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jy31-d1y

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PROCLAMATION.—Whereas, the Honorable JOHN J. PEARSON, President of the Court of Common Pleas in the Twelfth Judicial District, consisting of the counties of Lebanon and Dauphin, and the Hon SAMUEL LANDIS and Hon. MOSES R. YOUNG, Associate Judges in Dauphin county, having issued their precept, bearing date the 24th day of February, 1863, to me directed, for holding a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery and Quarter Sessions of the Peace at Harrisburg, for the county of Dauphin, and to commence *on the fourth Monday of April next*, being the *27th day of April*, 1863, and to continue two weeks.

Notice is therefore hereby given to the Coroner, Justices of the Peace, Aldermen, and Constables of the said county of Dauphin, that they be then and there in their proper persons, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, with their records, inquisitions, examinations, and their own remembrances, to do those things which to their office appertains to be done, and those who are bound in recognizances to prosecute against the prisoners that are or shall be in the Jail of Dauphin county, be then and there to prosecute against them as shall be just.

Given under my hand, at Harrisburg, the 24th day of April, in the year of our Lord. 1863, and in the eighty-seventh year of the independence of the United States.

J. D BOAS. Sheriff

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The Patriot & Union.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 18, 1863.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

On the last day of the session Gov. Curtin, in answer to the question of the Legislature whether he had any further communication to make, sent in the following message, which a press of matter prevented us from publishing at an earlier day:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, April 15, 1863.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN: In taking leave of you at the close of the session, I think it proper, under existing circumstances, to go beyond the usual formalities.

The partiality of my fellow-citizens placed me in the office which I now hold, at a period of great public distraction, which soon culminated in the breaking out of the rebellion, which is still raging. The country had so long slumbered in unbroken tranquility that we had in this State almost forgotten the possibility of any violation of our domestic peace. Even our militia laws had been suffered to fall into disuse, and were reduced to a merely permissive organization of a few uniformed volunteer companies in various parts of the State. The whole mind of our people was directed to peaceful and industrious pursuits. Conscious themselves of no intention to injure the rights or interests of others, or in any way to violate the Constitution under which we had thriven, they were unable to realize the designs of wicked and abandoned men, even after they had been publicly and boastingly proclaimed. Although for many months war had been actually levied against the United States in South Carolina and elsewhere, it is a fact that the people of this Commonwealth were first startled into a sense of the common danger by the bombardment of Fort Sumpter. The Legislature was then in session, and immediately made such provision as was at the moment deemed neccessary; but, shortly after its adjournment, events having rapidly advanced and the Capital of the country being in apparent danger, I deemed it neccessary to convene it again early in May, 1861, to adopt measures for placing the State on a footing adequate to the emergency. This was promptly and cheerfully done. Five hundred thousand ($500,000) dollars had been appropriated at the regular session for military purposes, and to that sum was then added authority to borrow three millions of dollars ($3,000,000). This loan, notwithstanding the depressed condition of the finances of the country, and the alarm and distrust then prevailing, was promptly taken by our own citizens, at par; and at the suggestion of the Executive, laws were passed for organizing our military forces, and especially for immediately raising and supporting at the expense of the State a body of fifteen thousand men, called the Reserve Corps, to be ready for immediate service when required.

The Government of the United States had called out seventy-five thousand militia to serve for three months, of which the quota of Pennsylvania was immediately furnished.

The Reserve Corps was raised, equipped and disciplined by the State, and contributed largely under Providence to saving Washington after the first disaster at Bull Run, and from that time we continued to add regiment after regiment as the service of the country required.

From the first movement to the present hour, the loyalty and indomitable spirit of the freemen of Pennsylvania have been exhibited in every way and upon every occasion; they have flocked to the standard of their country in her hour of peril, and have borne it victoriously on battle fields from Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky to the far South and Southwest; they have never faltered for a moment. It has been my pride to occupy a position which enabled me to become familiar with all their patriotism and self-devotion, and to guide their efforts. Posterity will do them full justice.—Every requisition of the General Government has been promptly fulfilled; all legislation in support of the cause has been enacted without delay, and Pennsylvania is entitled to be ranked first amongst the States that have been throughout unflinching in their determination to subdue the sacreligious wretches who are endeavoring to destroy the last Temple of Liberty.

