

Buffalo Journal

BY S. J. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1863.

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Buffalo Journal.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE "JOURNAL"
Letter from Fort Reno, Va.

Fort Reno, Va., Oct. 28th, 1863.
Dear Row—Yesterday everything was thrown into considerable excitement, consequent upon the execution of the murderer of Lieut. Sanborn, of the 2d U. S. Colored Infantry, and who was respited one week from the 15th, the original time appointed for the execution. The excitement was somewhat intensified by a bold attempt on the evening of the 21st, of the eldest daughter of the prisoner to cheat the gallows of its victim, and defeat the ends of justice, which were never to be exercised upon a culprit more deserving of the halter. Ever since the incarceration of the Doctor, his family have been permitted to visit him, and by their presence alleviate the rigors of his confinement. Upon the evening of the 21st in question, Miss Wright, the eldest daughter came as usual to visit her father, who was so soon to answer for his crime against the laws of humanity. A short time after her arrival, the lights of the clerical riter were extinguished, a circumstance altogether unusual for the Doctor while his family, or any member of it was with him after dark. This, together with the fact that his daughter had entered and had not departed, created suspicion at once, and the Lieutenant in charge took the precaution to place an additional sentinel in front of the cell door to watch the movements. But notwithstanding this precaution, the artful scheme of the female was bound to triumph, and she succeeded in attiring the father in one of her own dresses, after which she drew up his boots and retired to his bed and covered up all except the feet, which were left protruding as was his custom. All things being completed, the bold attempt of carrying the plan into execution remained. This was only too near being successful. The Doctor passed the sentinel at the cell door, and passed the sentinel at the outer door, that one of them candidly remarked that the figure that had just passed was very tall for Miss Wright, and it was her hair she must have grown very fast since she entered. This awakened suspicion in the mind of the Lieutenant in charge, and to make assurance doubly sure, he determined to follow the retreating figure and satisfy his suspicions. He came up with the figure about fifty paces from the cell door, and upon lifting the heavy veil which concealed the features, he discovered that it was no less a person than Dr. Wright.

The Doctor finding his scheme had failed, expressed no surprise, simply remarking that "desperate circumstances required desperate attempts." Upon returning to his cell, the daughter was found in, who, on learning that the artifice had failed, was very much overcome and gave vent to her feelings in despair. The Doctor commended her to the care of the Lieutenant, who immediately escorted her to her residence. Yesterday at half past ten A. M. the unfortunate man was launched into eternity. By good fortune I succeeded in getting a pass for Norfolk with the determination of witnessing the performances. I arrived on the ground, and a half mile south of the city just as the last clerical riter was being performed on the scaffold. This done, the hands of the culprit were pinioned behind him, after which he knelt down and offered up a short prayer in his own behalf. Upon rising to his feet, the noose was adjusted, the cap was drawn over his face, and in two minutes thereafter the drop fell.

Owing to the length of the fall, which was about six feet, there was need of a struggle or movement of a limb. After hanging for five minutes he was cut down, and taken in charge of his friends. To insure good order, a considerable force of the military were present, consisting of five regiments of infantry, one battery and one squadron of cavalry. Everything passed off quietly, there being no attempt at disturbance. Previous to being swung off the Doctor addressed the crowd briefly, but I could not hear distinct enough to get the drift of his remarks. Being a man of wealth, many stories are circulated as to the stupendous influences brought to bear to procure his release. One to the effect, that his son-in-law (who was married in the jail a few days ago) offered \$40,000 in gold for his ransom. But this availed nothing. The laws of justice and humanity had been outraged, and the blood of a martyred hero called loudly for vengeance. Had the escape been successful, so far as the military authorities of the city were concerned, it is stated that it was the intention to run the gauntlet through the lines, which failing, gold was to be again brought into requisition to bribe the pickets. But he has now gone to his account, and in his death the Government has got rid of an implacable enemy, which, though it does not atone for the loss of a loyal citizen, may stand as an imperishable warning to all those who think that Liberty will be subverted by covertly striking down its defenders.

Military news is very scarce here at present. An expedition has been sent out towards Elizabeth to support a small force we have already there, as it is rumored that the rebels are concentrating some force thereabouts. The weather has been pleasant for a long time, but to-day the rain is falling freely. The health of the men here is comparatively good. Sergt. Rence of Clearfield County has been discharged from this battery for physical disability. No braver soldier has been in the service. Yours truly, w. a. s.

A gentleman at St. Paul, Minnesota, has produced, after long labor, six automatic figures, three of each sex. Life size, and so closely resembling living persons as to deceive all but the closest observers. They play upon musical instruments and mind their own business a good deal better than some live people we know of.

A district has been discovered in Russia of similar formation to that of the oil producing region of Pennsylvania, and other parts of America. Col. Gowax, the Yankee officer who has been raising the Russian fleet at Sebastopol, has obtained a grant of 60,000 acres, upon which he is to carry on his explorations.

