Columbia Democrat

EDITED BY LEVI L. TATE, PROPRIETOR.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1861.

OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG.

God of our Fathers! in thy name
We nail our Standard to the mast—
To conquer or to die. We claim
No greater honor. While the blast
Of civil strife sweeps o'er the land,
We'll strike the foe who dares to mar
Our lovely ensign, and we'll stand
A wall of fire to guard each star.

Let us then twine each thread of the glorious tissue of our country's flag about our heart-strings, and looking upon our homes, and catching the spirit that breathes upon us from the battle-fields of our fathers, let us resolve that, come weal or woe, we will in life and death, now and forever, stand by the stars and stripes. They have floated over our cradles, let it be our prayer and our struggle that they shall float over our graves. They have been unfurled from the snows of Canada to the plains of New Orleans, and to the halls of the Montezumas, and amid the solitudes of every sea; and everywhere, as the luminous symbol of resistless and beneficent power, they have led the brave and the free to victory and to glory. It has been my fortune to look upon this flag in foreign lands and amid the gloom of an oriental despotism, and right well do I know, by contrast how bright are its stars, and how sublime are its inspirations! If this banner, the emblem for us of all that is transporting in human hope, is to be sacrificed on the altars of a Satanic ambition, and thus disappear forever amid the night and tempest of revolution, then will I feel—and who shall estimate the desolation of that feeling!—that the sun has indeed been stricken from the sky of our lives, and that henceforth we shall be but wanderers and outcasts, with nought but the bread of sorrow and of penury for our lips, and with hands ever outstretched in feebleness and supplication, on which in any hour, a military tyrant may rivet the fetters of a despairing bondage. May God in his infinite mercy save you and me, and the land we so much love, from the doom of such a degradation."—*Joseph Holt.*

"Flag of the free heart's only home!
By angel-hands to valor given—
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in heaven.
Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe, but falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us!"

Democratic State Executive Committee.

A meeting of the Democratic State Executive Committee will be held at the Buehler House, HARRISBURG, on Wednesday January 15, 1862, at 3 o'clock P. M.
Democratic papers in the State will please copy.
WILLIAM H. WELSH, Chairman.

The Trumbull Resolution.

Many of our exchanges are commending the Resolution of Senator Trumbull calling for information regarding the arrests made in the northern States under the direction of the Secretary of State (Mr. Seward), and commending also the remarks made by him in its support. The resolution was under consideration in the Senate Dec. 16th, when, (obviously to avoid a direct vote), it was referred to the committee on the judiciary by a vote of 25 to 17. This avoidance of direct action indicates the embarrassment of Senators, and confirms the belief that the arrests in question were illegal and unjustifiable.

Mr. Trumbull describes the power of arbitrary seizure of persons, as practised by the Administration, as "a despotic power—the essence of despotism—where the President, by the click of the telegraph, can order the arrest of any one in the loyal States;" and he very pertinently remarks that in the loyal States "the courts are in operation, and it is for them to arrest and not the General Government."

It has never been a doubtful point that these arrests are in violation of the Constitution and of private right. That our citizens should hold their liberty subject to a telegraphic despatch of the President or any member of his Cabinet, is a doctrine too monstrous for toleration and it must be speedily and forever abandoned. The attack upon it by a leading Republican Senator, indicates the general and deliberate sentiment of the country, which is, that the rights of the citizen are held under the Constitution and laws and not at the pleasure of any official whatsoever.

☞ We are glad to see President Lincoln's war policy as developed up to this point, so heartily endorsed by the conservative press and people of the North. Of course Greeley and Beecher and Fred Douglass and Dr. John desire to free the "nigger" and put him in the ranks, shoulder to shoulder with our brave soldiers; but "Old Abe" wont let 'em, and therefore they howl and mourn. Before the war abolitionists insisted that the slaves were an element of weakness; they now find that slaves are an element of power to the South. So much for their knowledge.—Now abolitionists insist that free niggers would weaken the South. What would they do with four millions of free niggers?