The State has not been insensible to the sacrifices which her sons have made. No effort has been spared by her authorities to secure their comfort and welfare. Under legislative provisions to that effect, her sick and wounded have been followed and cared for, and, when practicable, brought home to be nursed by their friends; and the bodies of the slain, when possible, have been returned for burial in the soil of the State. The contributions of her citizens, in supplies of luxuries and comforts, for all her volunteers, have been almost boundless, and nothing has been omitted that could encourage and stimulate them in the performance of their holy duty. They have felt upon every march and in every camp, however desolate their immediate surroundings, that the eyes and hearts of the loved ones at home were upon and with them.

The result is that Pennsylvania is actually in a position on which it is my duty to congratulate you, as her representatives. Notwithstanding the immense drain of her population, her industry is thriving at home, and so far as it may not be hurt by causes over which she has no control, must continue to prosper. Her finances were never in a more healthy condition—her people were never in better heart.

That the labors, anxieties and responsibilities of her Executive have been great and harrassing, I need not say. I have given to them my nights and days, with, I trust, a single eye to the public welfare. I claim no special merit in this. I would have been unworthy to be called a man had I done otherwise. I am proud of the people who have effected it. To be called a freeman of Pennsylvania is henceforth to have a title of honor wherever loyalty, patriotism and the martial virtues are cherished. It is to be observed, moreover, that the labors which I have necessarily undergone, have aleady impaired my health. I shall have serious cause to apprehend that a much longer continuance of them might so break it down, as to render me unable to fulfill the duties of my position. It is to be added that as the approaching season will probably be the most eventful period in the history of the country, I will be able, with more effect, to discharge my duties, if I avoid being made the centre of an active political struggle.

Under these circumstances, it has pleased the President of the United States to tender me a high position, at the expiration of my present term of office, and I have not felt myself at liberty to do otherwise than accept this offer.

As I shall, for all these reasons, retire from office at the close of my present term, I have thought this a not inappropriate mode of announcing the fact.

In taking leave of you, I may be permitted to say that as Governor of the Commonwealth, I have given, as was my duty, and shall continue to give, an active and earnest support to the Government of the United States in its effort to suppress the existing rebellion. As a private citizen, I shall continue heartily to uphold the President and his administration, as the only means by which that result can be attained; or, in other words, the country can be saved. I give this as my deliberate opinion, and shall openly, candidly and zealously act in accordance with it.

Of the warm-hearted friends, to whom I owe so much, and of the people of the Commonwealth, who, regardless of party, have never tired of cheering my toils and anxieties by tokens of their generous confidence and approval, I cannot speak with composure. I can do no more than express to them the deepest, truest and most heartfelt gratitude.

Hoping that you may safely return to your homes and families after your public labors, and with the best wishes for your individual welfare and happiness, I now bid you farewell.

A. G. CURTIN.

MISREPRESENTATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONCUCT OF THE WAR.

From the Journal of Commerce.

It is necessary to review with patience the report of this committee. If the general reader had before him the collected history of the various transactions of the war which the careful daily editor preserves for reference, he would be astonished at the boldness with which in numerous instances the committee disregards the permanently recorded history of events. It is sadly true that a correction never overtakes a falsehood, and it is not to be expected that the almost innumerable small misrepresentations which are accumulated to make a grand effect against General M'Clellan, can be set right in the minds of half the people who have read the "report" of the committee.

"False in one false in all," is the old law maxim. One who is convicted of deliberate false witness in a single matter is worthy of no credit in any portion of his statements. If this rule were applied to the committee, and it must be applied by any one who would weigh the value of the report, what becomes of them?

Let us take a single instance of the most glaring kind. The committee, in the opening of their report, state as follows in regard to the organization of the army into corps:

"The President and the Secretary of War concurred with them in the necessity of such a measure; but it did not seem to be regarded with much favor by General M'Clellan. Indeed, General M'Clellan stated to your committee, at the time of their conference with him, that, although it might at some time be expedient to divide the army into any corps, the subject was one of great difficulty. He said it was a delicate matter to appoint major generals before they had been tried by actual service, and had shown their fitness to be selected to command 30,000 or 40,000 men. A major general could not be stowed away in a pigeon-hole, if he should prove incompetent, so easily as a brigadier general. He proposed, therefore, to himself manage this entire army in some battle or campaign, and then select from the brigadier generals in it such as should prove themselves competent for higher commands.—Consequently, the division of the army into army corps was not even began until after the movement of the army in March had commenced, and then only in pursuance of the direct *and repeated* orders of the President.

"*General M'Clellan, however, continued to oppose the organization of the army into army corps,* as will be seen from the following despatch to him from the Secretary of War, dated May 9, 1862:

"'The President is unwilling to have the army corps organization broken up, but also unwilling that the commanding general shall be trammeled and embarrassed in actual skirmishing, collision with the enemy, and on the eve of an expected great battle. You, therefore, may temporarily suspend that organization in the army under your immediate command, and adopt any you see fit until further orders. He also writes you privately.'"

