



BY SAMUEL J. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., FEB. 26, 1862.

TELEGRAPH AROUND THE GLOBE.—Senator Lane's proposition to the Senate is one to make a man take his breath and stare. It has the sanction of the Military Committee, and is nothing less than a telegraph from Paris to San Francisco, passing through St. Petersburg and Moscow, across the European boundary into the cold countries of Siberia, running into Tartary, and passing the northern boundary of the great Chinese empire, joins the Amoor river, and keeps along the shores of the Okhotsk sea, and through the wild province of Kutchuk, until it passes from Asia into the narrow waters of Behring's Strait, embraces the Western Russian Empire, on the bleak shores of Northern Russian America, crosses the peninsular territory above Prince William's Sound, pauses in Sitka, the capital of the Russian province, runs along the coast to Vancouver's Island, from thence to Oregon, and over the golden shores of our Pacific States until it rests at San Francisco, and uniting with our great Pacific line, brings London within a day of New York. It cannot but startle the progressive people of this ambitious and daring age. Success to the enterprise.

THE DISLOYAL STATES.—Several bills for the government of the disloyal States are now before the committees of both houses of Congress. Mr. Hutchins' bill, finds favor, as it is understood. In reference to the question of slavery in the District of Columbia, Mr. Hutchins takes the position that slavery has no legal existence in the District, for the reason, first, that Congress has no constitutional power to adopt or enact a law establishing slavery; second, that the laws of Maryland in force on the 27th of February, 1861, which Congress on that day adopted for the District, did not provide for perpetual slavery, but confined it to the natural lives of the children then born, or thereafter to be born of slaves then imported or thereafter to be imported. This law point was made in the Senate some weeks since by Senator Pomeroy of Kansas. These measures touching the institution of slavery in the disloyal States, as well as in the District of Columbia, will receive a careful consideration in Congress after the financial bills shall have been disposed of.

THE BATTLE OF MILL SPRING.—General Thomas has published his official report of the battle of Mill Spring. It does not differ in its details of the contest from the reports already published. It appears from this that our loss in the battle was thirty-nine killed and two hundred and eight wounded; the rebel loss, one hundred and ninety-two killed, and one hundred and fifty-seven prisoners, of whom eighty-six are wounded. In this account the wounded carried off by the retreating rebels are, of course, not reckoned. Besides this, our forces captured fourteen pieces of artillery, fifteen hundred horses and mules, the entire camp equipment of Zollicoffer's army, and a large quantity of stores. The public will be pleased to know that the name of this famous battle is at last settled; Gen. Thomas, in his official report, calls it the battle of Mill Spring, and by this name it will, therefore, be entered in the log of history.

THE LEBANON COURIER says truly that it does not believe that any party existing in this country has shown a more fixed determination to put an end to corruption by ferreting out and punishing offenders, than the one now in power. We have, it says, the encouraging spectacle before us of leading Republicans carefully investigating all matters pertaining to public contractors and officials of doubtful integrity, and fearlessly exposing them, no matter whether the exposure strikes friend or enemy. There is no disposition to follow the example of the party formerly in the ascendant to cover up running sores, making the body break out in running sores, making the body politic as rotten as a leper. We hail this new condition of things with pleasure and welcome the disposition shown to compel integrity, as the harbinger of better days for the Republic.

BY WHOM AUTHORIZED.—We see it stated that Gen. Halleck suggested the plan of the operations, in Kentucky and Tennessee, which were crowned with such signal victory.—"Formed in the West, and on the ground, the plan was submitted by Gen. Halleck to the President, and was approved and authorized by the President. To Mr. Lincoln who took the responsibility of ordering the movements which crushed rebellion in the West, (and to Secretary Stanton), the honor and credit belong."

AN ADMISSION.—A late able military reviewer at Richmond writes: "McClellan holds our great army at Manassas in a vice." Thus by the enemy's admission our Potomac army has not been useless. It has paralyzed the largest, bravest and the most able-commanded army that the Confederate States ever gathered.

ASSIGNED TO STONE'S DIVISION.—Brig. Gen. Sedgwick, of Gen. Heintzelman's Division, has been assigned to the command of Gen. Stone's Division, and will enter upon his duties immediately. Gen. Sedgwick's position in the regular army was that of Major of the Fourth United States Cavalry.

