

Judge Agnew and the Prothonotary of the Middle Supreme Judicial District.

Our readers will remember that when it was made known in this city that Wallace De Witt, of Erie county, had been appointed Prothonotary of the Middle Supreme Judicial District, a general outburst of indignation was elicited. In response to that feeling we strongly condemned the appointment, and on what we then deemed good authority, referred to Judge Agnew as having voted with Judges Woodward and Thompson, to make Wallace De Witt the Prothonotary. At the time the information reached us concerning the asserted action of Judge Agnew in this connection, we received the statement with many doubts, and were only led to accept it as true when it was seemingly confirmed by the most indubitable testimony of persons who had gone to Philadelphia to represent the high claims of another party to this appointment. Then we felt that Judge Agnew had done a wrong to himself and his friends—and then only were we constrained to refer to that action with the severity which all loyal men admitted at the time was just, provided the facts stated in the case were correct.

We now cheerfully and with alacrity hasten to state that Judge Agnew was entirely and grossly misrepresented to us, and that we, in turn, placed that gentleman in a wrong position before his loyal friends throughout the Commonwealth. Instead of Judge Agnew having voted for De Witt, he emphatically and resolutely declined to have any connection with the proceedings of his appointment. It seems that De Witt was an applicant for the place before the death was out of the body of young Ferguson—that a petition to that effect was in the hands of the Chief Justice—and that when Ferguson expired, messages were telegraphed from this city, and thus the appointment was wet-nursed through the Court. Those who know the De Witts will frankly admit that the contemptible means resorted to, to secure this appointment, are characteristic of the name and its antecedents.

We take peculiar pleasure in making this explanation in justice to Judge Agnew. The high regard which we had and still have for that gentleman will ever deter us from doing him intentional wrong—and we honestly regret that we did not obey the doubt which at first led us to question his connection with the appointment of De Witt. All that now remains for us, therefore, is to retract cheerfully, language which may have seemed severe in our comments upon what we honestly deemed at the time, a great violation of faith. But Judge Agnew's sagacity and prudence saved him from falling into the snare set for him, and thus he only confirms the high opinion entertained for him by those who know him best.

In this connection, may we not express the hope that the better judgment of the loyal majority of the Supreme Court will induce them to reconsider the appointment of De Witt, and thus remove a great scandal which now attaches itself to that tribunal? The appointment has outraged the sensibilities and patriotism of the whole community; not that the confidence of the community is lessened in the majority of the Supreme Court, but that the people feel certain that the confidence of the Justices has been abused by the unholiest scheme ever devised to venerate the character of a foe to the peace and honor of the nation.

The Credit System of Recruiting—Proclamation of Gov. Curtin.

We direct attention to a highly important proclamation by Governor Curtin, made necessary in order to explain and define the credit system of recruiting. It appears that an entire regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers after re-enlisting, had credited themselves to a locality outside the limits of the Commonwealth. The injustice and ingratitude of this proceeding are made manifest when it is understood; that at least two-thirds of these men leave families or parents in the State, who are to a certain extent a charge to the communities in which they live, dependent upon the local relief which is distributed to the families and parents of Pennsylvania volunteers. The first view of the case, therefore, will at once convince the candid mind that the transaction has a fraud about it which should not, and we believe will not, be recognized by the Provost Marshal General. Organizations having their origin in one State, and for a time representing it in the army, and still claiming to be citizens thereof, having families residing within said State, should not be allowed to credit themselves to another State. It is enough if the law can be so construed as to allow recruits to credit themselves to localities other than that in which they actually reside in the Commonwealth to which they belong. But when the citizen of one State seeks to leave his family behind for support and comfort, and go into another State for bounty and profit, he should be denied the privilege, as well as restrained from his presumptuous attempt at the perpetration of so base a wrong.

There is glory and profit and personal honor sufficient in all that Pennsylvania has done and will continue to do for her sons, to induce them to fight beneath her State flag in defense of the banner of the Union. The Pennsylvanian who goes from the State to enlist has lost much of the pride which belongs to a true soldier. When the war is over he will only discover his error. Then he will come home, but there will be no welcome for him, except the formal greeting which is due from the men of all the States to the defenders of a common inheritance of freedom.

