitate entire reconstruction. The streets are filled with rubbish, and here and there a shell or solid shot exhibits the agent of such destruction.

The Coming Crash.

The Chicago Tribune, one of the most ultra of the Lincoln Abolition sheets, has the following article. It says: "All fast lovers, speculators, as well as those beginning to prick their ears for a start towards extravagance in expenditure, should give heed to the words of wisdom. The feeling is pervading all classes in society: A paper dollar, says our cotemporary, is depreciated to forty-two cents, gold value. Currency is plenty, and growing plentier. Come easy, go easy, is the prevailing feeling. But sooner or later the present abnormal condition of things will terminate—perhaps gradually, perhaps suddenly. The values of all commodities, including money, are fearfully 'watered.' But when the crash comes the water will be bailed out, leaving only what is represented by the gold standard. Men are walking on high stilts, and are making long but insecure strides. But all must dismount one of these days, and come down until their feet touch the earth—Many will be precipitated headlong who now tower aloft on their stilts. Wise and prudent men will prepare in time for the inevitable change. The classes who will suffer by the termination of the war are those in debt. A merchant with a stock of goods on hand, worth say, \$50,000 and half paid for, will not realize therefrom enough to pay what he owes. When the goods are all sold, he will find himself still in debt for ten five or ten thousand dollars, and this debt he must liquidate, principal and interest, with gold or its equivalent, or go into bankruptcy. The consequence of the end of the war on the debtor classes will be to increase every man's debts above 125 per cent. An obligation of \$4,000 will become, in practical effect, \$10,000. That is, it will require property or labor now worth in currency \$10,000 to pay it. A note out-standing drawing ten per cent. interest, would then draw what would now be equivalent to twenty-five per cent. or thereabouts, to say nothing of the principal of the note, the difficulty of whose payment will swell into a corresponding ratio.

Our advice is for every man to pay off his debts, and contract no more new ones; to pay cash for whatever he buys, and if he cannot do that, to go without the article. Do not spread too much sail.—Kee, plenty of ballast in the hold, and see that the anchors are ready to let her go when the hurricane comes, and thereby prevent your vessel from capsizing, foundering and dashing on the breakers of a lee-shore.

General Butler. The following extract from a Norfolk letter in the Philadelphia Press, a leading Republican paper, would seem to show that General Butler is to thrive a manager to let a good opportunity to make money slip:

A singular circumstance connected with Gen Butler's cotton speculation has come to light. It seems that the chief of Gen. Shepley's staff, G. H. Johnson, resigned several months since, to enter as Butler's chief agent, into the business of buying cotton from the rebels in North Carolina. He remained in this long enough to make over \$250,000 as his share, which he deposited in the First National Bank of Norfolk. A few days ago the military commission instituted by General Grant to investigate the proceedings of General Butler relative to cotton, got wind of Mr. Johnson. He heard that they would call upon him soon, but not intending to be outdone by them, he drew all his money from the bank, and decamped in the Baltimore boat. They telegraphed to the authorities at Baltimore to arrest and send him back to Norfolk, but the shrewd Johnson did not go on the boat further than Fortress Monroe, where he took the Washington boat, and landed at Annapolis. No one knows his whereabouts, although he is anxiously wanted here. The commission has proven that Butler received two-thirds of all cotton brought here, his brother-in-law one-fifth, and middle men, of which Johnson was one, two-fifths, the government getting but one-half of that which was rightfully due it. You may expect even more astounding revelations than those.

The gigantic rascality here described ought to make the defenders of General Butler blush, if they are not past blushing. If they bring these charges up in Congress, they will perhaps find it for his advantage, in the case to go, to parade, without previous notice, a mass of documents furnished by Butler himself, to which of course nobly can make circumstantial replies on the spot. "He—that is first in his own cause," says the "Good Book, seemeth just; but his neighbor cometh after and searcheth him."

From Late Rebel Papers. Federal Movements in North-Carolina. GEN. SINGLETON IN RICHMOND. Union Movement Toward Staunton. A Washington dispatch to the Bulletin, says: Richmond papers of yesterday have been received. The 11th contains a Raleigh dispatch from Fayetteville, N. C., stating that the federal forces have advanced in that direction from Wilmington.

The Dispatch says that Singleton has arrived at Richmond. It adds: His mission is a commercial one, and proposing to exchange bacon for cotton. All the other papers intimate it is of a private character. Congressman W. C. Rives of Virginia, has resigned his seat. The Dispatch of yesterday says: A Union cavalry force moved down the Valley, towards Staunton.

