

vened for the purpose of proposing such amendments to the Federal Constitution as experience has proved to be necessary to maintain that instrument in the spirit and meaning intended by its founders and to provide against future convulsions and wars.

Twelfth. That the General Assembly condemn and denounce the faults of the administration and the encroachments of the Abolitionists; it does also most thoroughly condemn and denounce the heresy of secession as unwarranted by the Constitution and destructive alike of the security and perpetuity of the Government and of the peace and liberty of the people; and it does hereby most solemnly declare that the people of this State are unalterably opposed to any division of the Union, and will persistently exert their whole influence and power under the Constitution to maintain and defend it.

Thirteenth. That the laws of this State must be maintained and enforced, and that it is the duty of the constituted authorities of the State to see to it that, by all constitutional means, this indispensable end shall be attained.

Fourteenth. That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the Governors of the several States, acknowledging the Federal authority, and to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

The Patriot & Union.

FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, 1863.

O. BARRETT & CO., PROPRIETORS.

Communications will not be published in the PATRIOT AND UNION unless accompanied with the name of the author.

W. W. KINGSDY, Esq., of Towanda, is a duly authorized agent to collect accounts and receive subscriptions and advertisements for this paper. NOVEMBER 22, 1862.

S. M. PETTENGLI & CO.,

No. 37 Park Row, N. Y., and 6 State St., Boston, are our Agents for the PATRIOT AND UNION in those cities, and are authorized to take advertisements and subscriptions for us at our Lowest Rates.

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To Members of the Legislature.

The DAILY PATRIOT AND UNION will be furnished to members of the Legislature during the session at TWO DOLLARS.

Members wishing extra copies of the DAILY PATRIOT AND UNION, can procure them by leaving their orders at the publication office, Third street, or with our reporters in either House, the evening previous.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The PATRIOT AND UNION and all its business operations will hereafter be conducted exclusively by O. BARRETT & T. G. POMEROY, under the firm of O. BARRETT & CO., the connection of H. F. McReynolds with said establishment having ceased on the 20th November, inst. NOVEMBER 21, 1862.

Democratic County Convention.

By direction of the County Committee, the Democratic County Convention of Dauphin county will meet at Harrisburg on Tuesday, the 21st day of April, at 10 o'clock, a. m. Meetings for the selection of delegates to said Convention will be held in the several townships on Saturday, the 18th April, between the hours of 5 and 7, p. m., and in the several towns and wards between the hours of 7 and 9, p. m., on said day, at the usual places of holding delegate meetings.

Geo. F. Weaver, Secretary pro tem. Harrisburg, March 28, 1863.

Joint Resolutions on the State of the Country.

We print to-day the above resolutions in their amended form as they were acted upon in the lower House on Monday. They will be found to differ in some particulars with the draft which has been already hastily submitted to the press and published throughout the State. Substantially the same as those of Kentucky, the sense and spirit of these resolutions will commend themselves to every conservative man among us. Dealing principally in fundamental and vital doctrines, they will form the basis of the conservative platform in our coming contest with the radicals—a firm, established rule of action for the future course of the conservative party. We cannot commend too highly their tone and tenor, the admirable diction and the profound impressiveness which pervades them throughout; while the meek selection of the very words to express our sentiments which the Border States conservatives have chosen will indicate a hearty and unflinching purpose on our part to stand by them faithfully in the fearful struggle through which the nation is passing, against its alien and domestic foes.

A more careful digest of the doctrines laid down in this expression of our party policy is reserved, on account of the press of matter on hand to-day, to future occasions. We gladly accept and fully endorse all these resolutions express, and we commend them, finally, to the serious consideration of our readers; they are sound, adequate, temperate and just; to such doctrines we may safely and honorably swear the lasting allegiance of all the true and sincerely conservative people of the North.

THE NEW EMANCIPATION SCHEME.—We published some time since a synopsis of the emancipation colonization scheme as proposed and approved by President Lincoln, viz: that which proposed to establish a new colony in Hayti of such contrabands as are disposed to try their luck or fortune in a strange land. A few days since the British brig Ocean Ranger was chartered by Paul S. Farber, Esq., of the Colonization Society, for the purpose of conveying the contrabands from Fortress Monroe to the Island, and she is now in Hampton Roads with about 560 contrabands on board, and would have immediate dispatch.