☞ Under democratic administrations the idea of a national debt gave all the opposition papers the cholic; now while Secretary Chase says that, on the 1st July 1863, if the war continues, "we shall have a national debt of nine hundred millions of dollars;" they protest that they "are not in the least dismayed at the announcement." We presume this is upon the supposition that the democrats will directly after, come into power, and be obliged to devise ways and means to pay the debt.—That is the result of the cry—retrenchment, reform-peace.

☞ The Philadelphia Evening *Bulletin* favors Cameron's amalgamation of "niggers" and "white men," in the army; but thinks it would be a great mistake to amalgamate the *volunteers and regulars*, all white, now composing the federal forces. Beautiful consistency!

☞ The *Charleston Mercury* says, that five hundred and seventy-six buildings were destroyed by the late conflagration in that ill fated City. Loss 7,000,000!

Charles R. Buckalew.

The many friends and admirers of this gentleman are pleased to learn that he has returned to his home in Columbia county, after representing the United States in Equador, with his health re-established. We know of no man in the State of Pennsylvania who is better entitled to the designation of STATESMAN than CHARLES R. BUCKALEW—and we use the term in the highest and best sense as distinguished from the mere politician, manager or intriguer. He is a man who recalls the former and better days of the republic, when individual merit and capacity were the only recognized passports to public position—before political schemers made a trafic of politics by introducing the debasing and corrupting practices through which inferior men have literally purchased stations for which they are totally unfitted by nature, character or education. As a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania, Mr. BUCKALEW displayed capacity of the highest order, and was recognized as the leading mind of that body when it contained men of whom the State had reason to be proud. Always cool and dispassionate, he brought a vigorous intellect to bear upon every public question, and invariably commanded the respect and attention of his opponents, if he did not succeed in convincing their judgment. The readiness and throughness with which he discussed every subject, no matter how suddenly sprung upon his attention, excited remark and admiration; and so exhaustive were his arguments that they always bore to observers the impress of careful study and preparation. In the midst of the most exciting debates his perfect coolness and the entire absence of personal feeling were conspicuous characteristics. During 7 years service in the Senate, though he took a leading part in every important debate, we doubt whether he ever said a word calculated to wound the feelings of any of his antagonists or to excite personal animosity towards himself—thus showing the temper as well as the intellect of a statesman.

Mr. BUCKALEW is not the style of a man to intrigue and form combinations for the purpose of attaining public position.—He will be recommended by nothing but merit of the highest order; and if the Democratic party should ever have the opportunity of sending him to the United States Senate, we trust that they will not neglect it, for he would take a foremost position in any deliberative body in the world, and be a credit to the State and the nation.

In responding most heartily and cordially to the foregoing, from the Harrisburg *Patriot & Union*, we do not mean to discourage those Democrats who believe Mr. BUCKALEW the fittest man in the State to fill the office of Governor, as well as the most available candidate for the position. We know that this is not in consonance with his own feelings, but it really seems to us as though the public interests demand it at this time. At least the public make a mistake when they allow a States man of his ability, firmness and purity to remain in private life.

The York Gazette.—Hon. Wm. H. Welsh, of the firm of *Small & Welsh*, has retired from the Gazette, and is succeeded by his junior brother, John B. Welsh, and the paper is continued by Small and Welsh. The Gazette is an excellent and influential democratic journal. We wish the concern continued prosperity and increased success.

Hon. WM. H. WELSH, the retiring Editor, has located in Philadelphia, with the view of engaging in the practice of the Law, and—it is said,—of establishing, in connection with A. J. Glossbrenner, a Daily Democratic Paper.

