COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

"Our Constitution---guard it ever!
Our glorious Union---hold it dear!
Our Starry Flag---forsake it never!
The proud Caucassian---our only peer!

EDITED BY LEVI L. TATE, PROPRIETOR.

BLOOMSBURG:

Saturday Morning, May 20, 1865.

TERMS OF THIS PAPER:
(AFTER JANUARY 1st, 1865.)
$3 00 per Year, or
2 50 if paid strictly in advance.

DEMOCRACY, a sentiment not to be appalled, corrupted or compromised It knows no baseness, it cowers to no danger, it oppresses no weakness. Destructive only of despotism it is the sole conservator of liberty, labor and property. It is the sentiment of freedom, of equal rights, of equal obligations—the law of nature pervading the law of the land—ALLEN.

The Capture of Jefferson Davis.

It depends upon the Federal Administration whether the capture of Jefferson Davis shall not close the last chapter in the history of the war. The political and military organization of the Confederacy is broken up. It is true that in remote parts of the Southern territory an armed opposition to the Federal power may still be attempted, but such opposition can be immediately disarmed by a just and conciliatory policy. Harsh and vindictive measures will but serve to concentrate the remaining elements of antagonism upon the soil of Texas, and the more determined and indomitable spirits of the South, combining, in that distant region, under the influences of terrible despair, may still prolong the contest and lengthen the record of bloodshed and destruction. But a line from the Executive pen can avert that misfortune. Every threat of punishment, every indication of a stern and uncompromising temper on the part of the victors, will be an incentive to resistance, even after hope is gone.

The Chief of the Confederacy is a captive, powerless in the hands of those who allege that he has been the soul of secession and the master spirit of resistance to Federal authority. It has been intimated that, in the event of his capture, no mercy will be accorded to him. The most bitter, let us hope the most unreflecting, of his enemies point to the scaffold and clamor for a victim to be sacrificed to their relentless hate. If we knew not the noble and manly attributes that, though often hidden by passion and exaltation, are inseparable from the American character, we should say that Jefferson Davis is a doomed man. But, knowing our countrymen, we believe that their fallen foe will receive, at their hands, the boon of life. Not that we think he will ask for it. He is one of those rare types of humanity born to control destiny, or to accept, without murmur, annhiliation as the natural consequence of failure. The political shrine that he worshipped is over thrown, the star of his fortunes is so dim that not a ray lingers upon his path, there is nothing for him to live for, except be a living proof of the magnanimity and manhood of his enemies.

But *that* is a sufficient reason why he shall not die upon the scaffold. It is imperative that he should live to attest the humanity, the nobility, the moral courage of the American people, if faithfully represented by their servant at the helm of Government. To-day, perhaps, a million voices like the howel of wolves in the wilderness, may cry for his blood and drown the softer accents of their better natures. But fortunately the days must glide on with their quieting influences, before the strictest rigor even of the military code can condemn and execute. Let one month elapse, one month of the calm appreciation of triumph for the North, one month of reflection that the South is crushed, subdued, helpless and overwhelmed with sorrow and calamity, and within that month the sweet voice of mercy will not have appealed in vain.

A Curious Old Document.

We congratulate our neighbors of the *Tribune* on the discovery of the curious old document referred to in the following article. We have had a copy of it for many years, and have been in the habit of making frequent reference to it. We could have lent our contemporary a copy any time within four years past, but understood they did not want it. In point of fact we were substantially told by a notorious Senator that any man who referred to it was a traitor. It is sincerely gratifying to learn that a copy has turned up where it may be useful. Seriously, it is to be hoped that the wise words of the *Tribune* may attract attention and win that respect to the Constitution which they demand.

From the Tribune, May 11th

SECRET MILITARY TRIALS.

There is a curious old document in existence, known as the Constitution of the United States, which formerly had the force and effect of law in that large portion of our country not specially dominated by the Slave Power. Under the rule of our present Cabinet, it seems to have gone out of fashion; and, *since Mr. Stanton's accession to the control of the War Department, it has become practically obsolete.*—Loyal citizens did not much mind this while civil war convulsed the country, threatening the overthrow of our liberty and nationality; but, now that the war is practically ended it seems high time that the old parchments were exhumed and treated with some show of respect. There being, apparently, no copy extant in the Federal city, we quote from one in our possession, for the instruction and admonition of our magnates, certain Amendments proposed by the States when ratifying the instrument, which, being duly approved and adopted, became an integral part of our fundamental law—as follows:

ART. V. No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, *unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia when in actual service* in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall he be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty or property; *without due process of law*; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

ART. VI In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and *public* trial, by an impartial *Jury* of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed which district shall have been previously ascertained by law; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

ART. VII In suits at common law, wherein the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by Jury shall be preserved; and no fact tried by a Jury shall be otherwise re-examined in in any court of the United States than according to the rules of the common law.

