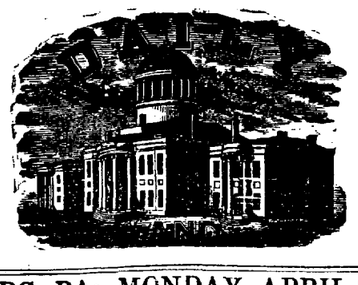
Patriot  Union.

VOL. 5—NO. 197. HARRISBURG, PA:, MONDAY, APRIL 20 1863. PRICE TWO CENTS.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., 1862.

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jy31-dly

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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 there ore 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 186 , and in the eighty-seventh year of the independence of the United States

J. D. ROAR, Sheriff

HAMS, DRIED BEEF BOLOGNA SAUSAGES, TONGUES, &c., for sale low, by WM DOCK, Jr., & Co

The Patriot & Union.

MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 20, 1863.

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE STATES.

The following is the report of the minority of the Committee on Federal Relations of the Senate of Pennsylvania, made by Messrs. CLYMER and LAMBERTON, on the 6th inst., recommending the calling of a Convention of the States, with a view to a settlement of our National difficulties:

MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned, a minority of the Committee on Federal Relations, of the Pennsylvania Senate, to which sundry petitions of citizens of this Commonweath were referred, praying that steps may be taken to secure a convention of the United States, dissenting from the report of the majority of said committee, make the following report:

The petitions referred to the committee are numerously signed, and relate to a subject of high importance. In the opinion of the undersigned, they are entitled to fair treatment and respectful consideration; and there is no ground for imputing improper motives to any of those who have proposed or signed them.—They propose a course of action perfectly conformed to the Constitution—one, in fact, expressly provided for by that instrument—and were doubtless inspired by an earnest, sincere desire for the peace, reunion and prosperity of the United States.

The undersigned cannot discern the insuperable difficulties opposed to the holding of a convention within a reasonable time, supposed to exist by the majority of the Commonwealth. The statement made by them that amendments cannot be adopted before the latter part of the year 1865, would seem to be quite unfounded. Congress can itself propose amendments by a two-thirds vote, and upon application made by two-thirds of the States, is required to call a convention for the purpose of framing them. Two-thirds of both Houses of Congress, or a convention convened at the instance of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States, can at any time submit any proposition of amendment to the States, which, upon ratification by three-fourths of them, will become a part of the Constitution. In the Legislature of any State desirous of obtaining amendments, two courses of action are open: first, by memorial to Congress, or by resolutions of instruction and request to the Senators and Representatives of the State, in favor of the exercise by Congress of its power to submit amendments; and, second, by making a formal application to Congress to call a convention.

In this State, the Legislature being now in session, either course of action may be taken at once, and all delay avoided so far as she is concerned, and doubtless such action taken here would have large influence in other States. Already Kentucky has demanded a convention, and action looking to the same end has been had in other States. If Pennsylvania should now raise her voice for a convention, it would give impetus to the movement and probably secure its success.

The majority of the committee allude to the fact that in some of the States the regular sessions of the Legislature are *biennial*, from which they infer that there would be great delay in their acting upon this subject. But in any case where a *biennial* session falls within the present year, the objection falls, and where the fact is otherwise, the Governor of the State can convene the Legislature.—Besides, the States so circumstanced are few in number.

It may be further remarked, that in all the States the Legislatures can be convened by the Governors, and that in most of them, they meet in regular session within the current year.

It is manifest, therefore, that the majority of the committee have fallen into error in stating the time necessary to procure amendments to the Constitution under the article of that instrument which provides for them. Neither the Constitution of the United States, nor those of the States, prevent the formation of amendments within a reasonable time.

It is true that the Governors and Legislatures of many States, may be opposed to the proposition of a convention, and by reason thereof, it may be delayed or defeated. But we have here a question not of possibility or power, but of inclination or will in official and public bodies which it is the very object of the petitioners to incline to their own views, and as two-thirds of the State Legislatures can command a convention, the petitioners may be hopeful of attaining their object and stand justified in pursuing it.

The Constitution was framed by a convention and provides for its own amendment through the same agency. The true question, therefore, raised by the petitioners is, ought such body to be convened? The majority of the committee answer this question by denying the propriety or necessity of amendments.—They seem satisfied to resolve the whole subject of our national existence and the future relations of the States into a mere question of force, and to reject all the instrumentalities for securing the system established by our fathers. It follows, that if their one remedy for division should be found insufficient the Union is to remain broken and separate, and probably hostile powers are to be established upon the ruins of the republic. But such result would be intolerable, and every honorable means for preventing it should be resorted to.