☞ *The Working Farmer & United States Journal*, published monthly at the corner of Beekman & Nassau Streets, New York, for one dollar a year, and edited by Prof. Mapes; is one of the best agricultural papers going. We have read the Nos. before us with great interest. Agriculture is daily becoming more important, every man desires to get the most out of his land; and in order to succeed at last, he must farm scientifically. Prof. Mapes is the best authority on the subject, and in the *Working Farmer*, you get the benefit of his knowledge.

☞ Wednesday next will bring us Christmas. Happy are they—and we hope it may be so with every family in our land—who shall be partakers of its joyous hilarities and festivities. And to all our patrons, we tender the compliments of the season, wishing them a "merry Christmas and happy New Year."

Our Devil—i. e., the Carrier of the Democrat—wishes us to apprize his friends, that on New Year's Day, he will present them with his Annual Address.

☞ The New York CAUCASIAN, by order of the Post Office Department, has been excluded from circulating in the mails. Dr. Van Evrie, the Editor, says—we trust that the exclusion of the Caucasian, from the mails will only be temporary, and adds, that the matter will soon be brought before Congress. We deem this explanation due to the subscribers of the "Caucasian."

THE STATE LEGISLATURE will meet at Harrisburg, on the first Tuesday—being the 7th day—of next January.

Free Speech—Free Niggers Fre—mont.

As we stated last week, the anti-administration, free nigger, Fre-mont, abolition organ over the way, has at last thrown off the mask—goes in for emancipation and arming the slaves. To that *complexion* has it come at last; and it now stands in as direct hostility to the administration as Garrison, Beecher, and Greeley. It will not surprise the people of our county—they have been expecting it. The abuse in advance which it heaps upon those who do not agree with it, is merely to stave off criticism and exposure. But it shall not so escape. It shall not with impunity embarras the administration. The Democrats and conservative republicans will endorse Mr. Lincoln's war policy as far as developed. Let the abolitionists howl!—We refer Dr. John for a scorching exposure of his doctrine to the New York *World*, a republican paper. Read it:

A Craven Cry.

"*The Secesh are upon us! Ho! niggers, to the rescue!*" Can it be believed that there are American freemen dastardly enough to raise a cry like that? There is not a day we do not hear it. It is bawled at every point of the compass, and comes down to us from even the sacred walls of the Capitol. They demand emancipation as a military necessity. In effect we are told that the twenty millions of the North are no match for the six millions of the South—that we are doomed to defeat, unless we get the help of the black man. They do not like to have it put just in that style, but it amounts to exactly that.—Short of that, their "military necessity" would be a misnomer, and their claim to abolitionise under the war power the baldest pretext. We say that a viler insult was never dealt upon the Northern name. The worst libel ever uttered by Southern slave-drivers does not equal it. If it be true that, with such numerical odds in our favor, and with the noblest cause that ever appealed to man, we must crave the succor of slaves; if we must look to the poor, blind, creeping African to help vindicate our birthright and stay us up in our extremity, then let it be recorded, we are "mudsills" indeed. There is no word of scorn too low for us. We cannot court the alliances of slaves without proving that we are ourselves fit to be slaves. It is our heritage that is assailed, not theirs; and if our own good right arms, with all the advantage they have, cannot protect it, we may as well at once advertise our degeneracy to the world, and prepare to take our place as underlings. Emancipation as *a military necessity*! A MILITARY NECESSITY! If emancipation must come, for the honor of our fathers, for our own independence, for the prospects of our children, for the good name of free government, and for the dignity of the white race, let it take any shape but that.—*World.*

☞ The Petersons, Philadelphia, publish Rifle-Ward Beecher's "Thanksgiving Sermon," entitled, "War and Emancipation." Beecher does the State one service, in admitting that, constitutionally, neither Congress nor the President can abolish slavery; but he is undoubtedly wrong in holding that it can be done as a "military necessity," in spite of constitutional difficulties. We need not argue the point, it is enough to state it. Mr. Beecher is right again when he admits that *slaves* are "property"—a proposition that was scouted by republicans a few years, nay months ago—but he is arguing like a school-boy when he claims that *slave property* should be treated by the government differently from any other property. *Property is property*, neither more nor less. If cotton, or horses belonging to the rebels come into the hands of the Federal government it is sold, and the proceeds go to defraying the expenses of the war; but Beecher claims that when you get the same amount of property in a "nigger" you must "*emancipate*" it. The *pate* of Beecher is addled upon the nigger question. Beecher is wrong again when he says that *emancipation* "chimes with northern popular impulse." That thing was tried before the late northern elections; and the result was a most tremendous defeat of these republicans. We gave the figures a few weeks ago.