—We ask our brave fellow citizens to read

the proclamation of the Governor referring to this subject. It is a document full of eloquence, and cannot fail to impress every patriotic Pennsylvanian with the truth which it promulgates.

Political.

The objection which the New York Tribune offers to the re-election of Mr. Lincoln, is received on all sides, by the people, as the indication that he will be triumphantly continued for another term in the White House. It only needed this action on the part of the Tribune, to convince the people that the politicians are engaged in a dirty game to make a change, not only in the individual who represents the national authority, but in the policy by which that authority is to be vindicated. Day after day develops these facts. The people are not blind to the position on the subject of the Presidential succession. If the politicians are anxious for an issue with the people and Abraham Lincoln, they can have it for the asking, and receive as good a drubbing as ever men had laid on their hides. The time has come for politicians to give up the business of Government and leave the people to conduct their own affairs. And they had better do so promptly, than be roughly forced to submit.

The copperhead Legislature of Delaware has voted down, by 14 to 7, the bill for the relief of families of volunteers. Resolutions in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war, of thanks to the army, and sympathy with the wounded and the families of soldiers slain or disabled, shared the same fate. The Constitutional Convention of Virginia effected a permanent organization on Tuesday, by the election of Le Roy G. Edwards, of Norfolk, as President, and N. S. Caving, editor of the Virginia State Journal, as Secretary.

A Senatorial election was held last week in the XXXth District of Iowa, to fill a vacancy. The Union candidate was elected by 450 majority, in a total poll of 1,672. This vote is 750 less than that of October last, owing to the difficulty of traveling, yet the Union candidate's majority is 11 greater than that of his predecessor.

Up to the 8th inst., more persons had registered their names and taken the oath of allegiance in the two parishes of Jefferson and Orleans, Louisiana, than the one-tenth of the aggregate vote of the State in 1860, required by the President's Proclamation. It is expected that twice this number will be thus qualified to vote in the parts of the State within our lines alone.

At a meeting in St. Louis, a few evenings since, Judge Tibbets, of Arkansas, an original Union man, having been called upon for some remarks, said that every Union man in the South was an immediate emancipationist; that the slaveholders of the South had made up their minds for immediate emancipation, and that soon there would be more radicalism in the South than in the North.

A Meeting of the Knights of the Golden Circle.

Under the disguise of an "editorial convention," delegates from the different camps of the Knights of the Golden Circle of the State of Pennsylvania, met in this city yesterday afternoon, in the Surveyor General's office, with closed doors. This assemblage may be accounted the boldest movement yet made by these hardened conspirators, to plot ruin to the Government. Added to this fact, we may justly regard the use of one of the public buildings of the Commonwealth for the assembling of such a convulsion, as the most audacious feature of the whole affair. It would be well for the Legislature to take some notice of this fact, and decide whether the loyal men of the Commonwealth are to be taxed to maintain accommodations for these conspirators. The very fact that the Surveyor General's office has been disgraced by such an assemblage, is good argument in favor of abolishing the Department. We commend this suggestion to the serious attention of the Legislature.

Of course we cannot positively report the exact proceedings of the convulsion, but we have authority for stating that the Knights resolved to continue their opposition to the federal authority, and by every influence and power at their command, aid the South to achieve success. The programme adopted at the meeting will be speedily indicated by the course of the Tory Organ. All that is necessary, then, is to watch the tone of the editorial columns of that sheet, and the reader will be daily and fully apprised of the proceedings at the meeting of the Knights of the Golden Circle in the Surveyor General's office.

A Disloyal Commissioner.