Were a convention now held the following States, heretofore classed as Southern, would be represented therein, to wit: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri. These, added to the eighteen Northern, Western and Pacific States, would make twenty-four, or more than two-thirds of the whole number of the States, including the seceded ones. It is possible, also, that Louisiana and other existing States South, not named above would soon participate in the proceedings, as would certainly any new State admitted into the Union in the west, (Colorado or Nevada, for instance, an act preparatory to the admission of which came near being passed at the last session of Congress.) At all events, if success should attend the Federal arms in South Carolina, Arkansas and Texas, during the coming months of the present year, the Union sentiment of those States would be developed and organized by the pendancy of this measure of a convention, and their strength would probably be won to our cause. And doubtless over the whole field of the struggle the measure would strengthen the cause of the Union and weaken the cause of those opposed to its reconstruction.

A convention would afford an opportunity to the conservatives and true Union men of the country (who are in a great majority) to take direct action upon our public affairs and secure them from the hands of extreme and violent interests; to stop the effusion of blood and the accumulation of debt, to re-establish the Union firmly upon the consent of the States composing it; and "to provide safeguards against future convulsions and wars."

[Signed,] HIESTER CLYMER,
C. L. LAMBERTON.

The committee submit the following preamble and resolutions for adoption:

WHEREAS, Angry sectional controversy, long indulged, has culminated in the assumed secession of a number of the States of the Union, and in a civil war which has already raged for nearly two years with unsurpassed violence and carnage, wasting the lives and substance of the people of both sections, and filling the land with misery and lamentations;

And whereas, A continuance of a Union of all the States is indispensable to the peace and welfare of the people, as well as to the attainment of a great nationality;

And whereas, It is believed that ordinary measures of legislation may prove insufficient to remove the primary causes of the present strife, or to adjust the complications which have arisen therefrom:

And whereas, The fifth article of the Constitution of the United States provides that "the Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to the Constitution, or, on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of this Constitution when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by Congress;" be it therefore

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States be, and hereby is petitioned, to make provision for calling a convention of States, as authorized by the fifth article of the Constitution of the United States; the object of which convention shall be to inquire into the causes of the present afflictions of the nation, and if any just ground of complaint is found to exist, to so amend the Constitution as to remove such causes; securing thereby a more perfect Union of the States, a better understanding of the relations which the States bear to the Federal Government, "establishing justice, insuring domestic tranquility," and doing such other things not inconsistent with the spirit and genius of the present form of government, as may be deemed necessary "to promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to forward copies of the foregoing resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to each of the Governors of the several States claiming to be in the Union.

THE CITIZEN'S DUTY.

From the Journal of Commerce.

While the events of the war go on, under this or that management, with failure after failure characterizing the successive months of its tedious duration, it becomes patriots, as we have so often before urged, to cultivate patience, and earnestly devote themselves to saving the government from destruction. How to do it is the question. The reply is found in reference to each individual citizen in his own sphere; and personal responsibility for personal conduct must determine the course of every war. The work which the citizen has to do at home is another and a different work from that which the soldier has to perform in the field. It is one of the worst heresies of the day which teaches that we have committed the fate of our nation to the military power, and that we have nothing to do at home but to sustain that power. The same heresy has destroyed nations before, and if it should become universal here, would destroy our own country. We have other duties to do aside from preserving and pushing forward our military organizations. We have other work to do besides making war. However important, however vital to the national life may be that department of national duty, it remains nevertheless true that there are other equally vital duties, other equally important subjects of patriotic labor. It is madness to teach that when the ship is drifting on rocks there is no danger from fire; that when an enemy is boarding the vessel at the bow, it is unnecessary to watch the helm and save the ship from going on the breakers. The rebellion is not our only national danger. It is not certain that if the rebellion is crushed we shall save the American Union, and the Constitution which makes us a nation. Eternal vigilance is the duty of the patriot. War times are the dangerous times for national life, from other causes than the open enemy. Hence it is a terrible error which men make who would have all other patriotic and personal duties absorbed in the one duty of sustaining the war. Hence it is that the clergy make a grand, almost a fatal error, who lay aside the ordinary duties of the clergy, forget for the time the ordinary province of the church, for the sake of devoting their force to aiding in the war. Hence it is that politicians make an unpardonable error who say that we have nothing to do with the course of the administration in this or that matter; that we ought to subject all public and private rights and remedies to the one idea of sustaining the administration in its efforts to crush the rebellion.