It is understood that each negro will receive the sum of \$5 per month for his labor, during the period of the ensuing five years; and afterwards will be added to his receipts a quota of such field produce as he shall have produced instrumentally in raising. Another vessel will soon leave for the Island laden with stores for the Ethiopian adventurers—all of whom seem perfectly willing to go to the place.

Will anybody tell us where the authority comes from (under the Constitution) by virtue of which Abraham Lincoln contracts to transport these contrabands to Hayti and pay them \$5 00 per month for five years from the public treasury? Or must we add this to the already large catalogue of violations of the Constitution, an act of Abolition fanaticism, an exercise of power in defiance of law and justice? It seems to be the determination of this miserable administration to do everything that a wise administration would not do—to write despotism and folly upon every measure of its policy.

In addition to this Haytian colonization scheme, the administration seems to be extensively engaged in kindred schemes of a domestic nature. The Philadelphia Evening Journal says: The administration having a plenty of spare time on its hands while vigorously prosecuting the prolongation of the war, is going into the plantation business. It is about organizing regiments of male negroes at the West and working gangs of negro women and children for agricultural purposes at Helena, Ark., Island No. 10, besides colonies for Texas.

DEACON BERGNER.

THE HONEST POSTMASTER OF HARRISBURG.

We published yesterday the report of the select committee of the House of Representatives on Postmaster Bergner's accounts, and now give our readers the most pertinent parts of the testimony on which the report was founded.

In considering this testimony it will be well to remember that it is furnished by clerks in the post office, dependent upon Mr. Bergner for their situations, and that the chief clerk is Mr. Bergner's brother-in-law. Mr. J. Wesley Reese being sworn, testifies as follows:

Question. Do you reside in Harrisburg?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Q. Are you connected with the post office in this city?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What are your duties?

A. Delivery clerk.

Q. In preparing mail matter for mailing, by whom are the stamps placed on those documents?

A. The stamps are canceled before placing them on the documents. Stamps are delivered to me by the chief clerk. After they are canceled and dried they are placed in the drawer before they are placed on the documents.

Q. How are they canceled?

A. I generally use a small brush, dipping it into ink, crossing the stamp crosswise.

Q. What are your duties?

A. Everybody in the office. They are charged to me, and I keep an account of them, all that are delivered to me. When the chief clerk gives me the stamps, he says here are so many for the House and so many for the Senate.

Q. Do you ascertain the value of the stamps delivered?

A. I have to know, as they are charged to me on the books as I count the sheets.

Q. Do you continue in charge of the stamps until they are used up?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What disposition is made of the uncanceled stamps left over?

A. A part of these stamps are left uncanceled over night after they have been charged to me. I did not count them frequently, but did not make a regular practice of doing so.

Q. Where do you place those stamps which were left over night uncanceled?

A. They are left exposed on the counter.

Q. Did you ever miss any of those stamps which were left in that way?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What amount of stamps did you ever miss at one time?

A. Sixty dollars worth. Twenty sheets of three-cent stamps; about a month ago—not over six weeks.

Q. Did you ever miss stamps more than once; when, and if so how often?

A. I did, but cannot tell how often.

Q. Did you ever miss them more than once during the present session of the Legislature?

A. I did.

Q. Have you any knowledge what became of these stamps?

A. I informed the chief clerk of the amount missing next morning, after the stamps had been taken, and he asked Mr. Bergner if he took any of the stamps. The chief clerk told me that Mr. Bergner said he took the stamps.

Q. What amount of stamps have you missed during the present session of the Legislature?

A. About three hundred dollars.

Q. You stated that those stamps were charged to you; in what way do you balance that account?

A. There are so many stamps charged to me; then the chief clerk tells me how many to charge to the House, and how many to the Senate, and then I count the amount of stamps and see if they are of the same amount he has charged me with, and then charge the same to the House and Senate.

