



POETRY.

To Pennsylvania.

Oh, State, prayer founded! never hung
Such choice upon a people's tongue,
Such power to bless or ban,
As that which makes thy whisper Fate,
For which on thee the centuries wait,
And destinies of man.

Across thy Alleghenian chaise,
With greetings from the bosom of pain,
The cool wind finds its way,
Such power to bless or ban,
As that which makes thy whisper Fate,
For which on thee the centuries wait,
And destinies of man.

And unto thee, in Freedom's hour
Of sorest need, God gives thee power
To rain or to avert,
To wound or heal, to blight or bless
With fruitful field or wilderness,
A free home or a grave!

Nay, more transcending time and place,
The question of the human race
Is thine to solve alone;
And trembling doubtful on thy breath,
A thrill of life or pang of death
Shall reach the wide earth through.

Then let thy Virtue match the crime,
Rise to the level of the time;
And, if a son of thine
Betray, or tempt thee, Brutus-like,
For Fatherland and Freedom strike,
As Justice gives the sign.

Wake, sleeper, from thy dream of ease,
The great occasion's forelock seize,
And let the North wind strong
And golden leaves of Autumn ke
The coronal of victory
And thy triumphant song.

COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.



EDITED BY LEVI L. TATE, PROPRIETOR
BLOOMSBURG, PA.

Saturday, September 19, 1863

THE PRESERVATION OF THE CONSTITUTION,
THE RESTORATION OF THE UNION,
AND THE SUPREMACY OF THE LAWS.

GOVERNOR CURTIN.

"Thine own mouth condemns thee, and
not I; yea, thine own lips testify against
thee."—Job.

UNIVERSALLY charged with gross neglect in allowing the invasion of the State by a small detachment of cavalry under STUART in October 1862, even the friends of Governor Curtin have not undertaken to defend him. We are more generous; for although it is impossible to deny, that, with a man of martial spirit for commander-in-chief, STUART would not have penetrated into Pennsylvania, or, if he did, would not have retreated with impunity; it is due to Governor Curtin to say that he has always disclaimed fitness to exercise military functions, except those, at once safe and profitable, connected with the Quarter Master and Commissary Departments; and, that, besides this natural proclivity for gain and repugnance to peril, he did not anticipate, and probably had no information, of the rapid movement of the rebels.

Having, however, been taught by STUART the plain and painful lesson of 1862, it should have been a standing warning to the Governor of the liability of the State to invasion and its practicability; and thus was imposed on him special obligation to perpetual vigilance and preparation. His oath, his duty, the honor of the State, the protection of our people, the suppression of the rebellion, all required that instant and persistent measures should be taken for defense. The means were ample. More than four hundred thousand able bodied and patriotic citizens, whom he had a right to call to the field, were ready to defend the State. No extensive movement of the enemy could be made without being known in ample time to meet the attack. We had in the army of the Potomac, and at other points within two or three days march, one hundred thousand Pennsylvania volunteers. The South Eastern counties, sure to be the theatre of conflict, are densely populated, and nearly every man has arms and knows how to use them.

Such was the condition of affairs in June, 1863—warning of attack timely, and means of resistance ample. Let us see what Curtin did and said—let us fairly try him on admitted facts and his own defense.

On the 14th of June, the Confederate cavalry, about 1,800 strong, under General JENKINS, entered Hagerstown, having crossed the Potomac at Williamsport without opposition. They took quiet possession of Hagerstown, there being no troops there to oppose them. The stores were kept open, and Gen. JENKINS notified the citizens to inform him at once if their persons or property were molested by any of his troops. None of the citizens were

arrested. There was no property destroyed in Hagerstown or in the vicinity. The larger body of the enemy did not tarry long, but passed out of the city in two divisions, towards Greencastle and Chambersburg. They occupied the first-named place but a short time, the latter they entered without resistance on the 16th, where they quietly encamped for three days.— Their force consisted of only about 1000 cavalry. The scouts sent out from the Carlisle garrison approached the rebel pickets, a couple of miles from Chambersburg, and were fired upon, and two of our men taken prisoners. On the 19th and 20th Chambersburg was evacuated, and the enemy quietly retreated towards the Potomac.

