

Letters from the Army.

From the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment.

MINKER'S HILL, Va., April 16, 1863.

EDITOR AGITATOR: Feeling a little under the... the National government, and his kind attention to the sick...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the papers of the counties represented in the 101st Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Maj. A. W. Taylor, President. Serg. G. D. Rush, Sec'y of Committee.

From the 136th Pennsylvania Regiment.

CAMP DAYNE NEAR BELLE PLAIN, VA., April 6, 1863.

FRIEND AGITATOR: A few days of very fine, spring weather has been succeeded by a dreary storm, which has again banished the prospect of a movement for a time...

Resolved, That the surrounding country is a barren waste—poor in the beginning, it is now doubly desolate, save in the presence of a large, consuming army...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

Resolved, That we hold it to be the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the President, and his constituted authorities, in every measure...

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. COBB, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

WELLSBOROUGH, PENNA. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1863.

THEN, and NOW.

We publish on our fourth page the very excellent valedictory letter of Speaker Grow to his old constituents. We think we may safely thank him in the name of his Tioga constituents...

These are days of crimination and recrimination. To some extent both parties, but that which assumes the name "Democratic" particularly, are putting the cause of the war upon the other...

But men must be met on the ground they select for battle. As carrying rebels will not come to us, we must go to them; and as they lay the responsibility of this war upon the Abolitionists—upon the attempt to check the progress of Slavery—we invite them to come with us and examine the record...

In the year 1819, the Democratic Legislature of Pennsylvania Resolved— "That the Senators and Representatives of this State in the Congress of the United States, be, and they hereby are, requested to vote against the admission of any Territory as a State into the Union unless the further introduction of slavery or involuntary servitude is prohibited...

This action took place while the Missouri question was pending; and had it governed the action of Congress, both Texas and Arkansas must have entered the Union free States. The Democracy of Pennsylvania, in 1819, was the advocate of a radical free-soil policy. This inaugurated the war against the extension of Slavery.

We pass over the record until nearly thirty years later—1847—when a Democratic Legislature of this State adopted the following resolution by a nearly unanimous vote:

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to vote against any measure which would extend the territory of the Union, unless as a part of the fundamental law upon which any contract or treaty for the purpose of basing Slavery or involuntary servitude, except for crime, shall be forever prohibited...

It will be seen that the Democracy of Pennsylvania was as radically free-soil in 1847, as in 1819. The party had not at that time become the abject slave of the Oligarchs at the South. It was then the party of progress, and the advocate of human rights. It was a proud title—a Democrat—in 1847.

Two years later, in 1849, the Democracy of Pennsylvania met in Convention at Pittsburgh, and adopted a platform, of which the following is a prominent resolution:

Resolved, That the Democratic party adheres now, as it ever has done, to the constitution of the country. Its letter and spirit they will neither weaken nor destroy, and they re-declare that Slavery is a domestic local institution of the South, subject to State legislation alone, and with which the general government has nothing to do...

This is as radical as any platform ever adopted by the Republican party, which took the field seven years later. In this faith the Democratic masses were educated, and had the leaders remained true, the Republican party had never had an existence.

One year later, the Democratic Conference of this Congressional district, as then organized, in Conference adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That we are unalterably opposed to the extension of Slavery into new Territory now free, and that we hold the whole influence for the re-entrance of said Territory and against the further extension of Slavery and encroachments of the Slave power.

This may be denominated "an eloquent record." There it is, as bold as official sanction can make it, as convincing as logic, and as meritorious as Truth. We offer it to those rebels in our midst who are ever ignorantly putting the responsibility of this great conflict upon the agitation of the subject of Slavery; and are fond of calling this "an abolition war."