Q. How are the accounts generally made up against the Legislature?

A. From my book and the chief clerk's.

Q. Have any of the missing stamps ever been returned to you after being charged?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Did the chief clerk tell you what Mr. Bergner said he did with those stamps which he said he had taken from those charged to the Legislature?

A. He said he had given them to the members of the Legislature.

Q. Are all the stamps charged by you charged to the House, included in the monthly account for postage against the House?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it any part of your duty to place stamps on mail matter?

A. It is, after the office is closed.

Q. Do you know how it is that so much irregularity occurs in the stamping of mail matter?

A. By the number of papers not being mailed, it is accidental.

Q. Did you ever have any conversation with Mr. Bergner about the missing stamps?

A. No, sir.

Q. What is the name of the chief clerk?

A. Henry Uhler.

Q. Are you still employed as a clerk in the post office?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it possible that the canceled stamps for the Legislature can be used for any other purpose?

A. They could.

Q. Did you ever miss any of the canceled stamps out of your drawer?

A. No, sir.

Q. Please explain how they could be used?

A. They could be put on other mail matter than that belonging to the Legislature.

Q. Do you know if it ever has been done?

A. No, sir—not to my knowledge.

Q. Is the manner of canceling stamps for use on legislative mail matter the same as other mail matter?

A. No, sir.

Q. State the difference?

A. The stamps used for legislative matter are canceled with brush and writing ink by a cross, and on other matter by printer's ink with a stamp.

Q. What amount of stamps does the chief clerk deliver you at one time?

A. From one to four hundred dollars.

Q. Were the stamps missed by you missed from those charged to the House alone, or from the House and Senate jointly?

A. From both.

Q. What proportion, or as near as you can tell, were missed from those charged to each House?

A. About two hundred dollars from the House and one hundred from the Senate.

Q. Is it customary for you to receive mail matter from the Legislature that has postage stamps on it?

A. It is; I do not see all the mail matter; I have frequently seen letters having on them postage stamps as high as a dollar each, not franked.

Q. Can you tell, Mr. Reese, whether these letters having stamps on them belong to the Legislature, and how?

A. Yes, sir, by reference to their envelope, having the legislative stamp on them.

Q. Could there not have been a larger amount of stamps taken without your knowing it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When left over uncanceled are they accessible to all persons in the office?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does Mr. Bergner keep his own stamps under lock and key?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are any other stamps in the office except those charged the Legislature kept exposed?

A. They are all kept under lock and key except those charged to the Legislature.

Q. Has Mr. Bergner ever cautioned you against leaving the stamps thus exposed?

A. No, sir.

Q. Has he ever requested you to leave them on the counter in that way?

A. No, sir.

Q. Are they frequently left that way?

A. Occasionally; can't say how often.

Q. Has any person access to these stamps except persons connected with the post office?

A. No, sir.

Q. How long have you been a clerk in the post office?

A. Two years next May or June.

This testimony is corroborated by several other witnesses, and shows the loose and careless manner in which the State accounts were kept and the business transacted. Stamps amounting to several hundred dollars at a time were charged to the State and placed upon the counter, subject to be used by any person in the office for their own private purposes, or for stamping other than legislative mail matter, while the stamps not charged to the State were securely locked in the safe or in Mr. Bergner's private desk.

Mr. Uhler, chief clerk, brother-in-law of Mr. Bergner, testifies as follows:

Q. If these stamps are taken by any person for other than Legislative use would they be lost to the State?

A. Certainly they would.

Q. Do you know of any canceled Legislative stamps being used on any other mail matter than that belonging to the Legislature?

A. I have known a few used on other mail matter. Sometimes the clerks would find a few documents in the legislative mail bags not directed or franked; the clerks would sometimes take these and endorse them themselves and put legislative stamps on them; or sometimes in writing a letter they would use a legislative stamp, although it was not customary as a general thing.

Q. Did you know that Mr. Bergner ever used any of these Legislative stamps for any other purpose than for documents belonging to the Legislature?