A feeble force having thus evaded the State with impunity which demonstrated our defenceless condition, and also gave fresh warning to Governor Curtin, Gen. Lee, at the head of the main rebel army of Virginia, was encouraged by Stuart's report, and united by Curtin's conduct, to a far more important movement; and accordingly he marched into Pennsylvania, and on the 27th of June occupied York and Carlisle, and on the 28th was within four miles of Harrisburg. General Meade, newly appointed to the command of the Army of the Potomac, without giving the trembling Cabinet at Washington time to prevent it, abandoned the line of the Rappahannock, pursued the enemy into Pennsylvania and attacked and defeated him at Gettysburg; but, in consequence of being unsupported by the State troops, who had not been called out in time for effective co-operation, he was unable to reap the full fruits of his victory, and Lee safely retreated to his original position.

For all this—the violation of the sanctity of our soil, the ravage of our people, the dishonor of our State, the unutterable suffering and bloody death of many thousand soldiers, the sacrifice of many millions of property, some one is responsible. Certainly not the army, for never was gallant more heroic, never devotion more sublime, than that which was shadowed by the sulphurous canopy of Gettysburg—attested still by ten thousand new made graves of soldiers criminally sacrificed, if not wantonly murdered, but who have left for consolation and example a glorious record, destined to the immortality of the historic page.

We arraign Governor Curtin as the great criminal—GREAT ONLY IN CRIME—and not less to be condemned because Secretary Stanton was his accomplice, as we shall presently prove.

The witness whom we produce on the trial of this culprit is Andrew G. Curtin himself, and, in hearing his confession, it is only necessary for its full and fair application, to bear in mind the dates and facts we have already given, which are all derived from official reports and Republican authority.

On June 13, 1863, a meeting of citizens of Harrisburg assembled to take action in reference to the defense of the city against the invaders coming up the valley.

Gen. Cameron was called to the chair. In a few minutes Governor Curtin entered, looking somewhat fatigued and careworn.

"The Governor said that he was gratified to say that men were arising all over the State, and would soon be here. The New York Seventh were on the way to our assistance; men were coming from Philadelphia, and one thousand men from B. Rks would arrive in the next train.— We will not surrender the town without a struggle. The rebels had probably destroyed the beautiful valley on our west; but, thank God, we were separated from them by a natural barrier, the passage of which would be disputed. Although it was dry here, the river had, through the providence of God, raised during the night, and should we mortals stand inactive, while the Almighty is working for us?"

"He had no property here, but the honor of the State was dear to him, and should be to every Pennsylvanian. He thanked the brave militia for the support they were ready to give, but he was sorry for the lateness of this call; he desired to make last week, but the President refused it. But let us forget that we have been treated wrongly. The general government must be sustained, as well as the State. He had been willing to concede everything to the administration, and to carry out their plans to the best of his ability. He called upon all Pennsylvanians to rush to arms for the defence of their native State, that our Capital might not be defiled with the tread of the invader. There would be plenty of guns and ammunition on hand before the day closed.

"General Cameron followed in a short speech, in which he said that, by virtue of his office, Governor Curtin was Commander-in-Chief of the Pennsylvania Militia, and that he was willing to take him as his leader, and follow him in defence of our homes. He moved that he be requested to take command of the force

now called out, subject to the orders of General Couch. When we saw our brave Governor mounting his steed, and calling upon the people to follow, we will at once rally to the call. The highest officer and the humblest individual were on a level now, and every person should do his duty. He thought we should be led by our constitutional Commander.

"To this Mr. Kunkel strongly objected, saying that it would be an abandonment of his office.

"Mr. Cameron.—It is not an abandonment of his office; it is but a part of his legitimate duty.

"Mr. Kunkel.—I can't understand this. I don't see why our Governor, who is worn out by the duties of his office, should lead the van of the militia, when General Couch, a United States Officer, is with us. There is a disposition on the part of Mr. Cameron to drag the Governor from his legitimate duties. I would as soon the President of this meeting should be our leader, and he is as much fitted and called upon to perform that duty as the Governor.

"Mr. Cameron. I am ready to shoulder a musket and go as a private, under the Governor.

"Governor Curtin then said he could do no more than this; he would go as he did last fall, when he went with the Militia to Hagerstown, but got from the United States the co-operation of a military mind to direct immediate operations.