There is your record; you can spit upon it, as you have disgraced it in action many times; but you cannot deny it without falsehood and some slight pangs of shame. And if you desire to lie, and misrepresent the position of parties in the past and in the present, you may do so intelligently, and not through ignorance of the essential facts of history. If, as you so truculently persist, the war had its origin in the attempt to interfere with the progress of Slavery, then put the burden where it belongs, upon the Democratic party, and bestow your

courses upon that party; that if, if you are honest, and desire to berate the alleged authors of this great strife, and do not cling to be just factions, and false to the Government. And if the latter be your object, remember that you are making another record, and a record that will be carefully preserved, and be produced in a day when your children will curse you for befouling the family record.

Truth vs. Treason.

That is to say.—Truth deals with facts, but Treason delights in lies, deceits, garblings, and all things that can aid in the discomfort of the Government, and encourage the armed traitors in the South. We submit the following—said to have originated in a New York State paper—as the utterance of a traitor:

"It is now said that the payment of \$300 will clear a man only of the first draft, and that he is subject to the second and all subsequent drafts precisely as if he had not been drafted at all. If there are three drafts ordered in three months, you are liable to be drafted three times in that length of time, and be compelled to go into the ranks or pay your \$300 three times, or as many times as a draft may be ordered. If such is to be the operation of the conscript law, it will prove more odious to the people than it has yet been supposed it would."

Thus the traitor. The law provides that all persons in the first class shall be subject to draft for two years after the first day of July succeeding their enrolment, to serve during the continuance of the rebellion, though not exceeding three years. Now, Section 17 of the law provides—

"That any person enrolled and drafted according to the provisions of this act, who shall furnish an acceptable substitute, shall thereupon receive from the Board of enrollment a certificate of discharge from military duty during the time for which he was drafted."

As "the time for which he was drafted," covers the entire period of the continuance of the rebellion, not exceeding three years, perhaps some sympathizer with treason will inform the public how any man is liable to be drafted "half-a-dozen times in a year," or be forced to pay \$300 three times in as many months, as stated in the foregoing. Why not publish the law for the information of the public, instead of putting a forced and unwarrantable construction upon one portion, and lying outrageously about another portion?

We can answer that question: Treason and Truth never dwell in the same soul; and a pettifogger is incapable of any higher order of argument than pettifogging. These traitors excel in nothing but deliberate lying. They are nothing unless they are vile. Limit them to the utterance of truth, and they would be as dumb in speech as they are in morals. What do these fellows want? notoriety!—or are their journals at the point of death, and so hankering for official notice? The game isn't worth the candle.

GENERAL NEWS.

We have good news from the Southwest. In Louisiana, Gen. Banks is driving the rebel forces resistlessly before him, and they have been forced to destroy a dozen or more steamboats to keep them out of our hands, as well as a large quantity of stores.

Admiral Porter has run the rebel batteries at Vicksburg with his entire fleet, a graphic account of which daring feat we publish elsewhere.

The French have suffered a bad defeat in Mexico, with severe losses. We publish several letters from our army correspondents this week, in all of which the copperhead gentry are treated with deserved severity. To our correspondent with the 5th Reserves we confidently say, that the attempt to resist the enforcement of the new militia law, if made by northern traitors, will most utterly fail, and recoiling upon the traitors, wipe some of the stains from the page of history.

It should be widely understood that the new law will be rigidly enforced. Upon nothing is the Government more determined than this; and our brave compatriots in the front may dismiss all anxieties in regard to the subject. The law is necessary, and therefore right. It makes every man take up the cross of the citizen, and bear it for the common good. It is less onerous than any State law framed for a like purpose; because it exempts no man by courtesy, and prevents speculation in the matter of substitutes. No man can be compelled to pay more than \$300 for a substitute under the new law, while under the old, prices were at the option of speculators.

That model "democrat," and soldiers' friend—Horatio Seymour, Governor of the State of New York, has vetoed the bill to allow soldiers to vote in that State. The plea is, of course, that the bill was unconstitutional. But neither Gov. Seymour, nor any of the copperhead advocates of the disfranchisement of the soldier, care a fig for constitutions. The real reason is, that the soldiers' vote, wherever permitted to be cast, is overwhelmingly for the Government. The copperheads dare not suffer the soldier to vote, lest by so doing they sign their own death-warrants.