Jacob Bucher, one of the commissioners of Lebanon county, resigned his office last week. He was violently opposed to the appropriation of any money by the county for bounties to avoid the draft, and when he found that his two associate commissioners were determined to vote the bounties and make a loan of one hundred thousand dollars for their payment, he repudiated all connection with the transaction by resigning. Mr. Jacob Brubaker was appointed in his place. As Lebanon is a strictly "loyal" county, and Mr. Bucher an intensely "loyal" Abolitionist in politics, his stubborn resistance to the military necessities of the Government cannot be charged to that monstrous crime of the day which the sinner pure loyalists call "copperheadism."—Tory Organ.

We find the above paragraph in the Tory Organ, and as a specimen of torres overreaching themselves to deal a blow at the cause of the Government, it is worthy of being carefully considered. The "Abolitionist commissioner" alluded to, Jacob Bucher, is a rank, venomous and contemptible copperhead, who managed to be elected commissioner two years ago, when a local difference created a temporary difficulty in the ranks of the Union men of Lebanon county. Thus the biters have been bitten, when the Golden Circle men of the Tory Organ imagined Mr. Bucher was an "Abolitionist." Of course this lie was in circulation by the Tory Organ will not be recalled.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE TELEGRAPH. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1864.

The House met at the usual hour. Communications were presented, submitting estimates of the expenses of the offices of the Auditor General, Attorney General and Surveyor General.

A number of petitions were presented, and various bills were reported from committees. The House appointed a special session for this evening to consider the bounty bill.

BILLS IN PLACE.

Mr. GLASS read in place a further supplement to an act to provide for the adjudication and payment of certain military claims, approved April 16, 1862.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. NELSON, an act to amend the road laws in the counties of Manchester and Buckingham, Wayne county.

Referred to the Committee on Railroads and Canals.

Mr. ORWIG, a supplement to an act to incorporate the "Dimes Saving Institution of Lewisburg," approved March 30, 1860.

Referred to the Committee on Banks.

Mr. GUERNSEY, a supplement to an act incorporating the Jersey Shore, Pine Creek and State Line railroad company.

Referred to the Committee on Railroads.

Mr. JACKSON, an act to increase the pay of the county commissioners and jurors of Wyoming county.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary (local).

Mr. KERN, (Schuylkill), an act to authorize the owners of the town plot of New Philadelphia, in Schuylkill county, to convey the same to the County of Schuylkill.

Referred to the Committee on Estates and Escheats.

Mr. GRABER, an act to increase the daily pay of the county commissioners of Schuylkill county.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary (local).

Mr. COCHRAN (Philadelphia), an act to incorporate the Swarthmore college.

Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Also, an act to incorporate the Pennsylvania quartz company.

Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. BARNETT, an act relative to the South Pennsylvania railroad company.

Referred to the Committee on Railroads.

Mr. PURDY, an act to legalize the levy and collection of a tax in the borough of Northumberland, in Northumberland county, for the payment of bounty to volunteers.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. WIMLEY, an act legalizing the payment of bounties and relief by the burgess and town council of the borough of Norristown, Montgomery county.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. KOONCE, an act to enable Dr. John M. In and others to build a certain railroad in the county of Mercer.

Referred to the Committee on Railroads.

Mr. BEOK, an act authorizing the West Branch and Susquehanna canal company to change the par value of their stock.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary (local).

Mr. WALSH, a supplement to an act to incorporate the borough of Waverly, in Luzerne county.

Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. HAKES, an act relating to the Ashburnton coal company.

Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. WEISER, an act to incorporate the Jordan manufacturing company.

Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. COLEMAN, an act relating to the Susquehanna coal company.

Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. BOWMAN, (Lancaster), an act relating to the commissioners of Lancaster county.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary (local).

Mr. ETNIER, an act relative to the payment of bounties to volunteers in the township of Union, Huntingdon county.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. PATTON, an act relating to hawkers and pedlers in Greene county.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary (local).

Mr. BOWMAN, (Cumberland), an act relating to the office of county treasurer in the county Cumberland.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary (local).

Mr. OYES, a supplement to an act in relation to the hunting of wild game in Clinton county.

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Also, a supplement to an act to authorize the commissioners of Clinton county, to borrow money and for other purposes, approved the 22d day of April, 1863.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary (local).

Mr. SMITH, (Chester), an act for the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary (general).