The provisional corps of General Fitz John Porter and General Franklin were thereupon formed by reducing the other corps from three to two divisions.

We have italicized the more direct misstatements here made. It is of less importance to repeat, what every one knew, that General M'Clellan always favored the organization of army corps, and only wished a proper trial of general officers in order to select competent corps commanders. But what do the committee mean by saying there were *repeated orders* from the President on the subject, and that even after these General M'Clellan *continued to oppose* the plan? The statement is simply untrue. There was never but one order from the President on the subject, and that was issued March 8th, 1862. It was in fact the President's war order No. 2. The number itself would be sufficient to show the wrong done by the committee in stating that there were "repeated orders." And it was promptly obeyed. Let us go back to our memoranda of events and see how promptly.

The following is the order of Gen. M'Clellan, made March 13th, organizing the army corps, only five days after, and referring to the President's order of March 8th. Five days would seem to be a brief time within which to complete the details of so important a change in the entire Army of the Potomac. But when the circumstances are recalled it will be seen how much more was done in those five days, and what was the condition of the army at the time. Here is the order:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
FAIRFAX C H., Va., March 13, 1862

General Orders, No. 101.

In compliance with the President's war order No. 2, of March 8th, 1862, the active portion of the Army of the Potomac is formed into army corps, as follows:

1st corps: Major General Irvin M'Dowell; to consist for the present of the divisions of Franklin, M'Call and King.

2d corps: Brigadier General E. V. Sumner. Divisions: Richardson, Blencker and Sedgwick.

3d corps: Brig. General S. P. Heintzelman. Divisions; F. J. Porter, Hooker and Hamilton.

4th corps: Brig. Gen. E. D. Keyes. Divisions: Couch, Smith and Casey.

5th corps: Major Gen. N. P. Banks. Divisions: Williams and Shields.

The cavalry regiments attached to divisions will, for the present, remain so. Subsequent orders will provide for these regiments, as well as for the reserve artillery, regular infantry and regular cavalry.

Arrangements will be made to unite the divisions of each army corps as speedily as possible. The commanders of divisions will at once report in person, or, where that is impossible, by letter, to the commander of their army corps. By command of

Maj Gen. M'CLELLAN.

A. V. COLBURN, A. A. C.

Now look at the dates and positions. It was on the 9th of March that the information was received leading to the belief that the enemy had evacuated Manassas, and on the 10th the army was in motion on the advance, part of it reaching Fairfax Court House. On the 11th General M'Clellan was in person at Bull Run and Manassas, and the entire army was moving. Obviously this was no time for dividing the army into corps, or even for consultation with generals on the subject. On the night of the 11th or the morning of the 12th, Gen. M'Clellan reached Fairfax Court House, and that day doubtless the elaborate arrangement of corps was made, as indicated by the order published on the 13th. From the best information we have, and a comparison of that information with the order, we can give an intelligible view of the position of the divisions on the 9th, showing this interesting and important fact, that if the various corps had been organized on the 10th, the entire movement towards Manassas would necessarily have been abandoned or seriously delayed, a new arrangement must of necessity have been adopted, and a movement, then regarded by all authorities as most important, seriously embarrassed, if not wholly prevented. In the following line, the extreme right, Sedgwick's Division, was at Harper's Ferry, and the extreme left, Hooker's Division, at Budd's Ferry, the line being therefor not less than seventy miles in length. We have given to each division the number of the corps it was afterward in:

King, 1st corps.	Porter, 3d corps.
Blenker, 2d corps.	Smith, 4th corps.
Franklin, 1st corps.	M'Call, 1st corps.
Richardson, 2d corps.	Couch, 4th corps.
Hamilton, 3d corps.	Casey, 4th corps.
Hooker, 3d corps.	Sedgwick, 2d corps.

Under these circumstances it seems very plain that the compliance of General M'Clellan with the President's only order on the subject was remarkably prompt and efficient.

What the committee mean by stating that General M'Clellan subsequently opposed the plan must be left to that mystery which overhangs all that the committee did not choose to make clear. They intimate that as late as May 9th, the date of a letter from the Secretary of War, the orders of the President remained unattended to and opposed by General M'Clellan! And they very ingeniously, instead of giving any letter from Gen. M'Clellan indicating such opposition, give an extract from a letter of the Secretary of War to him, which shows no such opposition, but on the contrary seems to imply that at that date, on the Peninsula, the general had requested authority to make some temporary change in corps, a request which the President thought proper to grant. It is a strong circumstance against the integrity and fairness of the committee, that instead of giving us the letter of General M'Clellan to establish their point against him, they supress it and give an extract from a reply to it!