On the whole the sermon is unfair, illogical and to a certain extent untrue; but the days of abolitionism are over. "Old Abe" has killed 'em off—Whar's Fremont?

Beautiful Photographs.—Mr. J. P. LEISENRING, at his Ambrotype Gallery, in Danville, takes as correct and life-like Ambrotype, Photograph and Melainotype impressions as can be obtained in Philadelphia. We have some of his specimens before us, and feel pretty sure, they cannot be surpassed. Our friends can read his Card in the columns of the Democrat.

☞ The friends of the Rev. Isaiah Bahl, of Berwick, says the *Gazette*, will pay him a donation visit on Wednesday the 8th of January next. The visit will no doubt be an extensive one. The Rev. has a wide circle of friends. Mr. B., we are sorry to announce, is in very delicate health.

☞ Secretary Cameron's report, proposing to change State lines, looks to consolidation, an old Federal heresy; Secretary Chase's report proposing that the Government shall issue notes for general circulation, "amounts nearly to the creation of a national Bank," says the *Bulletin*—which is also an old Federal heresy.

☞ SAMUEL ULICKS, of Danville, on Monday last slaughtered a pig 22 months old, which, when dressed, weighed 716 pounds.

Lieut. C. B. Brockway.

This excellent young democrat and brave soldier, who early last Spring enlisted in the "*Iron Guards*," and marched to the defense of his country, and was soon promoted to a First Lieutenancy, in virtue of his bravery and merits, has just returned to Bloomsburg for the purpose of recruiting men to be attached to Battery F., First Pennsylvania Artillery. Lieut. Brockway arrived on last Monday, and on Tuesday, passed up to visit his parents and sister, at Beach Haven, whence he has returned to spend a few days with his numerous friends in Bloomsburg, where perchance he may "frown contempt" upon the cowardly miscreants, who at the opening of the rebellion, threatened this ardent young patriot, and others, with rope, tar and feathers. The Editor of the "*Star of the North*," last week, remarked:—

"Not long since, we thought we noticed upon our streets, the self constituted personage who penned the notice to Messrs. TATE, and BROCKWAY, last winter; informing them in a very *illiterate* style, that they should cease their toryism or a coat of tar and feathers would be applied to them. The sneak who wrote the notice is a brainless, stinking Black Republican, one that you can smell before you see him. It would be well did he shoulder his musket and show his patriotism, say nothing about his bravery. The Union would have gone to the d—l long ago if it contained many such unmitigated scoundrels. He talk about Union and patriotism! Mr. Brockway, the young man who was slandered in *that notice* was among the first to enlist to fight our battles; and is at present down along the Potomac, where the bullets frequently whistle past his ears, doing soldier's service; while the foul-mouthed slanderer remains *at home* to abuse his neighbors and vilify Democrats. TATE, the old editor, was elected to the Legislature; and we were made Chairman of the Democratic Standing Committee of Columbia county!

New Goods in Light Street.

We unintentionally omitted last week, to announce—with his Card,—our friend Mr. Ent, has replenished his Cheap Store with choice New Goods. Our people now know where to get bargains. One thing we assure them, and that is, they will find Mr. E. a fair dealer and true gentleman.

The Army correspondent of the *Star of the North*, writing from Camp Curtin, last Tuesday, says:—

"Hon. PETER ENT, paid us a flying visit on Tuesday last; the boys were all glad to see him; and more especially to see and taste the *etceteras* he bestowed upon them. They return him their profound thanks, and hope he may soon return again.