ART. VIII Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

We have made our citations full, not merely in deference to the apparent inaccessibility of the document at Washington, but because we wished every reader to see that the passages we have placed in *Italics* are not garbled nor picked, but they are of the essence and vitality of the Constitution itself. Being so, how *can* we justify, or excuse, or even keep silence with regard to the military trials just initiated at Washington? A miscreant, acting in concert with other assassins, has attempted the life of the Secretary of State, and, though his purpose was defeated, he nevertheless severely wounded Gov. Seward, his oldest son, and two or three others who nobly resisted him. Of course, this villain and his confederates should be sternly dealt with; but why not according to law? What reason, what excuse, can be urged, to justify the sending of this case before a court martial and having it tried in secret? How can such a trial be reconciled with the plain provisions of the Constitution above quoted?

As to the military trial of those who conspired with Booth to assassinate the President, and aided to achieve that fell purpose, the outrage is not quite so flagrant; but such trial is at best a blunder, while enshrouding it in secrecy is utterly indefensible. To try a doctor for his life because he set a stranger's broken bone, and gave, or sold, or lent him a pair of crutches, may just do; but to try him in secret, allowing no report of the testimony but such as the prosecution sees fit to make, is nothing less than abominable. Two months ago, it would have been endured for the country's sake; now, there is no reason that it should be. We warn all who take any voluntary part in these strange proceedings, that the rebellion is suppressed, the war at an end, and the right to suspend the privilege of habeas corpus and make the will of a Secretary of War the supreme law of the land, has expired. If our present Secretary cannot be made to realize these grave truths, it is high time he had a successor; and if our Attorney General believes the assailant of Secretary Seward now, "legally triable before a military commission," he badly needs his own time for the completion of his legal studies, while the government needs a different law officer. There may be politer ways of setting forth these convictions, but none of these would do them justice.

Gentleman of the Cabinet! the war eastward of the Mississippi is ended; the rebellion is surpressed; the Union is re-established, and peace virtually restored; wherefore the people demand of you a speedy and thorough return to the safe and orderly ways of law and liberty. Do not compel them to speak in tones that you cannot refuse to hear!

Note by the Editor.

We direct the attention of Dr. John, to the foregoing remarks of the New York *Tribune*. It is refreshing to find, that at least some of the leading loyal organs, viz: the *Tribune*, and *Post*, and Public *Ledger*, are striving to attain the Democratic position of sustaining the Constitution. The influence of such utterances have already driven the magnates at Washington to abandon, per force of public opinion, to abandon their *secret sessions* in the trials of the alleged Assassins cases, and open the doors to public investigation.

Dr. we will cheerfully lend you our copy of the "Constitution."

Editor Col. Democrat

☞ Mr. Ford, proprietor of Ford's theatre, at Washington, in which the President was shot, has been arrested. He was in Richmond at the time of the assassination.

☞ We have always deprecated mob law and violence.—*Smut Machine.*

Dr. John, that small sentence contains a large falsehood. It is false in fact and history. In a word, a grosser perversion of truth and a more egregrious lie never stained the columns of the veritable "Smut Machine."

And now, Doctor, for the proof.

In the spring of 1861, when our citizens were threatened with violence, and their persons and property, assailed by drunken rowdies, where were you, Sir?—Urging them on to "mob-law and violence.

In August, 1862, when the "Bloomsburg Rioters" assailed and maltreated the best citizens of our county, for which they were convicted by a jury and sentenced by the Court, for Riot and Assault and battery, where again were you? Defending them and their violations of law and order. Aiding "mob-law and violence."

In August last, when the Abolition army invaded Columbia county and illegally and unlawfully arrested forty-five of her law abiding citizens, and inured them in dungeons, without even a trial, you publicly and privately urged the Soldiers on to greater wrongs and outrages. That, Sir, was then your office and mission.—Again, you were assiduous in adding "insult to injury," and abetting "mob law and violence."

In April last, when the President fell by the hand of an assassin, you tried to incite the country to insurrection by charging the horrid crime upon the DEMOCRATS, whom *blackguards* call "Copperheads." Sir, your cowardly course in this respect is on record and will not be forgotten.—You again attempted to inaugurate "mob-law and violence."