At Oswego, on Saturday, ten young persons, who had eaten of what they supposed to be artichokes, were taken seriously ill; one of them, a boy aged 12 years, named Van Patten, died. Another is in a dangerous condition, and the others, through prompt medical treatment, are recovering. The roots eaten were acornite, a deadly poison. Several families had obtained quantities of the root, which they were preparing for pickling. Four boys were poisoned in Syracuse on Monday by eating wild parsnips, supposing them to be artichokes. Too much caution cannot be observed in such matters.

THE PASSAGE OF VICKSBURG.

A special correspondent of the Tribune gives the following vivid account of the successful passage of the rebel batteries at Vicksburg, by the Union fleet under Admiral Farragut:

A painful expectation weighed on every spirit. The boats must now be near the point opposite the beleaguered city. Will they be discovered at the first approach? or will a kindly fortune give them easy passage by? Suddenly a flame starts up! Another and another leaps into the darkness of the night! The enemy has seen the passing boats, and is sending across the river his death-dealing messengers. Rapid now dart the momentary fires; the "iron rain" of the remorseless cannon hurries upon the dim and gliding boats. Dull upon the heavy air, scree moved by the night wind, which blows in a direction unfavorable for our hearing, reverberates the heavy thud of the cannon.

As the time passed the batteries lower, and still lower down come into action. We can trace the course of our fleet by new flames that each moment startle the alarmed sight; and cannon for miles along the hazy shores are hurling their destructive missiles.

And now a new ecstasy added its influence to the exciting scene. While we had been engaged in watching the vivid flames leaping from cannon muzzles, and exploding shells, a gleam of light, first pale and soft, then red and lurid, and at last glaring and reticent, stole up into the heavens above the opposing city. For the first time the silence was broken by the gazing crowds upon the steamboats of the fleet. "Vicksburg is on fire!" was uttered in excited tones. But it was not so. Steady and with wonderful brilliancy, upon the hill on which the city stands, the fire assumed a circular outline; the upon edge, such like a third part of the full moon when apparently magnified; it is rising above the horizon. The flame glowed brilliant and beautiful; no smoke was visible to dim its splendor. It was a beacon light, placed in a position to throw its beams along each arm of the bend of the river, the convex side of which is turned toward Vicksburg. So powerful was the light, that at the point where our fleet was moored, the shadow or a hand held a foot from the boat's side was distinctly thrown upon it.

This beacon with treacherous fidelity, showed to the foe the now fast-disappearing boats; but, happily, it was fired: to late. The sight of the boats appeared to add new rage to the enemy, who could not fail to count the cost to him of such a feat joining Farragut's three gunboats already between Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The firing became more rapid. From the upper batteries to the last one dull at Warrenton leaped flame to flame. The dull ebb of the cannon, and the whir and shriek of the flying shells startled the midnight air. But now comes a roar which tells that our boys are awake and likely to fight that showed the boats to the enemy; revealed to our men the outlines of the batteries, and the roar which defended the ear to every other sound is the peal of the heavy pile as their gunboats.

After an interval of briefest rage the fire per guns of the enemy almost cease their up. It is evident our boys have passed the first-reeched batteries—that have escaped the deadly onset. That no portion of them is missing is evident from the activity of the forts at Warrenton, and the answering thunders of our own guns.

Farragut is by this successful transit placed in command of eleven gunboats, and his efforts will be seconded by Grant's land force at New Carthage. The reader will naturally ask whether this expedition offers any more chance of success than the previous ones. As far as can be judged with our present information, the probabilities are much greater in favor of our success. The result of the firing upon the Warrenton batteries by Farragut, when he came up from Port Hudson, leads to the expectation that they can be subdued by the force now at his command. When a landing is effected, our troops, instead of having a river between them and Vicksburg, as was the case with all previous attempts, except Sherman's, will find this case to be themselves between a river—the Black—and the city.