The ladies, too—God bless them—visit us by scores; and with their bright eyes and smiling faces form oasis in the dreary waste of soldier's life. I often think, Mr. Editor, that our national greatness, our glory and renown, are owing principally, to the fact, that no other women under the sun, have made so many and such heavy sacrifices as the American women. Their devotion to their country, its constitution and laws—their patriotic sympathies with the gallant defenders of our homes—their prayers and tears for this land of the free, all, all conspire to convince us that the history of the American women have never been written. It may have been commenced, but passing events go to show that it cannot be finished yet; and God forbid that it should be! How many fair hands have buckled the armor on the one that her heart held most dear, and bade him go forth to battle and assist in subduing the great rebellion or fall upon the altar of liberty, erected in 1776. Again we say God help the patriotic ladies of America.

I am glad to hear that the Commissioners of your county—contrary to report—have done nobly."

THE STATE APPROPRIATION TO COMMON SCHOOLS.—The following circular relative to the State appropriations to the department of common schools has been published by the State Superintendent, T. H. Burrowes, Esq:

An erroneous impression is entertained in some parts of the State that the appropriation for the school year beginning on the first Monday in June, 1961, was withdrawn by the State Legislature and applied to the support of the War. It is therefore, proper to say that our State has not thus disgraced herself. On the contrary, while the amount of appropriation payable per taxable to the districts will be the same as it was the last year, the aggregate appropriations were greater in amount than for any year since 1840.—The appropriations to the districts will, therefore, be paid out as usual, as soon as each shall have filed the proper certificate that the schools were open and in operation according to law at least four months after the first Monday in June, 1861.

☞ The Republicans of Pittsburg, on Tuesday of last week, made the following nominations: Mayor, B. C. Sawyer, Jr.; Controller, John McCargo; Treasurer, William Eichbaum. Ex-Mayor Weaver has favorably responded to a call, signed by the best men in the city, to become an independent Union candidate in opposition to Sawyer. He can be elected.

☞ JAMES M. LAIRD, Esq., the veteran Editor of the *Pennsylvania* (Westmoreland) *Argus*, will be supported by the Western Democracy, for Sergeant-At-Arms, of the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

THE COUNTY BOARD will meet in the Court House, on the first Monday—being the 6th day—of January next, for the purpose of making out the Annual Statement.

☞ Hon. JAMES DEEGAN, one of the Associate Judges elect of Sullivan county, lost his fine new house in Dushore on Sunday night with all its contents by fire.

United States Direct Tax.

The direct tax assessed upon the value of all the real estate in the United States, to raise the annual sum of twenty millions of dollars, says the Philadelphia *Ledger*, has been overlooked by many persons, who seem to be under the impression that there is but one national tax (the income tax) to be paid. By a law of Congress, approved August 5, it was provided, in order to raise the above mentioned annual sum, that each State should be compelled to furnish a certain proportion of that amount, which is to be collected in the following manner; Assessors, appointed by the President and approved by the Senate, will about the first of March next, ascertain the value of each piece of real estate, the valuation being based upon the supposed money value of such property on the first day of April. Property exempt from taxation is that belonging to the United States or any State, or that is permanently or specially exempted from which it is situated. A deduction of five hundred dollars will be made from this valuation. All persons assessing taxable property, or persons having the care or management of such property, will be required to furnish written lists of it to the assessors. A false or fraudulent list will subject the offender to a fine of five hundred dollars. After the estimates are completed, public notice will be given by the assessors where their books may be seen, and corrections may be made. The place at which the payment of taxes will be made, will be published in a newspaper in each district twenty days before the tax becomes due; and if persons neglect to attend, according to notification, the collector will make personal application to them within sixty days after the receipt of the collection lists. If then the taxes are not paid within another twenty days, he has power to collect by distraint. The apportionment for the State of New York is $2,603,918, which will only be about one fifth of one per cent. upon the present valuation of property in the State. The income tax, which will be levied on and after the first of January next, will be three per cent, on incomes above eight hundred dollars, except that portion of such income which is derived from Treasury notes and other United States securities, on which the tax will be one and a half per cent.—The tax is to be assessed on incomes dating from January 1861. In estimating the income all National, State and local taxes, assessed upon property from which the income is derived, will be first deducted. The payment of the tax will be due on or before the thirtieth day of June next and all sums unpaid on that day will be subjected to an interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and in default of payment being made within thirty days thereafter, the collector is authorized to levy the sum on the visible property of the defaulter, and sell it, after due notice has been given. If no visible property is found, the person assessed may be examined on oath, and any stock or bonds he may possess be sold at public auction. A refusal to testify is punishable by imprisonment until the tax is paid.