L. W. HALL, Esq.—A special correspondent of the Philadelphia Evening Journal, is a letter dated Harrisburg, Feb. 24, 1862, makes the following allusion to L. W. Hall, Esq., the Senator from this district; which shows the high estimation in which he is regarded by men in other sections of the State:

This is private calendar day, and although I might find material for a letter among such a mass of rubbish, yet I prefer to be engaged in other business. I went over to the Senate, and the doorkeeper, with an alacrity truly astonishing, opened the door, and in the blandest manner possible invited me to come in. The manner in which the invitation was given precluded me from refusing. It is astonishing how polite men become when they become the attaches of such a quiet body as the Senate. I went in, and the first person my eye lit upon was Hon. Lewis W. Hall, the Speaker. He was standing erect, and with that gravity for which Senators are peculiar, he seemed to be scanning with all imaginable scrutiny the thoughts and opinions of his peers. The silence which prevailed was so ominous, so death-like, that I imagined they were engaged in settling some grave question of constitutional law, by which the "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" of some poor fellow mortal was to be sacrificed.

The Speaker's eye rested upon me as I entered. For a moment, his sternness relaxed into that composure and graceful characteristic which talent and politeness ever foreshadow, and I really thought he was going to invite me to take a seat along side of him. I felt no doubt the promptings of his heart were in this direction, but the possibility of doing so, the great responsibility which the position demands at his hands, prevented him. I was content, but a number of Senators, who, observing something peculiar in the Speaker, looked about for the cause, and when they saw the great "Unknown," they immediately left their seats, and vied with each other in their expressions of profound regard for my talent and ability. The Speaker seemed satisfied with this manifestation, and proceeded to the discharge of his duties.

Mr. Hall is a most excellent presiding officer and as I observed him carefully, I can say that he is not only correct in his decisions, kind and affable in his intercourse with Senators, but impartial, prompt and determined. He has a good voice, and can be heard in every part of the chamber. His words are uttered with a distinctness, which relieves a listener from the confusion arising from a desire to understand, without the possibility of doing so. He is yet a young man, but he has thus far given unmistakable evidence of talent and ability.

HOW TO TEST IMPURE OIL.—Much of the refined oil now in the market is of an inferior quality, and some of it is said to contain portions of benzole, which consumes rapidly, and increases the danger and expense from the use of oil as a burning fluid. The following is a simple test: "Pour out into a saucer a portion of the oil; then approach the surface with a lighted match; if the oil is defective little sparks of blue flame will arise from it, and it may even take fire over the whole surface, while a good and safe oil will not take fire until it has had time to become considerably heated, but will not burn around the wood of the match where it is immersed in it, without spreading over the saucer. Another rule is to regard all cheap oils with suspicion, as experiment with the writer has demonstrated their deficiency of quality. It may also be added that the cheap oils, while apparently somewhat more economical in the purchase, will be found, being more light and volatile, to be consumed in much less time than the denser oils."

OUR STATE QUOTA.—The act providing for the assumption of that portion of the direct tax which has been apportioned to the State of Pennsylvania, passed both branches of the Legislature and has been signed by the Governor. Official notice of the fact has been communicated to the Secretary of the Treasury, and there only remains the passage of the receipt for the full amount of the tax, between the Treasurer of the United States and the Governor, to show that the States' indebtedness has been fully liquidated. Thus the people of the Commonwealth are relieved from taxation on this account for the ensuing year, a condition which the people of no other State can boast of. Pennsylvania has not only furnished the largest number of men for the war, but she is the first by her example to relieve the necessary burdens pressing upon the National treasury.

A BRIEF REPLY.—Burnside is one of the Generals "that do not issue proclamations." He is a man of action—not of words. This was shown by his "speech" on the reception of a flag presented to him at Washington, at an early period of the war. After the spokesman of the donors had delivered a flattering speech and had presented the flag, Burnside received it with an expression of satisfaction on his countenance, made a courteous bow and said: "Very much obliged to you! very much obliged to you! Move on, men! That is it. No words to spare. —Move on men."

A NOBLE MOVE.—There has been a meeting of Philadelphia merchants, for the purpose of raising funds for a most laudable object. Several gentlemen have subscribed one thousand dollars each. The intention is to raise two hundred thousand dollars for the maintenance and education of the children of Philadelphia soldiers, who fall in battle, defending the Union. All honor to the noble men who have projected so excellent an enterprise. Such men are really patriots, and entitled to the warmest gratitude of all Union lovers.

DIED.—The President's son, William, ten years of age, was relieved of his painful illness after a delirium of 90 hours, by death, at 5 o'clock on Friday afternoon, the 21st inst. It is said that Mr. Lincoln feels his loss very deeply; and the grief of the family is increased by the fact that other of its young members are lying dangerously ill.

