

# STAR OF THE NORTH.



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BLOOMSBURG, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11, 1865.

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The Legislature.

The Members of both Houses met on Monday, 11th inst., and organized by electing the following officers. In the Senate, Wm. J. TUNNELL, of Susquehanna county, was made Speaker; and GEORGE W. HAMMERSLEY, Chief Clerk. In the House, A. G. ALMSTEDT was chosen speaker; and A. W. BENDER, Chief Clerk; all Republicans.

There being a Republican majority in both branches, the Democrats received none of the offices. Besides the reading of the Governor's message, and ordering some 24,000 copies to be printed, there was very little other business transacted on Wednesday, when both bodies adjourned to meet on Tuesday the 10th inst.

ANOTHER FRAUD BROUGHT TO LIGHT.—The Cashier of the Custom House, in Philadelphia, is charged with having stolen \$80,000 from the vaults of that House. This Republican, loyal, Cashier, Mr. William B. Thomas, was not required to give security. He is one of Mr. Lincoln's ardent supporters of the Government, and at the same time is robbing it of its very life-blood. These frauds and swindling operations are becoming quite common with the present administration. It was but a short time ago when the people of these Loyal States were surprised by the announcement of the stupendous fraud perpetrated by a pack of scoundrels in the Navy Yard at Philadelphia. They dipped rather deep into the "cooper," so much so that large quantities were missed. The whole affair seemed to have no effect on the party in power, one way or the other. No steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of the same frauds; but all action on the part of the administration seem to encourage the continuance of these outrages, instead of punishing and bringing the scoundrels who commit these frauds to justice. It is not at all singular that we hear so little of these frauds through the Abolition press. They promised the people an honest and economical administration of the affairs of the Government if the people would only place the reins into their hands. They were going to economize in every department of the Government, make better times, and place the country out of debt! But the administration of affairs has been to the reverse. They have plunged us headlong into a bloody war and made a debt that we never can pay.

ACCORDING to the announcement in the Governor's Message, the quota of this State, under the late call for 300,000, is 68,999. This is certainly surprisingly high. There must be some mistake. The Governor seems to be concerned in the matter, recommended to both branches of the Legislature the appointment of a committee to proceed to Washington for the purpose of looking after this quota and ascertain the cause, if any, why the assessment is made so large upon this State, which was accordingly done. We notice the Legislature becoming considerably exercised over the "coming draft." They are the men who proclaimed, previous to the re-election of Lincoln, that if the people retained FAYAN ABRAHAM in office there would be no more drafts; but that the moral effect would cause the rebels before the 25th of November to lay down their arms and come into the Union. Mr. LINCOLN is asking no more of his loyal supporters than he understood them ready to perform if called upon. They honored the war and the entire policy of the administration by the re-election of LINCOLN, at least it is so claimed by him and his party.

IS THE REBELLION any nearer down than it was two years ago? Is the back-bone any nearer broken? The Abolition war party told the people that the back-bone of the rebellion was being broken, when General Grant was besieging Vicksburg. We were told then, through the press and otherwise, that if Vicksburg fell, the rebellion could not last three months longer. That plan did eventually fail; the back-bone was broken; but some how or other the rebellion has had several more back-bones to break, and it is not dead yet, after a siege of two years and more. All these foolish reports were put in circulation by the Abolition press to encourage and strengthen the cause in which the leaders of that party are engaged—the dissolution of the Union. The party in power are carrying on nothing more than a perfect crusade against the Southern people. It is the workings of hatred and animosity, and as long as that continues there can be no Union by fighting. What would a Union be worth planned together by bayonets? Has some of our Abolition friends considered this question, and they may cease calling so loudly for more blood?

THE first page of this paper, which con-

## Rumor.

It is well known that the English government has been organizing, by volunteering and draft, a large military force in Canada, upon the ground of a supposed invasion of the Fenians. It is quite well known that the aristocracy of that nation have great jealousy on account of the former prosperity of the United States.

The force being raised is said to embrace sufficient numbers and adequate power to meet any emergency. The fear of trouble arising from the Fenians, is made the pretext and the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty by the United States authority; together with the strong armament to be placed in the northern lakes is thought, by persons watching the movements in Canada, as not the least important consideration to our neighbors of the North. On the Continent military movements are also very active; forces are said to be there in process of organization and in readiness for orders to sail for Canada. These rumors come to us from Southern papers and are confirmed by the papers of Canada. There is likewise a further report coming from the Richmond Examiner of the 2d inst., that France and England will on the fourth day of March recognize Mr. LINCOLN as President of all the States which were represented in the electoral college, and no more. This will be a virtual recognition of Jeff. Davis as President of the Southern Confederacy, with all the remaining States.