A. He did use some along with the clerks.

From this it is clear that some stamps were used by Mr. Bergner and his clerks for other than legislative use, and the State robbed to that extent. The committee could not ascertain the amount thus fraudulently taken, but it is fair to presume that they took all that their business wants required.

Aside from this, it is shown by the testimony of Mr. Reese that Mr. Bergner took about three hundred dollars' worth of stamps, charged to and belonging to the State, and locked them up in his private desk. Mr. Bergner claimed to have given these stamps to members of the Legislature, but failed to produce any testimony on that point, except that of Mr. Joseph Moore, which only accounts for a few dollars. The testimony of Mr. Moore is as follows:

Q. Do you know of Mr. Bergner giving any postage stamps to members of the Legislature?

A. I do not.

Q. Do you know whether Mr. Bergner let members have stamps this session?

A. I don't—received some myself. I went to the post office and asked Mr. Bergner for some stamps, and I suppose I may have received a hundred or so. Judging from the custom last winter, I could see no impropriety whether I used a frank or stamp.

Q. When did you receive those stamps?

A. I cannot fix the date, but I suppose within a month after the commencement of this session.

Q. Did you receive stamps more than once during the present session?

A. I think on two occasions I did receive some stamps.

Q. (By Mr. Bergner.) What amount of stamps did you receive at one time, and of what denomination?

A. I received them in an envelope; there might have been one hundred stamps at a time; never received any higher in value than 3-cent stamps.

Q. From whom did you receive these stamps?

A. I applied to Mr. Bergner for them, and received them from him.

Q. Have you heard other members say they had received stamps?

A. I did not, but presume it was so, as it was the custom last year.

We understand that some testimony, in reference to the accounts of last year, of a still more damaging character, was offered to the committee, but they were obliged to exclude it, because the resolution of the House confined them to the accounts of the present year. The committee not being able, during the short time they had for investigation, to ascertain the amount of which the State had been robbed, did not feel justified in forcing Mr. Bergner to carry back to the State treasury the money he had plundered from it, as was done by a former Auditor General.

In all ages of the past, corruption and fraud, and licentiousness, have marked the beginning of the downfall of States and empires, and there is nothing in our own day, which so much grieves the heart of the true patriot and makes him despair of his country, as the corruptions daily practiced by members of the party in power, and which go unwhipped of justice. In the pure days of the past, if a person was convicted of fraud or wrong he was abandoned at once by his party, and given up to punishment, but now, if the individual is an unquestioned supporter of the administration—a good Abolitionist—a zealous partisan—all his political associates rally around him, and the higher the crime the greater their efforts to screen the criminal. Investigation after investigation has been had at Baltimore, New York, St. Louis, and other places, and in each instance it was proven that the government had been robbed and plundered by millions, and yet we have not heard of a single instance in which these criminals have been punished. No wonder that as a nation we are being scourged by Providence, when our men in high places connive at fraud and wink at crime.

In times past men were selected for office on account of their high character for integrity, their great ability and their honest and patriotic purposes; but now trickery, imbecility and fanaticism rule the land, while grieved patriotism weeps over the degeneracy of the people and mourns its inability to save the nation from destruction. From our own State a man whose whole life has been stained by dishonorable practices was first made Secretary of War, then Minister to a foreign Court, and finally returning to his native State, as a crowning act of infamy, endeavored to corrupt

the Legislature and procure his election to the United States Senate by bribery; and yet his own party, as represented in the Legislature, with the single exception of Mr. Laporte, cling to him the closer. In fact, he was nominated in the Republican caucus because it was believed he could buy a Democrat to vote for him, thus implicating their whole party in the crime he contemplated.

“Oh Portius! Is there not some secret curse, Some hidden thunders in the stores of Heaven, Red with uncommon wrath, to blast the men Who owe their greatness to their country's ruin.”

Eighteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.

If the following communication, mailed to us from Washington, tells the truth, the 18th Pennsylvania are in a bad condition, and the influence of those whose voices are potential with the State and National Governments should be exerted to relieve them. If, on the contrary, the facts are not as stated, the true condition of the regiment should be made known, and the reasons for some of the circumstances mentioned by our correspondent given to the public, who feel an interest in the welfare of all our gallant soldiers and cannot hear of their being abused or imposed upon without remonstrating against it.

