

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. COBB, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. WELLSBOROUGH, PENNA.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1863.

THE WAR NEWS.

The past week has not been prolific of stirring events. There has been a cavalry raid by our troops on the Kappanhook...

The rebels made an attack in force on Newbern, N. C., last week, but were repulsed with considerable damage.

In the West there have been several sharp skirmishes, in which the Union troops were victorious. The Yazoo expedition is not yet out of the woods...

The fight at Port Hudson did not result in either victory or defeat. We lost some vessels, among them the gunboat Mississippi.

It is reported that the rebels are about to fall back from the Potomac upon Richmond, fearing an attack from the James river base.

Major-General E. V. Sumner died at the residence of his son-in-law, in Syracuse, on Friday last, of congestion of the lungs.

There was a smart skirmish on the Blackwater, Virginia, between a detachment of our troops and a rebel force in entrenchments.

The rebels proved too strongly posted to be dislodged by our forces. The loss was small. The copperhead democracy in Ohio and Indiana are combining with the deserters from the army to resist the authorities.

When we hear men speaking of the "Union Democracy," we understand them to mean the Democracy represented by such life-long democrats as Andrew Johnson, Joseph Wright, of Indiana, Daniel S. Dickinson, and Benjamin F. Butler...

But where was this jealousy of the liberty of the citizen? Not in administration circles manifestly; nor yet in the minds of the Bayards, the Saulsburies, the Powells and the Richardsons.

And for this reason we consider the difference between a so-called "Union democrat" and a sympathizer with treason as of no moment whatever.

The "virtuous" democracy are about to establish a new paper in Washington for the purpose of saving the country from utter ruin.

Looking over one of our copperhead exhalings we chanced upon a paragraph making mention of the secret case of conscience by virtue of which some hundreds of dollars were returned to the Treasury of the United States...

It occurs to us that confession and restitution are not usually regarded as evidences of turpitude in Christian communities.

But the mistake of our copperhead critic is not very surprising. He belongs to a class which sees nothing to be ashamed of in crime in the abstract, or in the concrete, as for that matter.

We have yet to meet a soldier, either in field or camp, who does not rejoice at the passage of the law for calling out the national forces.

The municipal election in Harrisburg on Friday last, resulted in the election of Bonafort, Copperhead, by a majority of 38 votes.

The usual democratic majority in Harrisburg is not less than 250. A fair gain for the Union men.

SECRETARY CHASE has received from a celebrated banking firm in Germany, an offer of a loan of \$1,000,000 worth of bonds at something above par in currency.

LETTER FROM J. EMERY, ESQ.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1863.

DEAR AGITATOR: I wrote you last evening on my return from over the river, and thought then I should return immediately home, but have concluded to extend my walk and visit, at least, to the Army of the Potomac...

I ended my first days walk in Gen. Heintzelman's department in a search after a hotel in Alexandria, and brought up at the Marshall House, where I got a poor supper, indifferent lodging and a worse breakfast...

Had I known at the time that it was the famous house where Ellsworth was killed, I might have lingered to view the staircase and spot where he died, but as it was I went away unconscious that I had seen and slept there a martyr fell.

I was off as soon as I had swallowed my poor breakfast, taking the advantage of a heavy freeze during the night to walk over the sea of mud that lay beneath, and succeeded in reaching the Alexandria heights before the sun had rendered the flats impassable to the pedestrian.

There was a smart skirmish on the Blackwater, Virginia, between a detachment of our troops and a rebel force in entrenchments. The rebels proved too strongly posted to be dislodged by our forces.

The Seminary, which is a very large and prominent building, can be seen from a great distance, and looks from Washington to be not over two miles distant.

From the Seminary you strike northerly to the road, leading in a northwesterly direction from Alexandria to Falls Church.

It is getting late. I must hurry up. One tells me I shall get tired if I take a bee-line. No matter, I can't go round by the high lands, and so I am off for my pleasant boarding house in Washington.

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From the point where I turned south, you pass over a succession of hills and valleys, all strongly fortified. Here the timber is not much destroyed, and there is not that appearance of utter desolation as further west...

The Arlington property, where I lingered sometime, is a most romantic and beautiful situation. The buildings are on the brow of the hill, in full sight of Washington, and extending back of them is a very extensive and beautiful grove of open timber.