Thus we give from the Harrisburg papers of June 16th, Gov. Curtin's own statements—an attempted defense, but a real confession. He declares, in effect, that he knew of the contemplated invasion by Jenkins "last week" that is, from about the 8th of June, a week before the preliminary movement of the enemy, and more than two weeks before their army entered the State. Worse even than this the Governor's speech was actually delivered twelve days before Lee crossed the Potomac and all these occurrences were more than eight months after the emphatic warning of Stewart's raid!

To avoid possibility of error and consequent injustice, let us marshal the dates. October, 1-62.—Stewart's invasion. June 8, 1863.—Curtin knew that the State was about to be invaded a second time.

June 14.—Jenkins entered Pennsylvania. June 15.—Curtin's Harrisburg speech. June 26.—Lee entered York and Carlisle at head of rebel army of Virginia. July 2-4.—The battle of Gettysburg.

The Governor did some things, and we give him the benefit of them.

He supplicated the President for means of defense, but it was refused and thus he says "we were treated wrongly." Was it fit that the Governor of the great State of Pennsylvania should crouch as a beggar, to be spurned from the foot of the Federal throne? Was not every citizen thus insulted in the person of the Governor?—Would they have dared thus to treat us, if Governor Curtin had rightly represented the dignity and power of our ancient Commonwealth, instead, as he himself states, "being willing to concede every thing to the administration."

The duty of the Governor was clear— instant attack of the assailants. Defeat is not necessarily disgrace, but submission is always infamy. Timely preparation would have avoided either.

We admit that Pennsylvania was deeply wronged by the Federal Executive; that half of the men whom she has furnished for this could have defended the sanctity of her soil, and that in preventing them from doing so, the administration was both base and cruel; that, probably, the refusal to sanction Governor Curtin's call for the militia, was deliberately designed to arouse our people by ravage of their homes, and plunder of their property and in short, that we were the victims of the weakness and wickedness of our rulers.

But these were not reasons for abandoning the natural right of self defense. It is not in the presence of peril that the remote cause is to be considered, except for the purpose of future punishment. It is not when the enemy thunders at our gates that we are to pause and hesitate, because, if others had done their duty, he would not be there. It is not when the foe has us by the throat that we are to speculate as to who set him on. Our State was menaced, invaded, insulted. It was the clear duty of the Governor to use his ample power for preparation and, having for months neglected this, at least he should have called on the militia on the 8th of June to take arms and instantly repel the attack made or threatened. Pennsylvania was strong enough to protect herself; patriotic enough to make every effort and any sacrifice which was necessary. The might that slumbers in the yeoman's arm, is irresistible when aroused. Surely, lethargy itself would be excited at such a time as this, and yet Governor Curtin

long slumbered and slept and was at length awakened on the 15th of June only to present a pitiable spectacle of imbecile terror incapable of being stimulated to the courage of combat even by the taunts of Cameron—consoled only by the facts, stated by himself, that "he had no property" which could be reached, and that, though "the rebels had probably destroyed the beautiful valley in the West," he was safe because they were still "separated from him by a natural barrier."

Have we not fulfilled our promise to prove that Governor Curtin was as guilty in permitting the invasion of the State, as in causing the disaster at Bull Run?

This is the man who now repudiates his contract for the Spanish mission, retract his solemn legislative pledge not to be a candidate, and daily declares, in defense of his breach of faith, that he is impelled only by the condition of the country, which in these war time, demands his energy, devotion and courage—his strong arm to overshadow the State and protect the people.

It is needless to say that pretence is not less preposterous in itself, than insulting to the intelligence of our citizens. But if even he was a hero, radiant with the glory of a thousand victories, he is useless now, for he has abandoned his position and his duty, and is wandering about the country making stump speeches to solicit votes—laying the lines for infinite ramifications of petty intrigue—purchasing his opponents in his own party by promises, contracts and offices—endeavoring to seduce Democrats by cajolery, and to deceive the people by boast of what he has done and promises of what he will do. He must fail. The tricks of a political mountebank, the delusion of a dextrous juggler, the meanness of an artful dodger, will avail no longer.

The Freedom of the Ballot.