Later, this spring, when the Messrs. Ingersoll were brutally attacked and unmercifully beaten by "lawless fanatics," in the City of Philadelphia, for their supposed opinions, you had not a word to say in condemnation of this most wanton act of "mob law and violence." Nay, Sir, you publicly sanctioned the unprecedented outrage, by publishing that "C Ingersoll had been here, and that they were of bad blood," &c.

And now, Mr. "*Dunn*," you can run along, for the present. Try to tell the truth or hold your peace. It is understood that you and your ancestors are known and properly appreciated in this community.

Mob Rule.

A few days ago, a swaggering Lieutenant made an unprovoked attack, in one of the streets in Philadelphia, upon Edward Ingersoll, Esq., a private citizen, who, it would seem, had made himself obnoxious to some of the extreme loyal inhabitants of that city, by a speech in opposition to the policy of the Administration, which he made at a public meeting in New York on the 13th of April. Mr. Ingersoll drew a pistol, to defend himself against his assailant, when he was instantly arrested, and taken to a Police Station. His brother Charles, on hearing of the arrest, attempted to go to the Police Office to bail him out, but was attacked in his carriage by a gang of ruffians, and beaten. Several gentleman stood by when the first attack was made, and instead of endeavoring as was the duty of good citizens, to preserve the peace, countenanced the outrage with approving words. Mr. Ingersoll was detained in the Station House several hours, and was finally released, by the intervention of the venerable Joseph R. Ingersoll (his uncle, we believe)—once a leading member of the old whig party—who was allowed by the mob to approach the place of imprisonment unmolested, and enter bail for the appearance of his nephew.—The Republican papers of Philadelphia have indirectly justified these assaults, by violent denunciations of the political opinions of the Ingersolls; and so completely has the spirit of terrorism gained the ascendency that a Democratic journal dare not condemn the acts of the mob, except at the hazzard of its own destruction.

Is it not high time that law-abiding citizens of both parties should awake to the necessity of curbing this dangerous spirit of insubordination, now so prevalent all over the land? Have we not had enough of it to show us of how little value our liberty, our property and our lives will be, if this lowlessness is not checked? To what else must we charge the murder of Mr Lincoln; the daubing the house of Mr. Fillmore with ink; and even the rebellion itself, but to that spirit of intolerance of opinion, restlessness under authority, and defiance of law which is all too prevalent to these latter days. What are our boasted constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and of the press worth, if their lawful exercise is to be restrained by the intimidations of an unreasoning, irresponsible, tyrannous mob? It has been, heretofore, our boast, as a free people, that we could entertain and express our differences of opinion on public matters with perfect security; and submit their decision to the peaceful and quiet abitrament of the ballot-box, without fear of personal indignity or harm. But, if things have come to such a pass that we cannot differ from men in power, except at the risk of having our heads knocked off or our houses demolished, then indeed is our boasted freedom mockery.

The mob spirit is like a two edged sword It cuts both ways, and each way with equal blindness, and lack of judgment and justice. The executioner of to-day may be the victim to-morrow; and so, on the other hand, the victim who suffers by its violence to-day, may take fearful vengeance upon his persecutors to-morrow.—Once let it be understood that the mob is to have its way unchecked, and the bloody work of retaliation cannot be long restrained. In place of the war of sections, now happily ended, we shall have a bitter warfare of parties, and the horrors of the battle-field will be transferred to our very streets. Who desires to see such a system of anarchy and murder inaugurated?

We hate mobs, and the spirit that begets them. They correct no evil and right no wrong. On the contrary, they introduce real evils and wrongs in place of the imaginary ones they seek to redress. They demoralize society, and make ruffians and assassins of men, who, under the wholesome restraints of law and order, would be good and useful citizens. The New York *Tribune*, a paper that *should* be good authority with the party that, if it does not justify, endeavors to excuse mob violence against those who sometimes are too free in the expression of their opinions adverse to its policy, has a realizing sense of the dangers that are to be apprehended from an attempted suppression of free discussion either by Government authority, or the terrorism of mobs. Here is what it says on the subject:

"We have thought it one of the gravest misfortunes of the war that the Government or the people should have thought it necessary to restrain the freest discussion of public affairs, and we congratulate the country upon the fact that a mere minimum of such restraint has been found sufficient. As peace advances, and the great public danger becomes less and less, we shall expect to see the nation return to a practical recognition of all those vital and fundamental principles of liberty which have heretofore been our pride and our boast. We no more want mental than we wanted personal Slavery Some mobs may be better than others; but there never was a good one yet. To us as much as to any one disloyalty is disgusting—We have no more love than others for pig-headed or selfish-minded or craven-hearted men. It is exquisitely provoking—who should know it better than we do?—when a babler tells us that slavery is ordained of God, that Slave-holders are your only true martyrs and confessors, that the Constitution is violated by the very attempt to put down Rebellion, that the lamented Lincoln was a tyrant, that peace is worth any price, and that the rebels are militarily guilty of justifiable homicide It is very provoking, indeed. But tar and feathers will not better matters. The noble spirit which burns with indignation at such petty and pusillanimous bigotry should scorn all meaner methods of persuasion and leave the fool to his folly and the knave to the statutes for such cases provided."