This report is also confirmed by the Canada papers:—The Montreal Gazette Jan. 4, says:

A rumor has been current in this city for three or four days, that a number of fresh regiments, including the Coldstream Guards, had had information that they might prepare to be in readiness to move to Canada; and it was understood to be current in military circles—in fact so positively so that everybody believed it. We learn, however, upon inquiry in a quarter which leaves us no room for doubt, that it is not true that any order has been given on that subject or any official intimation of such a movement of troops sent to this country. This rumor was coupled with another, that on the 4th of March next, the day of the reinstallation of Mr. Abraham Lincoln in the President's chair, Great Britain and France will only recognize him as the President of the States for which he is elected, and in that way make a recognition of the Southern Confederacy.

We are not prone to believe every rumor that is given circulation in these times of excitement, but we are compelled to recognize a startling coincidence in the statements of the Southern and Canadian papers. Another fact to be considered in connection with the above is the utterances of the Richmond Press in favor of the abandonment of Slavery in consideration of gaining French and English favor.

The South is now pushed harder than at any previous time during the war seems apparent, and the hostility of the two great powers of the Eastern Continent to the reconstruction of the Union is well understood.

## Criminal.

A few days since a man was arrested in Harrisburg, and confined in a bastille for asserting that in his belief ABRAHAM LINCOLN is a traitor. We are aware that in England it is criminal to imagine or think of the death of the Queen, but we have not heard nor read of any law, or edict of the executive of a nation, which ever existed in the world, whether Democratic, Republican or Despotic, which through jealousy or fear of citizens or subjects restricted the citizens, in opinions of the propriety or impropriety of administrative conduct.

The founders of the United States Government, looked only to the welfare and liberty of the people. And with this object in view they formed a Constitution, where power was given to the people to make a President according to their will. The same article restricts the power of the executive, and allows to citizens the right to criticize misconduct in the administration of the laws of the land. When therefore Mr. LINCOLN overreaches the bounds of the constitution and destroys the liberties of the people, if this in the opinion of some persons should seem sufficient ground to stigmatize him as a traitor, can he be casting aside the civil laws arrest citizens and punish them by the force of military power? When we desire to speak of his majesty, whether it be to call him traitor, dictator or tyrant, we shall take upon ourselves the privileges assumed by, and granted to, the opposition in the days of Mr. BUCHANAN, and we do not expect to be deprived of our liberty for so doing, by any military satrap. While we live in a free country we intend to enjoy the rights given to us by law, to criticize the acts of the executive. If Mr. LINCOLN deprives us of this right by unlawful restraint, we shall endure the restraint only so long as we cannot prevent it. We would, however, suggest that if he thinks himself slandered, he should resort to the civil law, and gain redress for wrongs, by an action for libellous expressions. He might recover damages to the extent of a counterclaim fifty cent. each.

## Death of Hon. Geo. M. Dallas.

This distinguished statesman, one of the first men of America, died at his residence in Philadelphia, on the 31st ult., aged about 73 years. During his life Mr. DALLAS filled, with distinguished honor and ability, several of the most important official positions in the country, and as a lawyer none were superior to him. As a statesman, he was held in higher esteem by his contemporaries than any other Pennsylvanian. In the local politics of the State he was beaten by Mr. BUCHANAN after a struggle of many years, and this later circumstance alone prevented him from filling the first office in the Nation. Either of the National Conventions of 1844, 1848, 1852 or 1856, would in all probability have nominated him for President had not the delegation from this State (in the interest of Mr. BUCHANAN) been hostile to him. In either case he would have been nominated and probably elected. His name was honored and respected by the great mass of every civilized land and his con-

## The Confederate Prisoners at Rock Island—Inhuman Treatment—They Feed on Dogs and Rats.

The New York News of yesterday publishes the following from a private letter, dated Chicago, December 27th:

"The condition and suffering of the rebel prisoners at Rock Island is a source of agony to every heart not absolutely dead to the feelings of common humanity, and the scientific charity. There are from six to eight thousand confined here. Many have taken 'the oath'—any oath—to save themselves from actual starvation. These released prisoners, though liberated at different intervals of time, all tell the same story. The allowance to each man has been one small loaf of bread—it takes three to make a pound—and a piece of meat, two inches square, per day. This was the ration! Later it has been reduced. Think of it reduced! All the released ones say that no man can live on the rations given, and that there are men that would do anything to get enough to eat. Such is the wretched condition of these poor starving creatures, that several dogs which have come to the barracks with teams have fallen victims to their hunger, and they are trapping rats and mice for food, actually to save life. Many of them are nearly naked, bare-footed, and without bed-clothes, exposed to ceaseless torture from the chill and pitiless winds of the Upper Mississippi. Thus, naked and hungry, and in prison, enduring a wretchedness which no tongue can describe, no language tell, they suffer from day to day—each day their number growing less by death—until their only comfort is their merciful vision."