A six months infant disturbed and irritated an audience at Washington Theatre for an entire evening, and its parents at the close added the appreciative consolation that "Hamlet was a h—l of a play to charge fifty cents for."

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of an extraordinary nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to provoke the aggression of foreign powers, peace has been preserved with all national order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of our military conflict, while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful labor to the national defence have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship. The axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines are full of iron and coal, and of the precious metals, and have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore.

Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the siege and the battle field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years, with a large increase of freedom.

No human council hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out, these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, has nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that I should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged by the whole American people.

I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign countries, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and prayer and praise to our beneficent Father, who dwelleth in the Heavens, and I recommend that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity, and union.

[L. S.] In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

By the President, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State.

DR. BROWN ON THE N. Y. RIOTS. In the October number of Brownson's Review, we find among the articles one on "Catholics and the Anti-Draft Riots."

An article on this subject from such a source is eminently worthy of perusal. Dr. Brownson undoubtedly yields an abler pen than any other Catholic writer in this country, and his productions always find readers among thinkers, whether they agree with him or not. He seems to write what he thinks, no matter whether or not it suits the church authorities. In his Review he has taken a most decided stand in favor of the Union, from the time the rebellion broke out. In his article on the July riots he endeavors to clear the Catholic Church as such from the responsibility. He admits that the rioters almost exclusively were Irishmen and Catholics, but charges the responsibility mainly on the Democratic party for arming them to do as they did.

We here give a brief extract from the article:—"These things they did not as Catholics or Irishmen, but as adherents of the Democratic party, as partisans of Horatio Seymour, Vallandigham, Wood, James Brooks, Clement L. Vallandigham, and others, by their incendiary speeches, and by leading articles in the Democratic journals, had for months been exciting them against the Government, against the conscription, against the war, and had worked them up to uncontrollable fury. The shouts of the mob tell us what was his animus, under what influence or inspiration it acted, and these were hurrahs for Governor Seymour, Fernando Wood, General McClellan and Jeff Davis. A Catholic layman or a Irishman known to be a Republican or a supporter of the Administration was in no less danger from the mob than a Protestant, a native American, or even a negro.

"Colonel O'Brien, so savagely murdered, was an Irishman and a Catholic; and one of the best friends of the Irish emigrants in this city—a Catholic and an Irishman himself—escaped the fury of the mob only by keeping himself concealed. On the other hand, Catholic Irish men volunteered to aid the authorities in suppressing the riot, and were among the bravest and most efficient in protecting the lives and property of our citizens. No, the mob was literally a Democratic mob, got up at the instigation of the Democratic leaders, and led on by men in sympathy with the enemies of the United States—a simply pro-slavery Democratic mob. Not a Catholic nor an Irishman, nor a German nor an American, who was not a partisan of the Seymour, the Woods and the Vallandighams, not even a Democrat not hostile to the war and to negro emancipation, had any part in it, either as instigator or actor."

ROBBERY.—The banking office of Benson & West, Waterford, Erie county, was entered on the night of the 8th inst., and \$25,000 stolen in notes, bank bills, drafts, checks, etc. No clue has been obtained to the burglars.

RABBI MEIR'S WIFE.

The renowned teacher and expounder of the law, Rabbi Meir, once at a whole Sabbath in the synagogue instructing the people. In the meanwhile, his two sons, both of unusual beauty, and deeply versed in the law, died in his house. His wife took them into her bedroom, laid them on her nuptial-bed, and covered them with a white cloth. Toward evening Rabbi Meir, on returning home, asked her:

"Where are my sons, that I may give them the blessing?"

"They have gone to God's house," she answered.

"I looked round for them several times but did not see them," said the Rabbi.

Meanwhile the wife had brought the light and the goblet with wine; he blessed the light and the wine; and drank from the goblet. Then he asked again:

"Where are my sons, that they may drink from the consecrated cup?"

"They cannot be far off," answered his wife, and she brought up his supper.

When he had finished the meal, and cheerfully said grace, his wife said: "Rabbi, with your permission, I will put a question to you."

"Do, my dear wife," said he.

"Some time since, one of our neighbors gave me some jewels to take care of; now he claims them back—shall I give them up?"

"How can you put such a question to me?" exclaimed the Rabbi. "Am I to teach you the commonest rule of probity? Not only must you give the property back, but you must give it willingly and cheerfully."

"I thought so too," she said; and opening the door to the bedroom, she added: "Rabbi, a friend had confided to us two jewels, and he has demanded them back."

"The young man's father had bought and furnished an elegant house for his children, and they removed at once to their own establishment. Not long after the marriage, and while in the full tide of happiness, the father was called home, and left his son and daughter, intending soon to return. They received no intelligence from him for week after week, which caused them anxiety, daily increasing to alarm. At last, one day, when the son had just decided to go in search of his father, a carriage dashed up to the door, a young man stepped out, and followed by the sheriff of the district, walked into the War Department, and before all his companions, in the broad light of noon, arrested the son as the slave of his father!