CAPTURE OF JEFF. DAVIS.

WASHINGTON, May 13, 10 P. M.—*To Major General Dix:* The following dispatch has just been received from General Wilson, announcing the surprise and capture of Jeff Davis and his staff, by Col. Pritchard of the 4th Michigan cavalry, on the morning of the 10th inst., at Irwinsville, Irwin county, Georgia.

MACON, Ga., May 12.—*Lieutenant General U. S. Grant and Honorable Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:* I have the honor to report that at daylight of the 10th inst., Col. Pritchard, commanding the 4th Michigan cavalry, captured Jeff. Davis and family, with Regan, the Postmaster General; Col. Johnson, A. D. C.; Col. Morris, Col. Libbick, Lieut. Hathaway, and others.

Col. Pritchard surprised their camp at Irwinsville, in Irwin county, Georgia, seventy-five miles southeast of this place.

They will be here to-morrow night and will be forwarded under a strong guard without delay.

I will send further particulars at once.

(Signed), J. H. WILSON,
Brevet Major General.

Particulars of the Capture.

MACON, Ga. 9.30 a. m., May 13.—*Hon E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:* Lt. Col. Harden, commanding the 1st Wisconsin, has just arrived from Irwinsville.—He struck Davis' trail at Dublin, Laurens county, on the evening of the 7th, and followed him closely night and day, through the pine wilderness of Alligator Creek and Green Swamp, via Cumberlandville to Irwinsville.

At Cumberlandville Col. Hardin met Col. Pritchard with 150 picked men and horses of the 4th Michigan. Hardin followed the trail directly south, while Pritchard, having fresher horses, pushed down the Ocmulgee, towards Hopewell, and thence, by House creek, to Irwinsville, arriving there at midnight of the 9th. Jeff. Davis had not arrived.

From citizens Pritchard learned that his party were encamped two miles outside of the town. He made his disposition and surrounded the camp before day. Harden had camped at 8 p. m., within two miles, as he afterwards learned, from Davis, the trail being to indistinct to follow. He pushed on at 3 a. m., and had gone but little more than one mile, when his men were fired upon by men of the 4th Michigan. A fight ensued, both parties exhibiting the greatest determination.—Fifteen minutes elapsed before the mistake was discovered. The firing in this skirmish was the first warning Davis received.

The captors report that he hastily put on one of his wife's dresses and started for the woods, closely follwed by our men, who at first thought him a woman, but seeing his boots while running suspected his sex at once. The race was a short one, and the rebel President was soon brought to.

He brandished a bowie-knife of elegant pattern, and showed signs of battle, but yielded promptly to the pursuasion of the Colt's revolvers, without compelling the men to fire. He expressed great indignity at the energy with which he was pursued, saying that he had believed our Government more magnanimous than to hunt down women and children.

Mrs. Davis remarked to Col. Harden, after the excitement was over, that the men had better not provoke the President, or the might hurt some of 'em.

Regan behaves himself with becoming dignity and resignation. The party were evidently making for the coast.

J. H. WILSON,
Brevet Major General.

Shutting up of the Provost Marshals' Offices.

One by one the Provost Marshal's offices are being shut up. Soon these detested institutions will be numbered among the horrors which have passed away.—The shoulder straps will be stripped from officials who have worn them for years without having faced an enemy in battle; and a multitude of clerks and attaches, numbering, it is said, not less than 75,000 in the loyal States alone will be turned away from the public crib and compelled to seek an honest livelihood, or to starve. Poor wretches, what a come down it will be for many of them! They have strutted a brief hour, bloated with self-conceit, full of self importance, and often insolent and overbearing in their manners. How will they ever manage to get down to ordinary life again? Down they must come though. The day of detested conscription are at length over. Poor men need tremble no longer for fear they will be dragged by force from their homes; wives will rejoice to know that their husbands are at last "out of the draft," and children will no longer dread the turning of the "fated wheel." We hope this county may never see a Provost Marshal's office opened in it again. In any ordinary war conscription never need be resorted to among our people. Those of the North and the South will be alike ready to defend the interests and honor of the nation.