It is not unnatural that strong partisanship should lead men into this error, but we earnestly ask men to consider it carefully. View it, for instance, in this light. Imagining the war continuing as now up to the close of the administration of Mr. Lincoln, and that a new President should be elected who represents the so-called "copperheads." It is not impossible. Up to the morning of the fourth of March the doctrine of sustaining the acts of the administration without question might seem to be a very plausible doctrine; but how would it be in the afternoon of that day? How the next morning? How, if the new administration should decide, and act on the decision, that the best method of saving the Union was to offer terms of peace and compromise to the rebels?

There is none of the divine right of kings in the President and his Cabinet. The voice of the administration is not the voice of an autocrat—its decrees are not the law of the land. That government which survives changing Cabinets and successive administrations, that sovereignty which demands our support in every varying phase of public politics, is the will of the American people, expressed in constitutions of States and of the United States, and the duty of the patriot is to sustain that government, against every form of enmity, every kind of treason.

The constitutional acts of the administration require the support of the citizen. Those acts are the voice of the sovereign people. The right to criticise, to advise, to assent or dissent, remains, because the people have declared that that right shall remain and not be infringed on; and the rights which the constitutions secure to individuals are as much the objects of our patriotic defence, require as faithful watch, as thorough protection, as devoted support, as we owe to the grand Union of States itself. While the administration carries on the war to preserve the Union against the attacks of rebellion, the citizen at home must not only look to that danger, but must see to it that the other dangers, which always threaten a free people, do not make headway and become invincible.

Of these dangers, not a few lie in the minds of the people. It is a terrible characteristic of our times that wrong views of the country, wrong views of government, wrong estimates of the American system, effect a lodgment in the minds of men. Let a political party instil into the minds of the people a grand heresy on the subject of the Constitution, and they will destroy the Union as effectually as any armed rebellion could destroy it. Moral weapons are as powerful against the American Constitution as the cannon of Fort Sumpter. Bad political principles at the North are no less to be feared and resisted than the bayonets of Lee's army on the Rappahannock.

When men fairly awake to this truth we shall see true patriotism becoming more powerful, more faithful, and we shall have more cause of hope for the Union and Constitution. It is our aim to teach the people true political doctrines. We believe that the fathers devised the best form of republican popular government that the world has known. We see that it rests, as all popular government must rest, on the intelligence of the people; on their appreciation of the principles that vitalize it. A splendid steamship, *falling into the hands of a* tribe of savages, would be of less value to them than a canoe, and if they attempted to use it they would inevitably destroy it and themselves. The invention of our fathers is only to be kept useful and valuable by teaching the American people the principles on which it must work, if it works at all. A republican government like ours, a constitution like our Constitution, falling into the hands and under the management of a party who do not understand, or who repudiate the grand compromise principles on which alone it can be successfully worked, is precisely like the steamship in the hands of men who know nothing about steam. It is a beautiful fabric, a magnificent combination of powers, and a splendid engine, but the men who ignorantly handle it will carry themselves and all who sail with them to perdition.

Instruct the people. Study the great principles of American institutions. Teach the grand truth that union among men depends on concession on both sides—on all sides. Stand firm by every principle of American law. Support the States, and the United States, and be patient when the times look dark, as now.

A BLOODY QUARREL IN FASHIONABLE LIFE.—In New York city, recently, a man named Browning commenced suit against a Wall street broker for criminal acquaintance with his wife. The wife made and published an affidavit, exhonorating the broker, and charging her husband with an attempt to black mail. When Browning read it he was seized with uncontrolable fury, hunted up the woman, and told her she must die. She declared that she did not know the contents of the affidavit she had subscribed, and the broker's lawyer had misrepresented it to her. Browning did not believe the story. Drawing a Bowie knife, he attempted to cut her throat. She seized the weapon and wrested it from him, though her hand was nearly severed. He drew a pistol and snapped it at her as she fled, but the charge did not explode. She took refuge in a lawyer's office. He pursued her with a knife in his hand, but was seized before he could do her any harm, and ejected. Subsequently, he walked up and down in front of the residence of the broker for several hours, with a loaded revolver, waiting for him to make his appearance. Finally he was put under arrest. He still vows that he will be revenged at the first opportunity.