From Army of the Potomac. Burning of Tobacco at Petersburg. GUNS BEING REMOVED SOUTH. Gen. Sherman Near Charlotte, N. C. His Force Rapidly Advancing.

New York, March 8. The Herald's Sixth Army Corps correspondence, dated March 1st says: Through deserters who have just come in, one of whom states he was in Petersburg yesterday, where he saw details of men at work burning the tobacco and removing all heavy guns. The guns were marked Danville and Greensboro. Sherman is reported to be about fifty miles from Charlotte, and rapidly advancing.

One million eight hundred and forty-three thousand six hundred and thirty-seven dollars is acknowledged by A. T. Stewart, Esq., as his net income for a single year. "Whew!" says the reader, as he writes down the immense sum and ciphers out its relation to months, weeks, days, hours and minutes, in order to comprehend its vast proportions—One hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred and forty-six dollars per month, thirty-five thousand four hundred and fifty-four dollars per week; five thousand and fifty-one dollars every day; two hundred and ten dollars per hour; three dollars and a half every minute—Awake or sleeping, in every passing moment that brings Mr. Stewart nearer to eternity, his gains are equal to the day's work of a skillful working man.

Capture of Generals Crook and Kelley.

A correspondent to the Cincinnati Commercial gives the best account we have yet seen, of the capture of Gen. Crook and Kelley, at Cumberland, on the 21st inst. We extract the following: Upon the morning of February 21, a body of picked cavalry, seventy in number, mounted upon horses selected for the purpose, crossed the river at Brady's Ferry, nine miles from Cumberland, they having traveled during the afternoon and night from beyond Moorefield, in Hardy county, a distance of thirty-five or forty miles, and moved in the direction of Cumberland, on the road called the New Creek Pike. Approaching the picket post, they were halted, and upon their answer to the challenge that they were friends, one was ordered to advance and give the counter-signal. While he was advancing, the picket, who had mounted their horses and had given notice of a party advancing, saw the main body quietly separating, and moving forward, for the purpose of surrounding them.—They at once commenced firing, but a sudden dash of the enemy overpowered and disabled them. The inner post consisting of infantry only, was captured in a similar manner and was at once disarmed. The party rode without halting into the town, and quietly waited while two men each, went forward, dismounted, to capture the guards in front of the headquarters of the two Generals.

Victory in the Valley. SHERIDAN DEFEATS EARLY. THE REBEL ARMY ROUTED. Capture of Charlottesville! GEN. EARLY A PRISONER! HIS ENTIRE ARMY CAPTURED. DISPATCHES FROM GENERAL GRANT. SECY. STANTON'S BULLETIN. OFFICIAL. WASHINGTON, March 5.

To Gen. Dix New York. The following dispatches in relation to the reported defeat and capture of Gen. Early by Sheridan, and the capture of Charlottesville, have been received by this department. General Sheridan and his force commenced their movement last Monday, and were at Sta. ton, when last heard from. Maj. General Hancock was placed in charge of the middle military division, during the absence of Sheridan at headquarters at Winchester. (Signed) E. M. STANTON, CITY POINT, VA., March 5—11 A. M.

Hon. E. M. Stanton. Deserters in this morning, report that Sheridan had routed Early and captured Charlottesville. They report four regiments having gone from here (Richmond) to reinforce Early. (Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General, CITY POINT, March 5.

Hon. E. M. Stanton.—Deserters from every point of the enemy's lines confirm the capture of Charlottesville by Sheridan. They say he captured Gen. Early and nearly his entire force, consisting of 1,800 men. Four brigades were reported as being sent to Lynchburg, to get there before Gen. Sherman if possible. (Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General, CITY POINT, March 5, 4 P. M.—Hon. E. M. Stanton: Refugees confirm the statement of deserters as to the capture of Early, and nearly his entire force.—They say it took place on Thursday last between Staunton and Charlottesville, and that the defeat was total. (Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General, New York, March 5.

The Times says a letter from Winchester states that on the 25th ult. cavalry reinforcements and pontoon trains arrived there, and on the 27th Gen. Sheridan started with about five thousand and cavalry, it is said to operate in the direction of Lynchburg. Some say Sheridan and Sherman will meet and act together in that direction. Gen. Hancock assumed command at Winchester on the departure of Sheridan.

From Late Rebel Papers.

Federal Movements in North-Carolina. GEN. SINGLETON IN RICHMOND. Union Movement Toward Staunton. A Washington dispatch to the Bulletin, says: Richmond papers of yesterday have been received. The 11th contains a Raleigh dispatch from Fayetteville, N. C., stating that the federal forces have advanced in that direction from Wilmington.