Over this river passes the railroad, to gain possession of which was one of the first objects of all the attempts that have been made upon Vicksburg. Moreover, as a result of the presence of our fleet between Vicksburg and Port Hudson will be to restrict the supply of provisions to the Confederacy from Texas and the Red river. With this source of supply cut off, and the railroad bridge over Black river in our hands, the position of the garrison within the Vicksburg fortifications becomes precarious from deficient supplies. With the country extending from the Mississippi to Black river as far as the railroad in our possession, we could not fall so far to threaten, if not gain the rear, that an evacuation or a capitulation would become necessary. Such, at least, is understood to be the anticipations of those engaged in carrying out the new strategy so well commenced by running the batteries last evening.

SHINPLASTERS.—Certa evil-disposed parties in Senator Wilson's district have commenced suits against honest men who in the recent emergency issued illegal notes for currency, in accordance with a suppressed necessity and general desire of the people, he introduced a bill relieving them of all legal liabilities in the case. As this would settle every prosecution that might be got up by personal enemies all over the State—and the Legislature have, for two years in succession, almost unanimously, excused the Banks for violations of laws in non-payment of specie, and have relieved them from the penalty thereby incurred—it might have been supposed this lesser offense could have been overlooked in the circumstances of the case. Men who honestly redeem this paper money, have committed no moral offense;—they have simply disregarded a regulation respecting a point of currency, prohibited by a statute. Yet Mr. Kinsley, the majority of the senate, could not find it consistent with their views of duty as sworn Senators to remove this liability. Bank directors are all pardoned, over and over again; but honest merchants and they whose moral or legal offense is less heinous and illegal, are left exposed to every sharper, malignant foe, or mercenary speculator, who may seek their ruin. On examination and reflection, I see not how any Senator could say No to a general bill upon this subject, which they voted against a local bill of this sort.—Lewistown Chronicle.

As an auction sale of slaves lately at Lynchburg, Va., four slaves brought an average of \$2,400 each, in Confederate rage. As those who sell this money make it themselves, it is of so sort of consequence how much of it is paid out in business transactions.

months men, whose term soon expires, with a view to filling up the ranks with conscripts, provided this force could now be spared from the army. Major Ryan went up to see Hooker about it. He was in Washington. Adjutant General Williams told him that they would entertain the proposition; but said he, "He told him that the 136th Penn's was classed among the best fighting regiments of this army, for their conduct at Fredericksburg on the 13th of December. If we are needed, we are to be ordered; and for my own part, I prefer to be ordered than to request."

There is some little sickness in camp; but nothing of a serious nature. We are sorry to hear of the ravages of disease in our own country, and hope for better times. A salute of 21 guns was fired a few moments since, from which we judge President Lincoln to be on a visit to Joe Hooker.

Lieut. Doty of company B, was lately discharged for disability. I never had an acquaintance with him prior to meeting him, as an officer of this regiment, but can well assure him of my respect in common with all who know him, for his manhood, bravery, and patriotism. Yours very respectfully, Jno. I. Mitchell.

[For the Agitator.]