The firm and determined attitude assumed by the Democratic masses of Pennsylvania in reference to the exercise of their rights at the coming election cannot be misunderstood by the wicked men in power. Never was a truth more clear than that which is taught by every local Democratic organization in this Commonwealth. From one end of the State to the other but one spirit breathes, and that is to maintain the constitutional right of the ballot at every hazard and at every sacrifice. No show of military interference, in any shape or manner, will be tolerated.— The time has come when plain, blunt words will best express the feelings of the people. The right to vote, free and untrammelled, is sacred and inviolable; and any attempt to infringe upon it, in the slightest degree, by men, "willing to wound but yet afraid to strike," would evoke and justify resistance in every county and township in Pennsylvania.

But the Democratic masses must carefully guard against other dangers. They must exercise all their vigilance to prevent the perpetration of wholesale fraud by the unscrupulous foe with whom they are contending. Hundreds and thousands of illegal votes will be sought to be polled by the party that is now trembling before the indignation of an outraged people. This can be prevented by proper attention to the assessment list and the polls upon the day of election. Unless our Democratic friends throughout the State exercise the most rigid scrutiny in regard to this important matter, they may be compelled to witness a defeat brought about by their own carelessness and want of energy. See to it, freemen! The exercise of the elective franchise must not only be free and unrestricted, but the purity of the ballot must not be sullied by any unhallowed attempts to poison the fountain whence flows the liberties of the people!—AGK.

CURTIN has belonged to all the factions which, since he attained his majority, have been arrayed against the Democratic party. He has been Whig, Know-Nothing, Republican, Abolitionist by turns, and stands ready, to day, to throw himself into the arms of any other organization that may arise, strong enough to elect him and gratify his ambition. He is mentally weak and morally unprincipled—the dupe of rogues, or himself dishonest; in either of which cases he is unfit to govern the great Commonwealth.

Shall ballot or bayonet rule? The Democrats say ballots, and this mode comes peace and prosperity. The Republicans say bayonets, and through these come ruin desolation, tyranny and wrong.

If Democrats are such mean men why do Republicans wish to run the oldest ones of them for office? Querer way that to purify a party.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[WRITTEN FOR THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.]

From the Army.

WARRENTON, Va., Sept. 1, 1863.

COLONEL TATE,

Dear Sir:—I take my pen to let you know that I am still in the land of the living. I am well and enjoying myself as well as could be expected after the long marches we have had; I will give you some account of them, since we left Yorktown. We left this latter place on the 23rd of June, and have been on the march ever since. When we started I thought we might be going towards Richmond.— That day we went 9 miles on the other side of Williamsburg, when we stopped at a place called the nine mile ordinary. It was about 9 o'clock at night when we got into camp, and being very tired, we soon had our horses fed and lost no time in taking our night's rest. Early in the morning we were roused out for the purpose of feeding our horses. Boots and saddles were sounded, and we were all ready to move in little or no time, for we did not know what was up. Soon we got orders to move and were off, feeling as good as could be expected; we marched all day without stopping, and halted at a place called Spruce Grove. There we stopped for the night; the next morning we were ready to start in good season.— Then we found out our destination, and took our line of march for the White House. Our scouts saw some rebel cavalry near New Kent Court House, so called by those living around there, which are most all negroes. One section of our battery was then ordered to turn to the left and come into position, while the rest kept to the right down to the Pamunkey river. We were then furnished with rations, of which we were in great need.— That night we were brought into position, and were soon through with our horses.— We then laid down to enjoy a good night's rest, we laid there until towards noon of the next day, when the remainder of our battery joined us; we then started off for the White House, which we reached in the course of a few hours.

We laid there two days, when the army was brought up in line of battle, which looked very much like having a general engagement; but however, we marched on to Baltimore Stores, and so on to Baltimore Cross Roads, where the Greysbacks had just left, fires were still burning where they had cooked their coffee. Our battery was then brought into line; this was about 4 o'clock, the battery was then ordered on the right into a little field, where they could see some rebels in an orchard, not far away, they were brought into position, and immediately commenced shelling the woods; they threw shells for about two hours, when the firing ceased; some cavalry, one section of artillery, and two regiments of infantry were ordered to advance, which was done at once.