Editors Patriot and Union:

Thinking that we, as a body, might be enabled to get a word before the public in your journal, we beg to say the following:

The 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry have been in service some eight months—being the last cavalry regiment that left Harrisburg under the last call for troops by the U. S. Government. While our regiment lay at Camp McClellan it was composed of ten companies, which have since been increased to twelve, by the breaking up of the Continental Cavalry of Philadelphia, at which time, now near six months ago, T. M. Bryan, Jr., was appointed Colonel. At the time of his appointment Colonel Gowan, of your city, was in command of the regiment, but has since been dismissed from the service for a trivial offense. On the assumption of the command by Colonel Bryan, we had us ordered to the front to do picket and scouting duty at

—(we can't make out the name, it looks like Chantilly), on the Dull River Pike, beyond Fairfax Court House, our arms then being 20 carbines to a company (carbines that three different regiments had refused) and some condemned sabres of a Pennsylvania regiment that was here before us. We lay there some four months, and then, by the order of Gen. Wyndham, were sent to Fairfax Court House, he being aware that it was absolutely essential that we should retire, or get good and sufficient arms, which the Colonel was to see about, but he would make no mention of this matter, probably, he retired from the service of a State that respects only brave men, and accepted the command of the Pennsylvania 18th Cavalry—Truly we are highly honored. The regiment is now only spoken of as a brand and stigma upon Stahl's division, and is to-day but little better than a demoralized mob. Through the influence of this accomplished and valiant Colonel, a Lieutenant Colonel, Major and Adjutant (men of disrepute in Philadelphia,) have been commissioned in the regiment. They hold their positions by the terror of the bayonet alone, and are greeted with jeers and groans on every public parade. Thus you see we sleep over a smothered volcano—the line officers and privates hating intensely the field officers, which hatred they, on their part, reciprocate. When the occasion offers you need not be surprised to hear of the re-encounter of the scene on the Blackwater among the drafted men.

LINE OFFICERS AND PRIVATES.

We give the above without any personal knowledge of the facts, in order that an opportunity may be afforded to those who are in position to ascertain the truth to do so, and contradict them if false, or remove the wrongs complained of if they really exist. Such feelings as those portrayed in this communication would, if they exist to any extent, ruin the best army that was ever organized.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The most cheering news which we can present our readers to-day—after having made them gloomy by the sad reverses to our arms recorded within the last two weeks—are the election returns from various States and districts.

The Democrats have elected Cuthbert Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, on a strictly party issue, by a majority of from 8,000 to 10,000. Milwaukee city and county gave nearly 5,000 majority, electing nearly all the Democratic nominees for the municipal offices. La Crosse, Kenosha, and other large towns hitherto generally Abolition have gone the same way.

Detroit, Michigan, gives 700 Democratic majority, and the State at large shows great Democratic gains.

St. Paul, Minnesota, has gone Democratic, under very discouraging circumstances.

Ohio, with the exception of Cincinnati, Cleveland and a few other places, has made a clean Democratic sweep; carrying the State by a majority estimated at 25,000 to 30,000—more than three times as large as it was last fall.

The Democrats have carried Trenton, N. J., by a majority of about 400. Frank Mills is re-elected Mayor by a handsome majority, and the Democrats have carried five of the six wards, electing their whole city ticket and making a clean sweep.

In Connecticut the Democrats have carried Hartford by 450 majority—a gain of nearly 100 since the general election, when the Abolition soldiers were sent home to vote—electing four town councilmen and three aldermen, to ten Abolition councilmen and two aldermen. For one alderman there is a tie. The city of New Haven has been carried by the Democrats by 130 more majority than Seymour received for Governor. The State is to-day Democratic.

The Charter election in Albany, New York, on Tuesday, terminated gloriously for the Democracy. The Argus says the victory is unexampled in their history. The Democrats elected ten of the eleven aldermen and eight of ten supervisors—every ward but the Fourth being Democratic, and the Abolition majority in that ward being small. There were upwards of 8,000 votes polled, and the average Democratic majority was 2,616. So we go. Depend upon it “there's a good time coming.”