While discussing this subject, and reviewing the history of the war by the light of our own collections of historical incidents, our attention is attracted to the very next line of the report we have quoted above. The committee say:

"Your committee endeavored to obtain as accurate information as possible in relation to the strength and position of the enemy in front of Washington. The testimony of the officers in our army here upon that point, however, was far from satisfactory. Early in December an order had been issued from headquarters *prohibiting the commanders in the front from examining any persons who should come into our lines from the direction of the enemy; but all such persons were to be sent, without examination, to the headquarters of the army. Restrictions were also placed upon the movements of scouts. [illegible] that the generals examined appeared to be almost entirely ignorant of the force of the enemy opposed to them, having only such information as they were allowed to obtain at headquarters.*"

We pause astounded at the audacity which penned this paragraph. The order referred to by the committee is on file in every regiment in the army, and doubtless in the proper offices at Washington. Of course, the committee have seen it, or they would not have referred to it. Its terms are precisely the reverse of their statement. It directs all such persons to be examined *first* by the officer commanding the advanced guard, to elicit information important to his particular post of duty; *second*, by the division commander within whose lines they are taken or come; and, *finally*, to be sent to headquarters. Here is the order:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
WASHINGTON, December 16, 1861.

CIRCULAR—

The Major General commanding directs that hereafter all deserters, prisoners, spies, "contrabands," and all other persons whatever coming or brought within our lines from Virginia, shall be taken immediately to the quarters of the commander of the division within whose lines they may come or be brought, without previous examination or communication with any one, except so far as may be necessary for the officer commanding the advanced guard to elicit information regarding his own particular post; that the division commander examine all such persons himself, or delegate such duty to a proper officer of his staff, and allow no other person to hold any communication with them; that he then immediately send them with a sufficient guard to the Provost Marshal in this city for further examination and safe keeping; and that stringent orders be given to all guards having such persons in charge not to hold any communication with them whatever; and further, that the information elicited from such persons shall be immediately communicated to the Major General commanding, or to the chief of his staff, and to no other person whatever.

By command of
Major General M'CLELLAN.

S. WILLIAMS, A. A. G.

And in the face of this order the committee say that the generals had only such information as they were allowed to obtain at headquarters! Another order, equally wise and equally divergent from the committee's statement, was issued a few week's later, which is also on file everywhere, and known to every soldier—for these orders were read aloud to the soldiers in every company. Here it is:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
WASHINGTON, February 26, 1862.

General Orders No. 72.—I. Paragraphs 8 and 9 of General Orders No. 60, current series, from these headquarters, are modified as follows:

All deserters from the enemy, prisoners and other persons coming within our lines, will be taken at once to the provost marshal of the nearest division, who will examine them in presence of the division commander, or an officer of his staff designated for the purpose. This examination will only refer to such information as may affect the division and those near it, especially those more remote from general headquarters. As soon as this examination is completed, and it must be made as rapidly as possible, the person will be sent under a proper guard to the Provost Marshal General, with a statement of his replies to the questions asked. Upon receiving him, the Provost Marshal General will at once send him, with this statement, to the chief of staff of the Army of the Potomac, who will cause the necessary examination to be made. The Provost Marshal General will have the custody of such persons. *Division commanders will communicate to other division commanders all the information thus obtained, which affects them.*

[The remainder of the order refers to other subjects.]

By command of Maj. Gen. M'CLELLAN.
S. Williams, Ass. Adj. Gen.

Could not the committee devise some better excuse for their "inability to obtain accurate information," than thus boldly misrepresenting a recorded truth? It is only too manifest that the committee took no great trouble to obtain accurate information, and it is to be lamented that they have added to their lack of information an excuse founded on such astonishing misrepresentation.

These are not unimportant matters. They go to the very foundation of the report of this committee. They show that it is wholly unworthy of credit, and even the respect due to the mere opinions of impartial men. It is not even founded on evidence. These facts convict the committee, beyond doubt, of such disregard of truth as can only be explained by supposing them to have had an object before them, which they pursued, reckless of future consequences and future exposures like this. Again, we repeat, the cause of our country, of our glorious Union, is terribly impaired, by the course of such men.

LETTER FROM NORFOLK.

Correspondence of the Patriot and Union.