We laid there until the next morning, when we were ordered back to Baltimore Store. Soon after our cavalry came in at full speed reporting the enemy near.— Matters looked rather dark, and I thought we would soon get into a general engagement, they appearing very near, but our pickets giving them a well directed fire, they were soon driven back. We then received orders to return to Yorktown, which we were glad to hear, for we were short of rations long enough. We were two days going back.

We remained there two days when orders came for us to join Meade's army; we accordingly loaded the battery on board the splendid steamer Thomas Morgan, and, in company with General Keys and Staff, were soon on our way towards Washington. We reached the latter place the next night. The next day we received orders to proceed to Frederick City by road. We accordingly loaded our battery on the cars in a short time; soon news came that the track had been washed away, when we commenced unloading the battery and prepare to go by land.

We reached Frederick City in the course of a few days, and it is a very fine place, we laid there over night, and next morning joined the 6th army corps in the army of the Potomac. We are now stationed at Warrenton; it is a fine place, but quite deserted by the male population. Our corps is scattered all around here, both up and down the rail road.

They are now filling up the old regiments with conscripts. The old corps are in good health and spirits at the present time, and get plenty to eat. A few days ago five men were shot for desertion. It is the only way to prevent it. A rumor was afloat in Camp yesterday that the army was soon to move, but I do not know

which way. The weather is getting quite cool here. No more at present.

Yours, truly,
CHARLES A. KNORR,
Battery M., 5th U. S. Artillery.

For the Columbia Democrat.

Army Letter.

MT. PLEASANT HOSPITAL, D. C.,
August 20, 1863.

Dear Democrat:—Please pardon a stranger in presuming to address you, although I may trench upon your valuable time in giving expression to a few thoughts. I call the permitted escape of Lee's army the greatest crime of the war. It is deliberate murder ordered in the future of thousands upon thousands who must contend with it. If it is not murder as against those who might have crushed Lee with certainty on that occasion I am at a loss how to characterize the crime to a mind imbued with even a small moiety of philanthropy, the taking of a single life more than is necessary to end this wicked war. In the interest of liberty it can be nothing less than murder. Twice has the principal Rebel army, with Lee at its head, been thrown upon the northern side of the Potomac and placed entirely within our power, giving us in each case, an excellent opportunity for an honorable termination of the war. More especially was this the case after the battle of Gettysburg—the rebel army whipped with a loss of more than one-third of its strength, and forced to precipitate retreat to the Potomac. Our army triumphant and flushed with victory, eager to pursue them and end the strife. But mark, instead of doing this comparatively easy work, what do we behold to the everlasting shame and disgrace of the managers of this infamous political war, as this last move proves the most deficient feat known to military science, has accomplished by Lee's army, when it was wholly in our power. Behold a whipped army shorn of more than one-third of its strength, cross a large river, rendered exceedingly difficult of passage by a great freshet, in the face of a victorious army, eager to pursue and capture or crush it, and so they would have done had they not been held back. But held back by whom? Alas! by a portion of our traitorous managers at Washington, who have no desire to close up the war unless it can be done to the interest of abolitionism, or of some Presidential calculation of the political state to accomplish these purposes. They have resigned themselves to murder, and are indifferent to the ruin of their country.— What better are these wretches than Jeff Davis or Benedict Arnold. That they are no better, nay, even worse, is the settled opinion of

\$300 for Three Years.

In Lancaster county, payment of the \$300, according to the Conscription Board of that District, saves the person paying it, from all future drafts for three years, as appears by the certificates given to conscripted men of that county, one of which reads as follows:

739. We, the subscribers composing the Board of Enrollment of the Ninth Congressional District of the State of Pennsylvania, provided for in section 8 Act of Congress "for enrolling and calling out the National forces," approved March 3, 1863, hereby certify that Henry Desinger of W. Donegal, Lancaster county, State of Pennsylvania, having given satisfactory evidence that he is not properly subject to military duty, as required by said Act, by reason of having paid \$300 commutation, is exempt from all liability to do military duty for the term of three years.

A. W. DOLNIUS,
Captain and Provost Marshal and President of Board of Enrollment.
ELI OBERDEER,
Member of Board Enrollment.

Dated at Lancaster, Pa.,
this 25th day of July, 1863.