The Dispatch says that Singleton has arrived at Richmond. It adds: His mission is a commercial one, and proposing to exchange bacon for cotton. All the other papers intimate it is of a private character. Congressman W. C. Rives of Virginia, has resigned his seat. The Dispatch of yesterday says: A Union cavalry force moved down the Valley, towards Staunton.

From Army of the Potomac.

Burning of Tobacco at Petersburg. GUNS BEING REMOVED SOUTH. Gen. Sherman Near Charlotte, N. C. His Force Rapidly Advancing.

Capture of Generals Crook and Kelley. A correspondent to the Cincinnati Commercial gives the best account we have yet seen, of the capture of Gen. Crook and Kelley, at Cumberland, on the 21st inst. We extract the following: Upon the morning of February 21, a body of picked cavalry, seventy in number, mounted upon horses selected for the purpose, crossed the river at Brady's Ferry, nine miles from Cumberland, they having traveled during the afternoon and night from beyond Moorefield, in Hardy county, a distance of thirty-five or forty miles, and moved in the direction of Cumberland, on the road called the New Creek Pike.

Approaching the picket post, they were halted, and upon their answer to the challenge that they were friends, one was ordered to advance and give the counter-signal. While he was advancing, the picket, who had mounted their horses and had given notice of a party advancing, saw the main body quietly separating, and moving forward, for the purpose of surrounding them.—They at once commenced firing, but a sudden dash of the enemy overpowered and disabled them. The inner post consisting of infantry only, was captured in a similar manner and was at once disarmed.

These men succeeded in getting the guards and disarming them, though both were watchful, and challenged the advancing party, but in darkness, the reply being 'relief,' they were deceived, and were quickly quieted with threats. The mounted party coming up at this moment, with led-horses, hurried up to the rooms of the two Generals, and very quietly compelled them to dress, when, without further noise, they mounted their horses and left the town, striking a rapid pace immediately after getting out of the streets. No other captures were attempted, except Captain Melville, the Adjutant General of General Kelley, who was sleeping in the room adjoining General Kelley, and who they were compelled to pass to get to the General's room. No other persons were disturbed by them, nor any property destroyed, except the telegraph office, which they tore to pieces.

A few moments after, the officers of General Crook's staff, thinking they heard footsteps, and, fearing fire, got up, and finding the General's room open, and the General gone, became suspicious, and upon inquiry, found General Kelley also missing; went to the telegraph office and learned from the operator, that the rebels had but that moment left.

Steps were immediately taken to repair the wires, and put the lines in working order. This required about an hour. In the meantime, a body of forty horsemen, belonging to the escort of General Crook, were ordered out, and in an hour and twenty minutes started in pursuit. As soon as the wires were repaired, all the cavalry at New Creek was ordered to mount and move for Romney and Moorfield, and, if possible, head the rebels off at those points, and even further ordered not to spare their horses, but to push forward with all possible haste.

General Sheridan being notified, sent a body of cavalry at once, from Winchester, in pursuit. Thus everything was done within an hour and thirty minutes that could be done. The rebels rode rapidly. They had replaced their horses by fresh ones taken from stables during their stay in town, and were ready for another long ride. Our men after them, but, with an hour's start and comparatively fresh horses, they succeeded in getting away. This is the plain history of the capture of General Crook and Kelley. It was a bold and daring attempt, successfully carried out, by men selected for the purpose, who came to capture the Generals, and having captured them rode quickly away.

They called at the Adams House and inquired for General Hayes, but finding that he was not there, left the house, though some other officers were there. That they were assisted by citizens, and by information gained in that manner, can not be doubted, knowing as they did, so correctly the situation of everything, the rooms of the Generals, and number and stations of pickets and guards they would have to encounter.

80,000 Negroes Exterminated.

The following is from a speech of Mr. Senator Seward, of Delaware, who says he has the following from a letter from a distinguished gentleman in New Orleans to a personal and political friend of the President, in this city: "A few days ago I was shown an official report to the military head of this department, General Banks, exhibiting the ghastly return of eighty thousand slaves having perished since the occupation of the smaller moiety of this Commonwealth. This is equal to fifty per cent. of the entire slave population of the section of country embraced in the return."

This sort of extinguishment is going on here about Washington on a smaller scale. The negroes of Maryland are rushing here, and rotting like sheep.—They work a day or two in the week, no more, with exceptions certainly, and perish in hovels and earthen dug-outs! The women are drunkards or worse.—Oh Liberty, what horrible crimes are committed in thy name.—Correspondence N. Y. Express.