The Crittenden Resolution.

On the 22d of July last, the House of Representatives, by an almost unanimously vote upon the motion of Hon. J. J. Crittenden, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, that the present deplorable civil war has been forced upon the country by the disunionists of the Southern States, now in revolt against the constitutional government and in arms around the Capitol; that in this national emergency Congress banishing all feelings of mere passion or resentment, will only recollect its duty to the whole country that this war is not waged upon our part in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of the States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and preserve the Union with its dignities, equalities and the rights of the several States unimpaired, and as soon as these objects are accomplished, the war ought to cease.

Mr. Holman, of Indiana, on Wednesday last, again offered this resolution with the following brief addition:

And Whereas, Since that time, no event has occurred to change the feelings of the government, therefore

Resolved, That the principles above expressed are solemnly reaffirmed by this House.

Upon motion of the notorious Thadeus Stephens of this State, these were laid upon the table by a vote of 71 ayes, to 65 nays. If this be an indication of the ultimate action of the House upon the slavery question, the majority will doubtless advance to the accomplishment of the most ultra measures. How the border slave States now struggling with rebellion within their own boundaries, can maintain themselves, while Congress votes down such resolutions as the above, and while the Senate is engaged upon the consideration of a bill for emancipation, confiscation &c., remains to be seen. The Louisville *Journal* and the *Democrat*, and Holt, Crittenden and their followers in Kentucky, and the thousands in the border States who have been acting with them, will, we apprehend find it difficult to maintain themselves at home in the face of this radical and sudden change in the action of Congress.

Slidell and Mason's Arrest.

We publish below the concluding portion of Hon. CALEB CUSHING's opinion on the legality of the recent arrest of the Rebel Commissioners—*Mason* and *Slidell*,—by Capt. WILKES, of the "San Jacinto." The opinion was elicited in answer to a letter of Hon. FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor of New York,—which with the reply, we regret our inability to print at length—as it is a clear vindication of the action of our Government, and is justified(—in the opinion of Mr. Cushing,)—by the principels and doctrines of international jurisprudence. Mr. Cushing was a Breckenridge Democrat, and President of the Charleston and Baltimore Conventions, which fact may not enhance his patriotism in the estimation of "*Republican Union-Savers*," but the additional fact, that he was the legal head of a late Democratic United States Government, will give his opinions increased weight with all American Patriots:—

NEWBURYPORT, 6th Dec., 1861.

My Dear Sir:—I duly received your favor of the 29th ult., requesting expression of my views of the legal relations of the act of Captain Wilkes, of the San Jacinto, in arresting Messrs. Mason and Slidell on board the British mail packet "Trent;" and would have replied at an earlier day but for the intervention of other imperative occupations.

* * * * * *

In short, while the duties of neutrality, in this war, have been voluntarily assumed by Great Britain, the rights of war, as regards her, have been claimed and asserted by the United States.