On the other is inscribed—"Mary Lee Custer, born April 22, 1788; died April 23, 1853. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

There were no enclosures around the monuments, and no appearance of other members of the family having been buried near; but a few feet off there were other graves—the graves of soldiers, who had died far away from home, and were buried by the side of the relatives of the rebel General, who now heads the armies of that rebellion, in the effort to put down which they had lost their lives.

Gen. Heintzelman was not at his headquarters. It was getting late in the afternoon. I was tired and hungry. Washington looked exceedingly pleasant in the distance.

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TEST VOTES.

No man in the Rebel States has done more for the Union, or suffered much more from the Rebels, than the man (once poor, and a tailor by trade), Andrew Johnson, of Tenn.

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From the 45th Pennsylvania Regiment.

CAMP NEAR NEWPORT NEWS, VA., MARCH 22, 1863.

FRIENDS AGITATOR: This pleasant afternoon finds me in my tent, seated at the wood pile, with pen in hand, about to write for the readers of the Agitator. Beside me is a brick fire which threatens to reduce my tent before I get through; should that be the case it will be a good excuse for the blunders I shall make.

On the 25th ultimo our corps was reviewed by Maj. Gen. John A. Dix. The morning was warm and pleasant, and we all anticipated an agreeable time, in which we were not disappointed. By 10 o'clock we had marched to a suitable position for executing the different manoeuvres of the review, and after forming in line, awaited the booming of cannon which would announce the approach of the reviewing general.

After the usual ceremonies the review opened: First, General Dix, followed by his escort, rode along our lines—first in front, then in rear of us. As he was passing our regiment, our appearance elicited from the General a remark, intimating, that ours was a splendid regiment, looking much like regulars.

The beautiful lines of glistening bayonets, the steady regular tramp of twenty thousand soldiers as we marched by the venerable old General, and especially the stars and stripes waving over the decorated ranks of the old Ninth Corps—the name of many a memorable battle, coming to view on the folds, as the battle-torn and riddled banner spread themselves to the gentle breeze.

What soldier's heart beats not thro' with pride on such occasions? With pride that he is a defender of this good old flag? The error of tyrants and the strength of the free wherever it appears—what pride that he is risking all for the maintenance and perpetuation of these institutions, and laws established by the heroes of the Revolution, the life and death of which are identical with the triumph and failure of that standard and its defenders?

No material changes have taken place in our camp, except that it has improved much in appearance and comfort, especially the officer's quarters, the most conspicuous of which are surrounded by pine boughs, delicately arranged to make the best appearance possible. Our city is regularly laid out in streets, each company having a street of its own.

Having completed our humble dwellings and every thing else necessary to our comfort, Col. Welsh has set us to drilling. We have company drill at least twice a day, and battalion or brigade drill once or twice a day—that is when the weather permits. A regular routine for the manual of arms has been adopted in our regiment; each motion is performed by the tap of the drum, without a word being said.

Col. Welsh has won not only the admiration but full confidence of all his men. No father could expect more confidence from his children than Col. Welsh gets from his boys. Though strict in his enforcement of every order, the well-being of his men seems always paramount in his affections.

No changes among the officers of the Tioga boys have taken place, except that Sergeant Seely of company H, has been promoted to 2d Lieutenant of that company; Capt. Richards still remains at his post faithfully performing the duties of his position as Captain of company G. The health of the regiment is unusually good.

The weather has been very fluctuating—one day it is warm and sunny, the birds will sing, and every thing assume the appearance of spring; the next it may be so cold that it is impossible to drill without gloves, or stand out without an overcoat.

As yet nothing has been developed as to our future movements. If, we may trust to appearance, the unusual preparations and care taken in building quarters for both man and beast, would seem to indicate that we are to make this our home for some time to come. It is certainly the best camp we have had, and we are of course not anxious to part with it.

But my seat, the wood pile, is getting pretty low, and I must close.

Yours, respectfully, YOUNG AMERICA.

JAMES HUGHAN is now buying land in Chester county, Pa., and, it is said, is going extensively into the cultivation of flax, for what purpose is left open to public suspicion.

An oil refinery in Dutchess has been located, with its contents, for an attempt of the proprietors to evade the tax under the United States Tax Law.

NEW COOPER SHOP.—The undersigned respectfully informs the citizens of Wellsborough and vicinity, that he has opened a COOPER SHOP opposite CROWL'S WAGON SHOP.