Mr. PERSHING, an act relating to the Cambria iron company.

Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. SLACK, an act supplementary to an act incorporating the Pittsburgh and Steubenville turnpike road company.

Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. SEARIGHT, supplement to an act to incorporate the town of Bellevue, approved April 15, 1863.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary (local).

Mr. COCHRAN, (Erie), an act relating to the elections in the borough of Edinboro, Erie county.

Referred to the Committee on Election Districts.

The House Adjourned.

By Telegraph.

News from Chattanooga.

GEN. PALMER SKIRMISHING WITH THE ENEMY AT TUNNEL HILL.

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 24.

Gen. Palmer skirmished with the enemy all day yesterday, and succeeded in driving him from Tunnel Hill, Georgia.

The Nineteenth Illinois and Eighty-eighth Indiana were active engaged skirmishing all day. J. Jackson, Gravelly Sergeant, Co. Nineteenth Illinois, was killed, and F. L. Andrews, Co. G, and Peter Blois, Eighty-eighth Indiana, wounded.

On pushing after the rebels to Tunnel Hill they opened heavily with field pieces.

It is supposed they are going to dispute the further passage of our troops if the attempt is made to push on.

General Sherman's Expedition.

REPORTED OCCUPATION OF SELMA, ALA., BY SHERMAN'S FORCES.

CHICKSAW, Feb. 24.

The officers of the steamer Fanny, from Vicksburg the 20th, report Gen. Sherman's forces to be in possession of Selma, Ala.

Later from Europe.

THE WAR, & C.

PORTLAND, Feb. 25.

The steamship Hibernia has arrived from Liverpool, with dates to the 11th inst. and advices via Londonderry to the 12th.

The Damascus, from Portland, arrived at Londonderry on the 12th.

The ship Adelaide, from Liverpool for New York, had put back.

There is nothing important from Schleswig. The Post says that England has proposed an armistice, preliminary to a conference.

In Parliament Earl Derby attacked the governmental policy in regard to the Alabama and Laird rams, and insisted that the latter were seized under American menaces. He moved for the production of the papers relative thereto.

Earl Russell defended the Government, and declined to produce the papers pending the legal inquiries.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 11.—Ostrich on the weak was firmer, but unchanged. Sales of 4,700 bales, including 6,500 to speculators, and 8,000 to exporters. The market closed firm, with holders asking an advance. Middling Orleans, 27½d. Breadstuffs heavy, and all descriptions lower. Provisions steady. American securities quiet and steady. Consols for money, 91. The bullion in the Bank of England has increased 169,000 pounds.

It is stated that the Danes have evacuated their works at Duppel and embraced the basis of England's proposition for an armistice is the evacuation of Schleswig, except the Island of Alsens, by the Danes.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 12.—In what hardly anything is doing to-day at a decline of 3d. since Tuesday. Flour is neglected and to effect sales less money is taken. Mixed corn is offering at 28s. 6d. and white at 35s.

San Francisco, Feb. 24.—The bark Emily Banning, from Shanghai, with dates to January 8th, has arrived. The Chinese papers of the 5th of January say nothing of the Alabama being blockaded at Amoy at any time.

The only news on the subject comes in private letters, dated January 9th. One of these letters says: The Alabama is reported to be in our vicinity; another says the Alabama is reported to be in the Gulf of Mexico; another says that the American ships are looked upon with some distrust, but why is not stated.

The Richmond correspondent of the London Times asserts that where one slave is now fighting for Lincoln ten slaves will be found fighting for the South.

The reply of Napoleon to the letter from the Queen of Spain announcing the marriage of the daughter of the Duc de Montpensier to the Comte de Paris is said to be couched in very affectionate terms.

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The London Times city article says whether the rate of the discount by the bank of England will be more permanent than the last similar reduction on the 24th of December, which it was found necessary to retract in three or four weeks, must be doubtful.

Some letters from Germany to-day, state that an increased sense of internal complication and external dangers to which the country may be driven by the present course is beginning in several quarters to become manifest.