A Washington dispatch to the New York Herald says:

There is reason to believe that the execution of the Conscription act will be indefinitely

postponed. It was adopted as a measure of precaution to meet emergencies. The opinion has been openly expressed, by the highest authorities of the Government, that the armies already in the field are amply sufficient, and that all that will be necessary will be to fill up the depleted regiments by recruiting.

A dispatch from Charleston, April 12, to the Richmond papers, says that on the night before the steamer Stonewall Jackson, while attempting to run the blockade, was chased and fired upon by three or four of the Federal blockaders, and so badly injured that Captain Black ran her on the beach and burned her. The crew and passengers escaped in boats, saving the mails and their personal effects. Her cargo consisted of field artillery, two hundred barrels of salt-petre, forty thousand army shoes, and a large assortment of merchandise.

New York, April 16.—In the case of the prize steamer Peterhoff, the testimony was all delivered to-day. Judge Betts ordered her mail to be opened, but a dispatch from Washington interdicted it. It is surmised that she will be given up.

Boston, April 16.—A letter dated inside the fort, at Washington, N. C., on the 10th, announces the death of Dr. Ware, Surgeon of the 44th Massachusetts volunteers.

The writer expresses confidence in their ability to hold out until reinforcements arrive.

New York, April 16.—The cloth factory establishment of Winder & Co., on 37th street, was destroyed by fire to-day. The loss, which amounted to \$12,000, was insured.

“There is only one class of newspapers in the North which is giving encouragement to the rebels; and this class embraces such papers as the Providence Journal, which are constantly asserting that the Democrats of the North are disloyal, and that their sympathies are on the side of Jeff. Davis in this terrible struggle. They are the crackers. They are the men who are strengthening the hands of the rebel President and weakening the hands of our own. They sing out—‘It is all right—on to Richmond!’ They told us when Burnside succeeded McClellan we should have Richmond in thirty days. They predicted the opening of the Mississippi in ten days from the departure of General Grant from Memphis. They were going to have Texas as soon as Banks, with his immense expedition, could reach New Orleans and take a fresh start in that direction. They would capture Savannah and Charleston and Mobile in sixty days. Rosecrans, when he left Nashville, was to march right through Tennessee, and out rebeldom into halves. Foster was to march up through North Carolina, bag the rebel troops in that State, attack Richmond from the south, if indeed Burnside or Hooker had not already captured it. * * *

But who was right? Have one of these predictions been realized? Not one! These prophets have proved to be false prophets, and they have discouraged the people. The people are tired of being promised victories and only getting defeat. As Mr. Greeley truly says, they are tired of raising large armies and seeing them dwindle away without accomplishing anything. What we most need, said Mr. Lincoln, not long ago, is military success—a triumph for the Union arms. But we say the people would have borne delay and disaster patiently, and have worked right on cheerfully, if they had not been so confidently assured of an easy victory. It is disappointment that is crushing their hearts; disappointment growing out of the silly predictions and promises of ignorant, reckless and bitter Republican editors and politicians.”—Providence Post.

THE “DEVIL.”—Here is a description of the mysterious thing called the “Devil,” which the Confederates captured from our fleet at Charleston:

“An iron frame floated to the water edge by pontoons, is pushed ahead of the Monitor as she runs in. Its length from the bow of the Monitor is from twenty to thirty feet. An aperture is made next to the vessel, of the shape of her bows, intended to receive it. The breadth of the ‘obstruction-remover’ is twelve feet. From each side of the extremity a strong iron bar or shaft runs down also twelve feet, the Monitor drawing from eight to ten feet of water, thus rendering it impossible for any torpedo or mine which this ‘obstruction-remover’ passes to injure the vessel.

“A number of mines are used, not only to form the net work so as to either push forward or explode every torpedo less than twelve feet under water, but also to strengthen and steady the masts. At the bottom a heavy tie bar unites these two vertical rods, upon which rests the percussion torpedo, containing seven hundred pounds of powder. Above this is a hammer which catches in a spring so stiff as to require two men to set it,