An Appeal to the Loyal! To all patriotic persons, Republican and Democrat, all for we wish to speak to the loyal, those whose feelings are moved for the suffering and brave without partisan preferences and prejudices; to the gentlemen who, from choice, inability, or stern necessity, stay at home while their brothers go forth voluntarily to bear the burden, face the fire of cannons, to fight for victory or death, and as we but too well know often fall victims of sickness, or are wounded only to be left in camps and hospitals where their sufferings should speak more loudly to your hearts and through them to your purses than any words of ours can do. Why shut the door of your sympathies refusing to listen? Is it because you are afraid we will ask you to wake up from your lethargy? Is it because you are out of danger and forget your brothers in the field? Is it because you love the chink of the precious coin better than the blessed consciousness of doing a great good. Let us believe you have only been waiting to know the best means of doing your absent friend, your common brother a good service; and now that your opportunity has come, you will unambiguously respond to the ladies, whose hearts are ever with the suffering, whose husbands, brothers, sons, and friends, have gone at their country's call. Already some have fallen nobly on the battle field. Others are lying in hospitals and camps, in delirious moments calling on the dear ones at home for help; then, half-believing themselves forgotten because they are not answered; not by words, but by supplies, they care not if they die. Now let these cries come to your hearts, and nobly reply. Prove that the sick and wounded and dying soldier is still dear to you, prove it by acts, by self denial; by exertion, and not by words alone; say not "go and be fed" but go and feed him. Some, who would to help in this noble cause say—"Why I would be glad to do something if I knew the soldier would get it." Now it is our privilege to say to such that we do not propose to engage in this work ignorantly, or as an experiment. What we do, we do knowingly and understandingly agree to add our little mite, knowing that it will reach some poor boy. We want to engage your sympathies for the Federal soldier, the sick and wounded man, whether he come from Maine, Illinois, or Pennsylvania it matters not. We are invited to organize a society in Wellsboro, in Delmar, in Charleston, in Middlebury, in every town and village, to act in conjunction with the Women's Pa. Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and keep ourselves posted by frequent correspondence with the office (1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia). The Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Bloomfield Moore, agrees to keep us informed of the doings of that body, to answer all questions and listen to any suggestions which may be offered by any of us, calculated to make the work more efficacious. And now arises the question.—How many of the loyal men at home will give us aid? How many of our ladies, will come forward and engage to do all in their power, to use their influence and labor for the soldier while the war lasts. All are invited; will all accept the invitation?

Let us not be put to shame by the example of Southern women.

WISCONSIN.—The votes of the Soldiers from Wisconsin, so far as now returned, foot up:

For Luther S. Dixon (War Dem.).....9,813 For M. M. Cothran (Copperhead).....1,666

Dixon's majority so far is.....8,147 which secures his election. We believe there will be a small majority on the Home vote against Dixon, but not enough to overbalance the Soldiers' vote.

The counties mainly peopled by Europeans give very heavy majorities for Cothran, giving more overwhelmingly for him than usually for the Democratic candidates. Ozaukee, where the draft was resisted last Fall, gives Cothran 1,605 to Dixon 166; Washington (mainly settled from Ireland) gives Cothran 2,567 to Dixon 345; Milwaukee is Copperhead by about three to one.

THE ARGUS mourns over the defeat of Seymour. But the Argus will have company in its grief. Jeff. Davis will "mourn." The Richmond Enquirer will "mourn." So will the London Times. So will the enemies of our cause, every where. On the theory that "miserly loves company," our neighbor ought to feel happy even in its tears.—Albany Journal.

SECRET CONSPIRACY IN CALIFORNIA.—Considerable excitement was caused in San Francisco by the discovery of a plot on the part of some 200 secessionists in Napa county, to make a night attack on the Benicia military station and navy guard, in order to capture the arms and magazines. The authorities provided against the attempt, and it was not made.

A DIABOLICAL AFFAIR.—Charles L. Stackpole is under examination in Beverly, Massachusetts, charged with administering arsenic in food to his father, mother, and two sisters. One of his sisters died, but it is thought the rest of the family will recover. The alleged criminal is but twenty-one years old, and the motive for his diabolical act, is said to be to get possession of his father's property.

A GREAT DEAL is said about the extravagance of the War Department. The Nashville Union in criticizing this fault-finding spirit calls attention to the fact that the Utah expedition, which consisted of 10,000 men, and lasted only a few months, cost six millions of dollars. At the same rate, the cost of the present war, with nearly a million of men, would, up to this time, have been seven billions of dollars.