A Guerrilla Dash.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.

On Tuesday morning a small party of guerrillas made a dash on the residence of Mr. Walter Gillingham, about two miles from Springfield, near Alexandria.

They captured Mr. Gillingham and his two brothers-in-law.

Mr. Gillingham succeeded in making his escape and reached Alexandria.

A scouting party of the 1st Michigan cavalry, under command of Sergeant Martin, went out on Tuesday to reconnoitre. They proceeded as far as Occoquan, but discovered no enemy. They were sent out in consequence of rumors that the guerrillas were in force beyond Occoquan.

News from East Tennessee.

SKIRMISHING NEAR CUMBERLAND GAP—A UNION PARTY TAKEN PRISONERS, & C.

CUMBERLAND GAP, Feb. 24, 1864.

On the 22d instant a battalion of the 11th Tennessee cavalry, stationed on the Virginia road, five miles east, were surprised at daylight and surrounded by a large force of rebels.

The 91st and 92d companies of infantry—the 91st and 2d North Carolina—were with the command of Colonel Davis. The company of the 91st, in charge of Lieutenant Wise, cut and fought their way through, with a loss of three killed. Two officers and about sixty of Colonel Davis' men succeeded in making their escape, but the rest of the men were probably captured.

At the same time the rebels attacked our outpost at Prell's bridge, on the Tazewell road, five miles south, consisting of fifty men, in charge of Captain Pickering, 34th Kentucky infantry, supported by a block house; but the rebels were repulsed three times, when Captain Pickering, with his men, were withdrawn to prevent their being cut off from the Gap.

Colonel Davis is said to be severely wounded.

The Wreck of the Bohemian.

PORTLAND, Feb. 25.

The owners of the steamship Bohemian, having contracted with the New York Coast Working company to raise and bring the wreck into the harbor, without discharging her cargo.

If the weather holds fair there is a prospect of good success. The attempt will be made between now and Tuesday next.

One of the missing passengers, Dennis Smith, of New York, has turned up safe.

The Hibernian will take the place of the Bohemian, and will sail on Sunday afternoon.

Arrival of a Prize Steamer.

BOSTON, Feb. 25.

The prize steamer Pat, captured on the 16th inst. by the United States steamer Montgomery, has arrived here.

She is a small screw steamer of about 300 tons burthen and was bound from Nassau for Wilmington, N. C.

Destructive Conflagration.

BOSTON, Feb. 25.

Five extensive brick buildings on the banks of the fish pond, near Cambridge, belonging to Russell, Hattin & Co., were destroyed by fire last evening.

The buildings contained nearly one hundred thousand tons of ice cut this season, a large portion of which will be lost.

The fire was the work of an incendiary.

U. S. Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.

The argument in the Sbroome Court on the Quicksilver case was continued to-day.

MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

The statement of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York for the fiscal year ending 31st ult., has been published. The cash receipts of this mammoth institution for the year exceeded two millions of dollars, over six hundred thousand of which were for interest alone.

It is the opinion of some that an insurance on their lives would be an unprofitable expenditure, should they live to pay many premiums. Such is not the case in this company, as all the profits are equitably divided among the assured, and are so large that many are taking out policies as an investment.

A prominent citizen of Philadelphia insured his life in this Company in 1863, for \$5,000. There was added to his policy, by dividends to Feb. 1st, 1864, \$3,083 55

This amount may be increased by future dividends \$8,083 55

"The Twenty Annual Premiums of \$175 50 each (in all \$3,510) paid on this policy, do not much exceed the dividends alone.

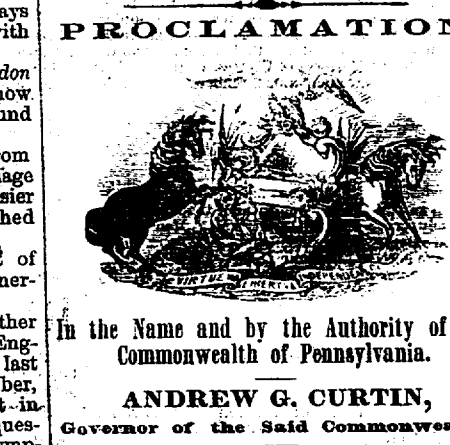
"Another gentleman in this city, insured in 1846, under Policy No. 2,088, for \$10,000.—Being unable to pay the premium due last month, he has so applied his dividends that he has nothing more to pay on his policy of \$10,000, but will annually receive from the Company \$81 39 in cash, and his policy of \$10,000 will still participate in future dividends during the remainder of his life.