Many have been the strange scenes witnessed about the Provost Marshals' offices. There has been brutality and hardness about most of them, corruption and fraud about not a few of them. They have been marts in which men have openly trafficed in the lives of human beings. We have seen a drunken beast of a father, who had already sold one son as a substitute to satisfy the craving for strong drink, ready to perjure himself in regard to the age of another, an ungrown boy, whom he had bribed to leave home in spite of the tears and protestations of a heart-broken mother. The miserable wretch was very eager to effect a sale. The fact that the son he had sold before had died of disease contracted in camp could not move him, the tears of his wretched wife could not influence him. The boy's life was worth money, and he was willing to sell his soul and body. It is perfectly safe to say, that the various Provost Marshal's offices of this State, and elsewhere, have witnessed more disgusting dickers in human flesh than ever disgraced any slave mart in the South. We are heartily glad they are to be shut up The people will never desire to see them re-opened.

Lancaster Intelligencer.

An Army of 160,000 Men to be Maintained.

It is said, in Washington circles, that the army is only to be reduced to four corps of 40,000 men each, and that two of the corps are to be negroes. That would leave the country burthened with a standing army of 80,000 white soldiers, and 80,000 negroes. It is estimated that every soldier costs the Government $1,000 per annum to maintain him. Not in depreciated currency but at gold rates. To maintain an army of 160,000 men would involve, therefore, an annual expenditure of *one hundred and sixty million dollars in gold.*

Is there any reason why the people should be expected to continue to bear such an enormous burthen? We do not believe there is need of one-fourth of the proposed army. A wise and conciliatory policy would bring every Southern State into the Union within less than three months, and so firmly establish all relations between them and the Federal Government that we should not need any larger army than we had before the rebellion began. To carry out the grand schemes of the radical fanatics, who are raving about extended punishment and sweeping confiscation, would necessitate the employment of large and expensive armies; but the government cannot possibly derive anything but detriment from such a course. We hope President Johnson will adobt such a policy as will enable him to reduce the army to the old peace standard before fall. He can do so if he will. Whether this is done or not, we hope no portion of the permanent standing army of the country may ever be negroes. The people will not care to have to sustain an army of negro troops with whom they can have no sympathy.—*Lancaster Intelligencer.*

☞ Ex-Senator Foote is still in jail in New York city.

☞ The Ohio *State Journal* the organ of the abolition party in Ohio, said in August last:

"I like the spirit of the Major in command of the 60th Ohio. When, in his presence, the question was presumptuously asked, "Shall we eventually have to compromise?" He turned with a withering look and said, "I entered this campaign with over 800 men; to day I can muster 129, and I tell you that if the President hints even at 'compromise,' THERE ARE 129 ASSASSINS IN MY COMMAND READY TO MARCH, solitary and alone, TO THE WHITE HOUSE.' *We wish our friends at home had this spirit*—'tis, the spirit of the Federal army, who bear the burden.

☞ Beverly Tucker, for whom a reward or 25,000 has been offered by the United States Government, published a letter, dated at Montreal, 4th inst., saying, that whoever asserts that he had anything to do with the assassins, or knowledge of the plot to capture Lincoln or Seward, blackens his soul with perjury.

☞ Last week the house of Mrs. Tyler, widow of the late Ex President Tyler, residing on Staten Island, was visited by a mob and threatened with destruction.

☞ The grandfather of ex-President Lincoln, also surnamed Abraham was murdered by Indians in 1774.

☞ The Government has now 800,000 muskets which are entirely new, having never been in service.

MARRIAGES.

In Wilkes-Barre, on Tuesday morning, May 9th, by Rev. Geo. D. Miles Mr. ARETUS H. WINTON, Esq., Scranton, to Miss ALICE M. COLLINGS, daughter of the late Hon. Samuel P Collings.

At Town Hill, on the Evening of the 2d inst., by Rev Charles Cleaver, Mr NELSON EVELAND of Co. A, 52d. Regt. P. V., to Miss NETTIE BELL of Fairmount.

DEATHS.

At her residence in Light Street on Tuesday morning, 9th, 1865, of Consumption, Mrs. MARY B BITTLE, aged 42 years 2 months and 23 days.

At the General Hospital, Hilton Head, N. C., Jan. 17th, 1865, JEREMIAH MILLER, of Co G. 52d. Pa. V., aged about thirty years.