All of the certificates for Lancaster county, read in the same way.

AS ONE OF THE DRAFTED MEN left the Provost Marshals office in Harrisburg a few days ago. "Three hundred dollars" shorter; he cast a glance around upon his comrades in luck and said:—"Boys, three years ago I was a gay 'Wide Awake,' and wore a glazed cape at my own expense—but the coal oil was sold to be free. They are now setting that coal oil account. I've paid mine, and here's the receipt in full." There are thousands of men closing their account with the abolition party.

CURTIN says he is troubled with 'inflammatory rheumatism.' Well, according to Republican logic now-a-days, if Curtin is elected, the Government will have the 'inflammatory rheumatism'—We vote against the thing.

What They Promised.
"Free press," "free speech" and "freedom," "protection to American industry," "economy and reform," "good times for the poor man" and the rest of mankind, "protection to State sovereignty and State institutions," "a return to the policy of the fathers," "obedience to the Constitution and laws," "peace, harmony, and national prosperity."

WHAT THEY GAVE US.
A muzzled "press," "free speech" stricken down by mobs and executive power, "freedom," usurped by arbitrary arrests, bastilles and bayonets. "American industry," destroyed. "Economy and reform" lost sight of by the most reckless and stupendous system of robbery, party speculations and extravagance ever known to the world. "Good times," turned into the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of our citizens, the weeping of widows and orphans and untold misery and national woe. "Protection to State sovereignty," stricken down. "A return to the policy of our fathers," turned into a co-operation with the Devil. "Obedience to the Constitution and laws" exchanged for military necessity, tyranny and despotism. "Peace, harmony and national prosperity" swallowed up in dissolution and rivers of blood. Yet these men have the audacity to ask you to vote for them again!

THE Abolition party is an Abolition party in fact.

It has abolished the Constitution of the United States.

It has abolished the good feelings which bound the North and South together.

It has abolished the Union of States.

It has abolished the right of trial by jury.

It has abolished gold and silver coin from our midst.

It has abolished low prices of articles of domestic use.

It has abolished the lives of tens of thousands of brave white men.

It has abolished peace and security throughout the country.

It has abolished the respect we commanded abroad as a nation.

It has, in fine, abolished about all it can abolish, and the next thing it will abolish itself.

THE Abolition papers are making statements to the effect that last fall the Democrats promised if their candidates would be elected there would be no draft. This is a barefaced falsehood, for no Democrat ever made such a promise, nor have they any power to fulfill it. The government is in the hands of the Abolitionists and there will be drafts, stealing taxation, and destruction so long as it remains under their control.

MR. LINCOLN.—The President still resides at the Soldiers' Home. Every evening at about six o'clock he can be seen leaving the Executive Mansion at the head of a mounted escort of fifteen or twenty soldiers.—Telegraph from Washington.

MR. LINCOLN is the first President who ever deemed it necessary to follow the Kingly custom of being surrounded by soldiers whenever he leaves his house!— It is one of the signs of the times!

NEGROES NOT ENROLLED.—Kentucky has a State law which forbids the recognition of blacks as citizens by making soldiers of them. Hence, when it was proposed to enroll blacks as well as whites for the conscription, a strong protest was sent up by the Union men of the State.— It has been effectual, as it is stated that an official order has been received from Washington to omit the enrollment of negroes in the State.

Loyal Resolutions.

"Resolved, That the earth is the Lord's and its heritage belongs to His Saints."

"Resolved, That we are His Saints."

"Resolved, That we are the only patriotic men in the community."

"Resolved, That all others are Copperheads and Traitors."

"Resolved, That as only 'loyal men' should be in office, all efforts to remove us are sympathizing with treason."

"If these infernal fanatics and Abolitionists ever get the power in their hands, they will override the Constitution, set the Supreme Court at defiance, change and make laws to suit themselves. LAY VIOLENT HANDS ON THOSE WHO DIFFER IN OPINION, or dare question their fidelity, and finally bankrupt the country and deluge it with blood.—DANIEL WEBSTER.

SHALL ballots or bayonets rule? The Democrats say ballots, and by this mode comes peace and prosperity. The Republicans say bayonets and through these come ruin, desolation, tyranny and wrong.