Without pausing to enter into the real or possible qualifications of the beligerent right in this respect, and while admitting that such qualifications may exist, it suffices for me to say that, in my opinion, none of those qualifications attach to the case of ambassadors of insurgent States, not yet recognized by their own to any foreign government. It is not worth while to enlarge discussion beyond the limits of the occasion and its exigencies.

So, qualifications of the right to seize for the transportation of dispatches exist. But the general right does not the less exist as in the case of munitions of war, of military persons, and of ambassadors.

It may be said, it has been, that to maintain the rightfulness of the act of Capt. Wilkes, is to set a precedent of possible inconvenience to ourselves hereafter. That is to say, it would constrain us to acquiesce in the arrest of an enemy's ambassadors on board of a vessel of our own navy, of our own ambassador, by a cruiser of the insurgent Government Be it so. As to the insurgent States, we are competent to protect ourselves. As to other Governments, the United States have reached a stage in our history, in which we are to think and speak of duties as well as rights, more than we have hitherto done.

Born of Revolution, we have been accustomed to act as if rebellion had all rights and Governments none, and to welcome and applaud rebellion in other countries because it was rebellion, without stopping to inquire into the rightfulness as between the insurgents and the rest of the nation represented by its government.—Hereafter, in meditations of our own misfortunes, haply we learn to be charitable towards other Governments.

So, cultivating neutrality through many years of the wars of other nations, we have fallen into the habit of exaggerating neutral rights and underestimating neutral obligations. Hereafter we shall have learned from the exigencies of our experience that belligerency has its domain of rights as well as neutrality.

Finally, in the enjoyment of so much liberty here in our geographical isolation in America, we have become, as it were, liberty-mad. We now see, or shall see, that liberty is not the only nor even the greatest of the blessings of nations and of men, but, on the contrary, that

"Too much liberty is dashed with woe;"

and that Order is the first and highest law of nations and of men, as it is of Heaven.

My voice is that of a political proscript for opinion's sake. It may avail nothing, at this hour. But, if I might presume, at this time, to address my countrymen, I would exhort them to cease from caviling with foreign governments as to the name to be given to this portentous thing, which rises terribly before us, the awful fact of this great struggle in the heart of the United States, on the one hand to disrupt, and on the other hand to uphold, the integrity of the Union;—I would entreat them to ascend to the magisty of the occasion in the legal and political relations of the times, as they have nobly manifested their purposes to do in the military ones; I would implore them to consider that civil war is not the less WAR, with its rights and its duties, on both sides,—with its calamities, but, nevertheless, its triumphs, its grandeur, its gallantry, and its glory;—I would pray them to banish from their thoughts all impracticable schemes of the revolutionary social change, under the misapplied name of the Union, and to look only to the sanctity of the Constitution; I would admonish them that in such a crisis, it is the paramount duty of all men to rally around the President, as the necessary and only possible center of political order, and the young Commander-in-chief, as the single existing center of military order; and I would proclaim to them that the Union is to be rescued from the perils which menace it, peace and happiness are to be restored to the country, not by any unconstitutional tampering with the subject races of the insurgent States, but the winning battles—battles in the field of honor—battles of brave men to encounter brave men—great battles, to pale in the brightness of their fame that of the greatest and holiest days of the New and the Old World. That would be something fit to live for—that would be something for which it would be fitter still to die.

God forbid, at all events, that we should tread in that fatal path which other great governments have trod in moderate times, when visited by civil war and threatened with disruption:—that is, to plunge wantonly into conflict with neutral governments on minor and incidental questions, as Great Britain and Spain did, in like circumstances, and so to consummate the dissolution of the Union.

Let us, on the contrary, think only to keep ourselves spotless before the world; that thus, come what else may, our beloved country shall emerge purified from the fire of affliction, sanctified by suffering, with loftier and nobler throbs of national life than heretofore, and ready to resume, reinvigorated, the career of greatness side by side with the proudest of the powers of Europe.