ROANOKE ISLAND.—The official report of the battle of Roanoke Island has been published, from which we learn that our loss in killed is 50, and wounded 222. The number of rebel prisoners taken, 2,627, and 3,500 arms. About 75 tons of ammunition was also taken at the different fortifications. The rebel loss in killed was 13 and 39 wounded, so far as could be ascertained.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE "JOURNAL."

HARRISBURG, Feb. 24, 1862. DEAR JOURNAL.—There is an absolute dearth of news here, and I am at a total loss what to make up to be of any interest to your readers. The general news certainly possesses little or no interest anywhere just at this time when all eyes are turned toward the South, and when each successive mail must bring you fresh news of the triumph of our arms. The war, sir, is the Aaron's rod of the day in the way of news.

There is nothing, I protest, in legislation, so far, worthy of special attention. A few bills have been passed lately, but not one of them can I find possessing any local interest. The investigating Committees are at work, but whether their labors are likely to result in any thing, is a mere matter of surmise. The Committee selected to ferret out the alleged corruption of last session, it is confidently whispered have not discovered a single instance wherein they can charge home on any one, so that it is quite likely that, becoming disgusted with their mission, they will report at an early day.

The Committee appointed to investigate the alleged frauds in the disbursement of the Army appropriation are going over precisely the same ground already traveled by a commission appointed by the Governor, and they too must necessarily soon end their labor. A bill of some importance to every section of the State where men were recruited, (as there is a considerable amount of money due for debts incurred, of a nature which the general Government refuses to recognize or liquidate, on the principal that it only can pay men from the time they were mustered into service, and consequently no expenses incurred prior to that time,) is pending in the Senate, and will no doubt be acted upon at an early day.

Hopkins' proposition to repeal the law committing the Tonnage Tax, is made the special order for Wednesday. Of course there will be some debate, but Mr. Hopkins' bill can not pass.

There is a proposition now pending in the Senate to adjourn on the 21st of March till the 6th of June. The object is not for the pay of members to run on during the interim, neither is it intended to change the State mileage or payment on an extra session. By the 21st there will be nothing to do but pass a general appropriation bill. By the 6th of June Congress will have decided upon the mode of levying the direct tax, and it will require but a few days for the Legislature then to transact all the necessary business.

I almost forgot to mention another investigating Committee appointed since my last. It is one got up at the instance of Senator Lowry to investigate alleged frauds in the winding up of the bank of Commerce at Erie. Some rich developments are expected. There are few acts of incorporation asked for this session. The reason is obvious. The state of the country does not justify men going into doubtful enterprises. There are still a few, however, but they are not gigantic in their proportions.

Both Houses adjourned over on Friday, and went to Philadelphia for the purpose of spending the 22d, and for the first time in four years Washington's Farewell Address was not read in the Hall of the House.

Excuse brevity, and especially the dryness of my epistle. Yours, SPECKS.

NEW MADE PATRIOTS.—It is wonderful what a difference a Union victory makes in the way that some people regard the rebellion. There are fellows around who have for months been decrying the war, who have persistently argued that the government could never "conquer the south;" that the longer the war continued the stronger and more determined the rebels would become, and that the only true policy was to recognize the independence of the southern confederacy. The Union army has been the constant topic of their remarks, and Bull Run and Big Bethel were standing jokes with them. They secretly applauded at every reverse and sneered at and depreciated every victory of the government arms. But now when Gen. Scott's "big snake" begins to contract in earnest, when the rebels find themselves flanked in all directions; when the eastern coast is at last opened to our advance, and we have effected an opening through the very heart of the rebellion, and promising a speedy wiping out of the rascals from the face of the earth,—these fellows begin to sing a different tune and to talk in the most patriotic manner of the cause of the Union and the villainy of the rebels, and are even ready to "pledge their lives, their fortunes and sacred honor for the support of the government." The north just now is full of these newly-made patriots. It is astonishing to see their great now-days for the war! We would suggest, however, that the government owes them small thanks for their sudden ardor in its cause. When the nation was in gloom and dismay—when the three months recruits demanded to be discharged—these now noisy friends of the government, were then the equally noisy defamers of what they termed their "now-days for the war!" It is well to mark such men. They are known for their vituperation of Republicanism, and their sickly adulation of the rebel leaders. We venture the assertion that there is not a man who reads this paragraph but knows men such as those to whom we now refer, and who could, if necessary, point to these individuals daily in the streets.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE: SIR—I cannot suffer undue merit to be ascribed to my official action. The glory of our recent victories belongs to the gallant officers and soldiers that fought the battles. No share of it belongs to me. Much has been said of military combinations and organizing victory. I hear such phrases with apprehension. They commenced in infidel France with the Italian campaign, and resulted in Waterloo. Who can organize success on the battle-field? We owe our recent victories to the Spirit of the Lord, that moved our soldiers to rush into battle, and filled the hearts of our enemies with terror and dismay. The inspiration that conquered in battle was in the hearts of the soldiers and from on high; and wherever there is the same inspiration there will be the same results. Patriotic spirit, with resolute courage in officers and men, is a military combination that never failed. We may well rejoice at the recent victories, for they teach us that battles are to be won now and by us in the same and only manner that they were ever won by any people, or in any age, since the days of Joshua, by boldly pursuing and striking the foe. What, under the blessings of Providence, I conceive to be the organization of victory and military combination to end this war, was declared in a few words by Gen. Grant's message to Gen. Beauregard: "I propose to move immediately on your works." Yours, truly, E. M. STANTON.

PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

PREPARED FOR THE "RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL." CANTON COUNTY.—On Friday morning February 14th, at about 1 o'clock, the usual quietude of Lock Haven, was interrupted by the cry of fire! It was soon found that the drug store and dwelling house of Mr. E. L. Shultz, on Water street, together with the barber shop occupied by Julius Lindig, were in flames. These buildings burned to the ground and it was with great difficulty that the adjoining buildings were saved. It is not certainly known how the fire originated. Mr. Shultz's loss was near \$10,000 of which \$6,000 was covered by insurance. Mr. Lindig lost the whole contents of his shop, including furniture, shaving utensils and perfumery to a large amount. . . . On Friday the 14th, after the disastrous fire which consumed the buildings of Mr. Shultz, and while a number of young boys were seeking for nails and other little articles among the ruins, Albert Hunt, son of Dr. Hunt, an old and highly respected citizen of Lock Haven, suddenly fell into a well which had been dug for the purpose of excavating the foundations of the building and was concealed by the rubbish and the frebrands, and stones and coals falling upon him burned him so severely that he died the next evening. . . . On Monday afternoon, the 17th, while a pedlar was driving along below Dunneburg, his wagon slipped over the bank into the canal, drawing the horses along, and throwing the man upon the ground with such violence as to fracture his leg. Dr. Armstrong, who was retained to attend to him, sent him into the country, took the man to Lock Haven, and he is now being nursed as well as could be expected.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.—On Monday morning, February 10th, between 12 and 1 o'clock, a frame one-and-a-half story building, located on the Coal Castle tract, near Heckscherville, and occupied as a dwelling by a miner named Thomas Connel, was destroyed by fire, and himself, his wife, four of their children, a male boarder and a servant girl, eight persons, perished in the flames. The names of the children are James, John, Bennis and George; the name of the boarder, Michael Hollahan; and the servant's Bridget Condon. Not a person who was in the house at the time escaped.

FROM HAVANA, ETC.—The Mexicans insist on the re-embarkation of the Spanish troops before they will let the regular army, but consent that 200 allied troops shall attend the negotiations at Orizaba. The allies state that they shall advance during February to Orizaba, and give battle at Cerro Gordo, if they are opposed. The Mexican papers express the greatest hatred for the Spaniards. Miramon arrived at Havana and it was stated he would sail on the 15th for Cadiz, but he will doubtless make his way to Mexico. Vera Cruz fitted to the 8th state that no advance of the allied forces had yet been made. There were over 1,000 sick soldiers at Vera Cruz, besides hundreds that were at Zerefo. The yellow and typhoid fevers had broken out among them. The war in Venezuela continues. The government had notified the editors of the journals of that country that they must affix their names to the articles they may publish hereafter, as they would be held personally responsible for the sentiments they expressed. Several prominent persons had been arrested. A frightful revolution raged in Honduras. President Guardiola had been assassinated at his door. The troops had joined the insurgents and the greatest excesses were being committed in Truxillo.

DATES FROM ST. THOMAS, WEST INDIES, to the second says that a British commander attempted to take a steamer from an American vessel by force but the United States gunboat about 550 acres of land, bounded north by Phelps, Dodge & Company, east by the same, south by lands of Francis Couderick and others, and west by lands of Phelps, Dodge & Co., reserving to each thereof by land of J. Dunrobert, Wm. G. 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