THE ROBBERY OF THE NAVY YARD SAFE.—No clue has yet been obtained, so far as can be publicly known, to the perpetrator of the recent robbery of the navy yard safe, and the circumstances that are developed indicate that the work was performed by an expert, whom it may be very difficult, if not impossible, to detect. That $90,000 were left in the safe because the bills were small and would be cumbersome, while the notes of higher denomination, amounting to $130,000, were all carried off, is a suggestive fact, and what is most singular is that during part of the night, as we are credibly informed, no watchmen were on duty. It is certain that the robber was well acquainted with all the facts, and had occupied much time in preparation. A reward of $10,000 is offered by Admiral Paulding for the recovery of the stolen money.—*N. Y. Post.*

The New York *World*, of the 17th, says that a court of inquiry convened yesterday at the Brooklyn navy yard for the purpose of investigating the circumstances attending the robbery of the paymaster's department. Paymaster Belknap has been removed from the yard and Purser Barry ordered in his place.

REMARKABLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—An employee of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad relates the following remarkable accident and escape: A day or two since, as a train was going east over the above road, and was moving along at a pretty rapid rate, near Harper's Ferry, the engineer observed a two-horse ambulance crossing the track a short distance ahead. The engine had just turned a curve, and was so close upon the vehicle that the train could not be stopped. The horses had crossed the track, but the ambulance was just fairly upon it, when the pilot struck the vehicle between the front and hindmost wheels. As strange as it may seem, the horses were instantly separated from the ambulance, and the vehicle was lifted up and squarely seated upon the bumpers of the engine, where it remained until the train was stopped. The ambulance contained a sick soldier and four or five officers, none of whom were injured in the slightest degree. The horses also escaped unhurt. It was regarded as one of the most remarkable escapes on record.

The New York *Tribune* relates that: "A paymaster's clerk recently made this proposition to a capitalist of this city: 'Lend me twenty thousand dollars. I can make fifteen per cent. a month on that amount in this way. In our office we pay two hundred thousand dollars a month to soldiers. The funds are not always on hand as the pay falls due. When they are not, I can generally purchase the soldier's claims at fifteen per cent. discount. In order to do it I must resign my clerkship; but I have a brother in the office, and through him I can always learn when and how to invest. There is no risk of capital, the profits are sure, and I will share them with you.' We have this account from the person to whom the offer was made. He indignantly declined it as a swindle of the basest kind—a proposition to cheat the Government and defraud the soldier. Others, however, were less scrupulous, and the clerk speedily effected an arrangement with a firm considered respectable, and their joint operations are probable at this moment in full tide of success."

Never take a nap in a railroad carriage. Cos why? the train always runs over sleepers.

Is a soldier supposed to be raw until he has been exposed to fire?

ATTEMPT TO CONSOLIDATE WHITE AND BLACK REGIMENTS.

THE WHITES REFUSE TO OBEY AND ARE ARRESTED AND DISARMED BY THE BLACKS.

Sometime ago we published a paragraph stating the fact that at both Baton Rouge and Ship Island there had been trouble, growing out of the attempt to consolidate white and black regiments. The particulars of the occurrence at Ship Island are clearly stated by a correspondent of the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*. How the difficulty has been settled, or whether settled at all, we do not know. The correspondent of the *Republican* says:

As the experiment of organizing negro regiments has been instituted by the government, its progress and results are a matter of great interest; and having had an opportunity to witness the efforts to enforce the principle of military equality of such regiments, I will volunteer to give you its history.

For several months past the military post of Ship Island has been garrisoned by two companies of the 13th Maine regiment, under command of Col. Henry Rust. Recently, the 2d Louisiana regiment of black volunteers was ordered to rendezvous at this Island; and Col. Rust was ordered to transfer the command of the post to their commanding officer, Col. N. W. Daniels. Col. Rust and staff, as ordered, repaired to Fort Jackson, leaving behind him on the island the two companies of the 13th Maine.