To conclude, then: In my judgement, the act of Captain Wilkes was one which any and every self-respecting nation must and would have done, by its own sovereign right and power, regardless of consequences. It was an act which, it cannot be doubted, Great Britain would have done under the same circumstances. At the same time, it was an act amply justified by the principles and doctrines of international jurisprudence. We may well regret that occasion for the act has occurred, and that the seizure needed to be done from on board a vessel, and still more a mail-packet, of Great Britain, with whom, for all possible reasons, we desire to continue on the footing of cordial amity. But, Messrs. Mason and Slidell not having been embarked on board of the Trent by the British Government, that Government, as such, has not been offended by the seizure. The Trent, her officers acting on their own responsibility, could have no immunity from the ordinary laws of war, which affect the vessels of a great power equally as a small one; and Great Britain cannot fail, I think, to perceive that, as no offense was intended to her in the matter, and as the rights of belligerency were exercised by Captain Wilkes in the most moderate form, without seizure of mails, without bringing in as prize, without injury to private property, her national pride and her national honor conspire to dictate the most amicable construction of this inevitable act of the sovereignty and beligerent right of the United States.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. CUSHING.

To Hon. FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor of New York.

General Impatience.

Considerable impatience begins to be manifested at the continued inaction of the immense Federal army at Washington, and politicians of the "on to Richmond" class are importuning the President to order an immediate advance. Curiosity is baffled in attempting to penetrate the plans of Gen. M'CLELLAN—the best evidence that he keeps his own counsels. Whether his design is to wait an attact from the rebel army, which many suppose it will be compelled to make in absolute desperation, or whether our army will be soon advanced against the enemy or ramain inactive until Spring, is something concerning which the public are kept in entire ignorance—and wisely so, for if the Commander-in-Chief should communicate his plans to the uneasy politicians in order to allay their apprehensions, these plans would soon become public property, and consequently worthless. We shall never know whether Gen. McClellan's plans are right, save by their results, which we must wait for in patience. Wellington's long and patient inaction during the Peninsular War was much censured by civilians and subordinates until the splendid results of his policy became manifest; but Wellington, unlike Gen. McClellan, had not Congress and a crowd of meddlesome political Generals at his back.

HOW TO TURN THE WORLD TOPSY TURVEY.—Let the Abolitionists go on in their plan of turning loose 4,000,000 indolent negroes, and destroy the production of cotton. Some ten millions of white people would be thrown out of employment, clothing would advance in price at least 100 per cent. Poor people would have to go back to linsey woolsey. Sugar would cost about 25 cents per pound. Northern grain and provisions, now extensively consumed South would have no market there. The negroes would spread over the North to fill the alms-houses and be supported by white labor, or underwork it. Civilization would be put back a hundred years. Republican institutions destroyed, and our country follow in the footsteps of Mexico and Central America, where a hideous and disgusting mongrelism has made the fairest country in the world a "hell upon earth."—*Greensburg Democrat.*

AN AMATEUR WARRIOR.—By reference to a letter from one of our correspondents, it will be observed that Hon. H. D. Foster of this place, paid the 11th Reg't. a visit, and while there, the Regiment received orders to advance. The General, desirous of accompanying them, was furnished with a revolver, and marched seven miles on foot, "with the rest of the soldiers." "Secesh" not being about, they returned to camp sadly disappointed at not having a "scrimmage" with the "F. F. V's." "Surely, had some of the "F. F. V's." come in contact with them, the revolver would certainly have done its share—you can bet high on that. 'Bully for the General.'"—*Pennsylvania Argus.*

More New Blanks.

Deeds, Summons, Executions, Scire Facias, State Warrants, Commitments, Capiases, School orders, Exemption, Judgment with Single and Double Notes, etc., just printed and for sale at the office of the *Columbia Democrat.*

☞ The Constitutional Convention, sitting in Wheeling, has changed the name of the State from Kanawha to West Virginia.

☞ Slanders, issuing from beautiful lips, are like spiders crawling from the blushing heart of a rose.