NORFOLK, VA., April 15, 1863.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Having a few spare moments I thought I would improve them by giving you the news. Four companies of our regiment were marched into Norfolk yesterday afternoon to relieve the 19th Wisconsin, which was acting as provost guard. So our four companies are now acting in that capacity, and it is likely our whole regiment will be moved into town. This would be quite a compliment to our boys. The 19th was ordered out with the expectation of a battle going on at Suffolk. They have been skirmishing about Suffolk for the last four days, but with what result is not known here. There are a great many rumors, but nothing reliable. The gun boats along the Blackwater have been shelling the rebels out the woods along the banks of that stream for two days. There was quite an excitement here last Sunday in consequence of an apprehension of attack, but it has somewhat abated.

Yours,

S. K. J.

THE FIGHTING NEAR SUFFOLK, VA.

Correspondence of the New York Herald.

OF THE SIGNAL TOWER (NINETY FEET HIGH) April 14, 1863.—At eleven o'clock the enemy opened from the direction of the Sommerton road with heavy artillery. We replied with our batteries, when the enemy opened with some light field artillery against our left. To this latter fire we responded with our guns from Fort Dix. Another fort next to the right next opened with its guns, and still another one to the right of this again. The enemy replied with moderate rapidity, changing his position as fast as we obtained the range of his guns. Thus the cannonading continued for some little while.

The general scene at this time was one of peculiar interest. On Gen. Terry's front, a short distance forward, were two or three houses in full flames. Our infantry stood up to the breastworks, whilst our skirmishers were deployed for quite a distance forward, all stretched out about [illegible] front. The enemy's skirmishers they had the advantage of rails and other things to protect them, while our men had to lay down and get up in a broad open space—one that we had cleared ourselves—on a smooth open plain. Our infantry reserves held their positions, with cavalry, to the right and left, the camps in the background forming an entire circle, the town in the midst of this, the torturous, winding Nansemond behind this again, with its burthen of white and lead-colored gun boats, and etceteras always incident to scenes of this character. In less than an hour the enemy stopped firing, and fell back one mile. Our cavalry then went out to charge on a piece of artillery limbered up in the road, when a force of rebel sharpshooters rose up in the woods and delivered at them a whole volley.

We could now see that our shots had done some execution, for several of the enemy's horses ran off riderless, while more lay dead in the road. Our cavalry retired, when the enemy advanced again with two sections, and renewed the fight. So plain was the enemy in view that we could see their officers, or cavalrymen, waving their swords and rushing to and fro in haste and almost recklessness. The wind being strong, blowing towards the enemy, a detachment of the Eleventh Pennsylvania cavalry advanced again and set fire to several houses by the roadside. This they did in the coolest and quickest manner possible. Our shells also set fire to some woods near by. By this manœver we caused a dense smoke to blow, so to speak, directly in the face of the enemy's force working their guns. In order to get clear of the smoke the enemy would thus be compelled to move his artillery nearer, or to either side of the road, thereby giving us a better chance for sight and range. After this the firing became less lively, the enemy firing a few shots, then retiring, and then again advancing, and the like. Up to this period the engagement was confined to Acting Brigadier General Foster's and Acting Brigadier General Murphy's (Irish Legion) brigades.

By one o'clock the enemy had ceased firing, doing so only occasionally, and we were shelling them out of the woods.

A train is going to Portsmouth now, and I must close this dispatch. My next one will contain the afternoon's proceedings. We have no news yet of any one killed or seriously wounded.

FROM THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI.—CINCINNATI, April 16.—The expedition which left Helena last Sunday proceeded up the St. Francis river, Arkansas, a distance of sixty miles, scoured the country, and had skirmishes with rebel cavalry, in which they killed three, captured thirty, and then returned to Helena.

A large number of troops were embraking at helena for Vicksburg, at the last accounts. The greatest activity prevails.

Adjutant General Thomas made a speech to General M'Pherson's brigade, at Lake Providence, the other day. He told the soldiers that the President had clothed him with the fullest power to inaugurate the administration policy touching negroes, who were to be received within our lines, clothed, fed and armed. He had authority to dismiss any man, be his rank what it may, who maltreats this unfortunate race. This was the policy of the administration. The President had set his foot down and was not going to take it up.

[illegible] CO.

NEGROES TO [illegible] AND NAVY

ERS.—The [illegible] DICTIONARY.

Just received [illegible] for sale at

SCHEFFER'S BOOKSTORE.

LOOKING GLASSES.—A Splendid Assortment of New Looking Glasses, just received, at W. KNOCHE'S Music Store, 93 Market street, where they will be sold cheap. Call and examine. mr13

SMOKED SALMON.—A choice supply for sale by WM. DOCK, jr., & Co.