Many charitable persons, influenced by no other motives than common humanity and Christian duty, have sent supplies of clothing to these prisoners, but they have not been permitted to reach them. I have heard of sales of such clothing having been made to the rebels at the Government, at low prices. Is it possible that the authorities at Washington know of and approve these things?

A good many have taken the oath, standing afterwards to citizens that they did so really to save themselves from starvation. I learn that there are about five thousand confined here, who have resolved to die rather than do so. Although they are wrong, there is no sublime heroism in the adherence of these men, amid such trials, to a cause which they believe to be right?

The London Times of Tuesday, Dec. 20th, says: "The only point of interest in President Lincoln's very bald message is his declaration of the expectations which prevailed for some time before its delivery. In short, the message is chiefly remarkable as declaring that Mr. Lincoln, in his second Presidency, will be precisely what he has been for the last four years. All we know is that he will be the same, the platform laid forth by his friends previous to his re-election. He was chosen to continue the war, and it will not cease so long as he has the ability to carry it. So well has British neutrality been maintained that there is only one point which concerns this empire, in his message, directly. The resolution of the federal government to place an additional force on the great lakes is not to be complained of. So long as the war lasts it will be the object of the Confederates to make the British provinces the basis of some kind of operations against their enemy."

As regards the Canadian authorities, we hope and believe they will not fail to take measures to prevent their territory being made the basis of incursions into a friendly State, and it is satisfactory to see that Mr. Lincoln acquiesces in that of being unjust and unfriendly towards the republic. If by placing gunboats on Lakes Ontario and Erie he can impede these enterprises, he will only be engaged in an object which the republic will be bound to support. But we sincerely hope that this increase of force is not meant to be permanent, for no measure has been more successful than the common disarmament of the two powers on these inland waters. As it is probable that in a short time the military and naval defenses of this great frontier will pass into the hands of the colonies themselves, we should see with regret the probability of new burdens being imposed on an infant State, which desires only to pursue its peaceful way. Nor can we conceive what necessity there is that the occasional forays of a few adventurers should be brought into connection with 'the question of continuing or modifying the right of transit from Canada through the United States, as well as the regulation of imports, which was temporarily established by the reciprocity treaty of 1854.'

As an experienced politician and a man of common sense, Mr. Lincoln cannot believe anything so absurd as that President Davis keeps an unwilling people in rebellion, we should see with regret the probability of new burdens being imposed on an infant State, which desires only to pursue its peaceful way. Nor can we conceive what necessity there is that the occasional forays of a few adventurers should be brought into connection with 'the question of continuing or modifying the right of transit from Canada through the United States, as well as the regulation of imports, which was temporarily established by the reciprocity treaty of 1854.'

THE OLD GUARD FOR JANUARY.—This popular Democratic Magazine comes to us this month, enlarged to double its usual size. The opening article is entitled "The Resolutions of 1798 as a Basis of Renunciation," and is a valuable historical paper, exhaustive of the subject. Dr. Engel's new story, "The Peer and the Printer," opens with decided interest. The article on "The Civilization of the Tropics" is a most important one, and will be widely noticed for its original views upon the adaptation of the negro race to human advancement. There are several pieces of good poetry in the present number, and a number of miscellaneous articles for general reading. The Editor's Table is, as usual, in the best vein of the editor, sarcastic and trenchant. The old guard promises to supply a want long needed—a free magazine, sustaining genuine, old-fashioned Democracy. Send for a specimen copy. Price 20 cents, or \$2 per year. A person sending a club of seven will receive an extra copy. Address Van Evrie, Horton & Co., Publishers, No. 162 Nassau street, New York.

There was to be no more drafts made if the people would only re-elect Abraham Lincoln. So said the Abolition leaders last fall before the election. The Democratic press told its readers if Lincoln was re-elected there would be another draft before Spring and that they might look for four years more war, with no change of policy. These predictions are fast being verified. The Democratic party endeavors to be right and truthful, while the Abolition party strives to keep in power by down right lying. Their papers are nearly all controlled by public patronage; and the editors are quack doctors, hickory qua-

## THE WAR NEWS.

[From the Age of the 5th.]

We have received detailed Southern accounts of the late attack upon Wilmington. The attack on the first day lasted four hours, and on the second day seven hours. There were over twenty thousand shells thrown at Fort Fisher. The Confederates threw in reply six hundred and sixty-two shots on the first day, and six hundred on the second. Their loss was three killed and fifty-five wounded. The ground in front and rear of Fort Fisher was covered with shells and torn into deep pits. Two of the guns in the fort burst, two were dismantled by the Confederates and two by the Federal fire. The fort was not damaged. The blockade runners ran into Wilmington, during the attack and afterwards. A court-martial met in Washington to-day to investigate the cause of the bursting of the Parrott guns in Porter's vessels. We have received a despatch from Port Royal, South Carolina, stating that Porter's fleet is now anchored in that harbor. 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