Upon assuming command of the post, Col. Daniels issued orders commanding the consolidation of the two companies of whites with his regiment of blacks. He ordered them to attend battalion drill, and be consolidated at dress parade. In camp and guard duties black captains were placed over white lieutenants, and thus white officers and black, white privates and black, in one black column blent, obsequiously doing honor to black equals and superiors, were to inaugurate the reign of ebony. The recognition required was not merely the passing salute and modes and forms of military etiquette, but an equal military equality, with its accompanying honors and obedience.

Against the orders so consolidating them with blacks, the officers of the two white companies earnestly protested. But their protest being unheeded and unanswered, after a suitable delay, they finally refused to obey the orders. They refused to take their companies to battalion drill or appear on dress parade; they refused also to detail guard to be commanded by negroes. They were arrested, and the command of the companies finally devolved upon the orderly sergeants. By the sergeant's offering to detail guard, the question was put directly to the members of the companies whether they would do duty as guard under negro officers. Following the example of their officers, the men peremptorily refused. Whereupon the men were ordered under arrest, their muskets and equipments taken from them, and black guards stationed around their appointed quarters.

The execution of the order for arresting the companies was one of the most humiliating scenes I ever witnessed. As a precaution against disturbance, the black regiment was ordered under arms and muskets loaded. Two companies of blacks, with their black officers, marched to the quarters of the disobedient soldiers, and called upon them to surrender themselves as prisoners. Instead of resisting, the men obeyed the summons in a spirit characteristic of the intelligent New England soldier, who knows how to obey, but knows, too, the philosophy of resistance to injustice. Silently they marched in front of their negro masters, stacked their arms, hung their accoutrements upon their glittering bayonets, and turned sadly away, while their black captors bore away their arms with feelings and expressions of glee, as if they were trophies of conquest.

As the ebony band returned from their work, their comrades in camp welcomed them with shouts of triumph. By a single word or act on the part of the white officers, a scene of riot and bloodshed would have been the sequel.—But wiser counsels prevailed, and officers and men quietly submitted themselves as prisoners to those with whom they would not serve as soldiers or acknowledge as equals.

DEATH OF BILL WILSON, THE GUERRILLA.—A warning example as to what domestic war will do for a community was afforded in Gilmer county the other day. The notorious Bill Wilson, formerly of Upshur county, a well known guerrilla and horse thief, together with a man by the name of Davidson, one of his partners, went to the house of Mrs. Varner, a widow lady, who lives on the Sand Fork of the Kanawha, on a plundering expedition. He was seen approaching the house, and, as soon as seen, a son of Mrs. Varner, quite a youth, suspecting Wilson's errand, took out his revolver and gave it to his sister, in order to prevent being robbed of it, at the same time telling her to keep close by him, and be ready to hand him the pistol if he should require it. As soon as Wilson reached the house, he set about looking up something valuable to steal. After rifling about for some time he found a dress hanging on the wall, in the pocket of which was some sixty dollars in money. The money was sewed up in the pocket. He took out his knife to cut it open. Just as he was in the act of doing so, young Varner gave his sister the sign, and she handed him the revolver. He took it and fired at Wilson, hitting him in the back near the shoulder blade, but not injuring him fatally. As soon as thought, Wilson turned about and attempted to draw his pistol from his belt. Before he could do so, however, young Varner got another shot, full aim at him, and struck him fatally in the breast. Wilson pitched out of the door, and dropped dead at Varner's feet.

In the meantime, Davidson, Wilson's partner, outside, who had a Union prisoner in charge, became alarmed at the fate which Wilson had met, and got ready to escape. Before he could do so, however, his prisoner picked up Wilson's gun, which had been left outside the house, and shot at him, wounding him slightly. Davidson, however, got off, taking to the woods, and was afterward traced a considerable way by his blood.—*Wheeling Intelligencer.*

LABOR TO BE PROTECTED.—The Illinois Legislature passed a law at the late session making it a penal offence for one class of laborers or mechanics to interfere with others while engaged at their ordinary toil. Men, in their individual capacity, or as an association, have an undoubted right to charge what they please for their service, and proprietors and bosses have the same right to employ or dismiss their men. The trouble has been that when a "strike" occurred, the "strikers" would not let others who, exercising an inalienable right, for any reason chose, to take the places of those who had left them, or who had been discharged.—All interference of the kind the law very justly makes a penal offence.

A darkey's [illegible] ing on a cord were, "Fust de right arm, den de lef, and den gib one general conwulshun."