



COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

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DEAR FRIENDS, I have a few leisure moments, and improve them by addressing you. Perhaps it will be interesting to the many readers of the Democrat to hear from me occasionally.

CAMP OBERHEUFER, Feb. 18th, 1862.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT: I have a few leisure moments, and improve them by addressing you.

YOUNG MEN: I have a few leisure moments, and improve them by addressing you.

MARRIAGE: I have a few leisure moments, and improve them by addressing you.

STRANGERS: I have a few leisure moments, and improve them by addressing you.

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Select Poetry.

A Capital Satire: Rye Coffee.

Last night I heard a Wide-Awake, Whose face was very long.

I saw a crape, and well I knew It soon I felt before.

Oh, Rye Coffee! You're sweet enough for me, Without a grain of sugar, if The nigger can be free.

I would not say that Wide-Awake Was singing of a lie!

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Interesting Story.

The Mysterious Confession.

BY JOHN ROSS DIX.

During a recent summer residence in the pretty little village of Manchester, Vermont, I became acquainted with the following singular history—I will not call it a story as every word of it is strictly true.

About thirty years ago, there resided in the above named village two brothers, named Bourne. Silas the elder, was a hard featured, morose man, not greatly liked by his neighbors, and Thomas resided with him as a farm laborer.

Suddenly, and without any reason whatever being assigned, William Colvin was missing. No one knew whither or why he had departed from Manchester.

But after eight or nine years had gone by, public curiosity was again excited in the Colvin matter by the declaration of his wife that she had twice dreamed that he had been murdered by the brothers Bourne, and his body buried.

It (fortunately for the Bournes) happened that a newspaper, containing an account of their trial and condemnation, reached the tavern of the village where Colvin worked, and the landlord at once recognized Colvin who was in the habit of frequenting it, as the supposed victim; and on questioning him, and being shown the paper, he admitted the fact, and at once agreed to accompany the landlord to Manchester in order to save the brothers from the gallows.

On further examination by some Boston surgeons, the bones beneath the tree were pronounced to be those of a dog. Pretty comparative anatomists the Vermont doctors must have been in those days!

Some months afterwards, the Bournes were brought up for trial, and after a long investigation, were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged.

Select Miscellany.

An Old Story—New Political Preaching was Cured.

The Hartford Times relates the following: A Congregational Church, in a neighboring State, got so completely enlisted in one of the Presidential contests, that little attention was given to religious questions.

"O, Lord," said he, "uphold the Democratic party, which has received thy support ever since the great Jeffersonian struggle. Continue to bless that party which has, under thy protection and providence, brought great blessings upon this Republic.

Just before dusk a rumor ran from house to house that summoned the inhabitants into the streets. The cry of "William Colvin has come home!" ran from lip to lip.

To add to the general perplexity, not an hour before the return of Colvin, Silas Bourne also confessed to the murder of his servant! He said, that during a quarrel in the field he struck him over the head with a spade, and felled him to the earth.

After Colvin was struck down by Silas Bourne, and hidden as mentioned, he came to himself, and fearing when his employer returned, to be killed outright, he stealthily left the place and wandered away to western New York, where he had worked ever since.

As I intimated at the commencement, Silas Bourne (who left Vermont soon after his liberation from prison) was last summer arrested in N. Y. State for counterfeiting, and it was stated that he really did kill Colvin after all, and that the person who returned was not the same man.

THE New York Tribune is out "flat-footed," against a restoration of the Union under the present Constitution—so is Jeff Davis. One is as loyal as the other, and no more so.

The Battle of Fort Donelson.

The Chicago Tribune's correspondent in describing the battle at Fort Donelson, says when Col. Craft's brigade, which had been ordered to re-enforce McClernand, came up in the rear of the 30th and 31st Illinois, 25th Kentucky, these regiments were lying down firing over the crest of the hill.

They rose, not knowing whether the force in the rear was friend or foe. The 25th Kentucky, supposing them to be rebels, poured in a volley which did terrible execution, and was sufficient to throw the entire brigade into disorder.

The number of field-pieces taken in the Union victory here is much larger than heretofore telegraphed. We have at least seventy guns. Among them are bronze and iron rifled pieces of English manufacture.

Taylor's Battery captured a beautiful rifled piece, an imitation of the Parrott, made in England, and two bronze rifled pieces.

The prisoners will amount to full fifteen thousand, all contrary assertions notwithstanding.

This was a stunner. It was the first prayer ever publicly offered in that church for the success of the Democratic party and its nominees, though hundreds of prayers and exhortations had been made against that party.

ANCIENT HOSPITALITY.—It was once a universal custom to place ale or some strong liquor in the chamber of an honored guest, to assuage his thirst, should he feel any on awakening in the night, which, considering that the hospitality of that period often reached excess, was by no means unlikely.

Brigadier-Gen. Buckner and Staff. Brigadier-Gen. B. R. Johnson and Staff. 3d Tenn. Regt. of Infantry, Col. Brown.

The Philadelphia Library.

The first public library in the U. States, is the Philadelphia library in Philadelphia—a brick building with marble front, near Independence Hall.

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Major Dorser's Battalion of Infantry.

Major Dorser's Battalion of Infantry, consisting of the Thirty-Sixth, Fifty-fifth and Fifty-sixth, in all twenty-five hundred strong, and a thousand or fifteen hundred stragglers, escaped.

In addition to this we have twelve thousand stand of small arms, and upward of fifty pieces of artillery, including the following heavy guns captured in the fort: eight thirty two pounders; two 32 pounders, carronad; one heavy 32 pounder, rifled; and one 10 inch columbar.

The amount of ammunition, stores, horses, wagons, mules, tents, provision, is beyond estimate.

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