"In other words, the Company continues the policy, free of expense to him, and contributes to the support of himself and family."

Mr. Wm. King is the only authorized agent for the above Company in Dauphin county. He can be found at the Brady House, in this city, and will call upon those wishing to insure, or desiring information upon the subject. Persons who desire to have their lives insured (and no one should fail to thus benefit his family), would do well to call on Mr. King at once.

PROCLAMATION.

In the Name and by the Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. ANDREW G. CURTIN, Governor of the said Commonwealth.



A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, For some time past it has been known that persons, professing to be agents of other States, have been busily tampering with our citizens at home and in the army, endeavoring, by false representations, to induce individuals to enter or re-enter the service from those States, and remonstrances have been in vain made against the continuance of this paltry system of seduction;

And whereas, Information has now been received that one of the regiments of Pennsylvania has enlisted almost bodily as from another State; and it appears to be necessary to take some public means to put our citizens on their guard against the arts by which they are so disastrous to the service of their country; and that the Pennsylvania State has been delighted to honor:

Now, therefore, I, Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do issue this, my proclamation, addressed to all citizens of the Commonwealth, but especially and emphatically to her veterans in the army, cautioning them against allowing themselves to be seduced from her service. By enlisting in regiments of other States they deprive themselves of the honor of their own State, and the liberal aid which our law has provided for them as a right, and not as a charity; they will not enjoy the right of suffrage which an approaching amendment of the Constitution will give to our absent volunteers; they cut themselves loose from the ties which bind them to their homes, and which bind Pennsylvania to give them constant care and assistance in the field, an obligation which our State has never neglected. If wounded or sick, they will no longer be fostered by our agents, and received with applause and consideration, as men who have done honor to Pennsylvania; they bring the history of their regiments to an abrupt close; their names will no longer be entered on our rolls; all the glorious recollections of their valor and sufferings will be sickened by the fact that they have abandoned their native State; deserted the great Commonwealth under whose banner they have carried the service themselves and for her the highest reputation for courage and all the martial virtues, and that they have done this under inducements which are in fact unfounded, and at the very time when their friends and neighbors at home were preparing for them, bounties probably larger than those offered by other States, and certainly much larger, if the support afforded to their families be taken into account.

I therefore appeal to our noble volunteers not to abandon the Commonwealth. She has been proud of the glory which their course hitherto has shed abundantly on her. As a mother she has a right to the honors to be won in future by her children. Stand by her, and she will stand by you, and you will have the richest reward in the grateful affections and sympathies of your families, your friends, your neighbors and your fellow-citizens.

But if you leave her for the service of other States, you throw away all these, for their people will regard you merely as mercenaries, and when they have fulfilled their bargains, will leave you and your families to shift for yourselves. Recollect your homes and your families, your friends and the banners which the Commonwealth first bestowed upon you, which you have carried so gloriously upon many a bloody field, and which, drenched by shot and shell, but still bearing the names of the battles in which you have been distinguished, she has provided for receiving, at the close of the war, and preserving as holy relics of your patriotism and devotion to the cause of our common country. These things are worth more to you and to your children than money. Do not grieve and disappoint your friends by abandoning them all.

I take this occasion to explain upon all Magistrates, District Attorneys and other officers, a strict vigilance in enforcing the laws of this Commonwealth against all persons who shall within this State attempt to recruit volunteers for other States.

[L. S.] Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State at Harrisburg, the twenty-fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the Commonwealth the eighty-eighth.

By the Governor, A. G. CURTIN.

By the Secretary, J. B. STRICKLAND.