The son solemnly declared that his father had manumitted him, and that he had been doing all that he could for him, and had been doing this outrage shocked the sensibility of even an effete slave community. Mr. Monroe, then President, and others high in power, used all the argument, all the entreaty tongue could utter, offered money without stint, for the ransom of one whom all loved and esteemed, and whose condition, to that hour, no one had dreamed. But the young man, possessed of all power in the case, and the son of an honorable family, mocked them, told them that money was no object, and that he would be alike unavailing. What he had now obtained was revenge, of which nothing should foil him.

The father had met with sudden death, the will had been either concealed or destroyed, and his pet son, in all appearance of a Saxon birth, with the exception of a slight swarthy tinge common to all natives of the extreme South, was taken, chained as a slave, his house and furniture sold, and accompanied by his beautiful, heart-broken wife, faithful and unflinching in this living death, from the fashionable circles of Washington society, carried to the "plantation," to toil in slavery, beneath the infuriated lash of a vindictive father.

Mr. Monroe assured him that a situation should be given him if he ever could prove his manumission or escape.

He never afterwards was heard from in this district, for, as Napoleon said of convicts—"the terrible mysteries of slave prisons perish unrevealed."

GETTSBURG WOUNDED AT PHILADELPHIA.—Yesterday says Saturday's Philadelphia Press, a very interesting scene took place at the Soldiers' Reading Room. Since the opening of the room, the ladies in charge have been treating the inmates of the various hospitals, who were able to spend a few hours with them, to ice-cream, and cake, and dinner, where it was desired. Within a week, seventeen hundred wounded soldiers have partaken of their hospitality. Yesterday about two hundred and fifty were gathered into the room, the same and blind, and maimed. It was a sorrowful sight to see so many stalwart men crippled for life. One could not but remark how large a proportion went upon crutches. At one time twenty-four soldiers sat around the dining-table, each with only one leg; and all these were our Gettysburg boys—these were the brave shield that stood between the rebel invaders and our fair city. About one o'clock Rev. Dr. Newton addressed them for ten minutes or so. He spoke good stirring words of thanks and praise to the men who had saved us by shedding their blood, and then all joined in singing such doxology and then he lifted up his hands blessing-wise, and said: "God bless you, soldiers of Gettysburg!" I saw one rough old six-footer turn to draw his sleeve across his eyes; there were tears there; surely they had watered his heart, and he was blessed. After this the ice-cream and cake were served. The ladies, with their dainty caps and aprons, tripping hither and thither among the blue coats, the faces of the boys shined cheerily as they passed the saucer, and the joke made a picture that did one's heart good.

A RECENT spirited hunt in Ashtabula County, Ohio, in which eighteen men were engaged on each side, resulted in the slaying of fifteen hundred frisky little fellows on one side and fifteen hundred and one on the other. A horse match and a big day's work—but it reflects little credit on the prowess of the hunters. The fellows engaged in such a useless and wholesale slaughter of game, are fairly entitled to be rationed for a time on bread and water at the public expense.

THE TENDER MERCIES OF SLAVERY.

An Incident of Life in Washington. The following reminiscence of Washington life, during the dark sad days when the National capital owed the usurpation of the Slave-power, we find in the correspondence of the N. Y. Evening Post:

"Forty years ago, a wealthy planter came from Florida or Louisiana to reside in Washington for a time, bringing with him a son, a fine manly boy of thirteen or fourteen. At the levees of his father, which were then fashionable, he received the caresses of the ladies and the encouragement of the gentlemen that his age, intelligence and his father's position naturally elicited. Of his family, none accompanied his father besides his son, in his visits to Washington. In due course of time the boy, on whom his father's affections were evidently centered, was sent North, and was there educated, graduating at Harvard or Yale with an honorable standing in his class. On his return to this city he avowed a love for the North, acquired during his college life, which was not restrained in his expression by his father, who fostered and encouraged it zealously, and readily consented to his permanent residence there. He desired, however, that his son should remain with him here during his own stay. An appointment was procured for him as a clerk in the War Department, and he entered upon its duties.

Among the acquaintances formed at this time was a gentleman from Pennsylvania, and the chief clerk of a bureau, who was the father of a girl yet in her teens, lovable in character, as well as very beautiful. Intimacy better, and it was but a matter of time, before, that his son should remain with him here during his own stay. An appointment was procured for him as a clerk in the War Department, and he entered upon its duties.

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Professor Draper has an ingenious speculation regarding the influence of climate on government, in his recently published work on the Intellectual Development of Europe. He remarks that it is much more difficult to form and to govern an empire extending over many degrees of latitude than one of equal magnitude whose greatest width is from east to west. The variety of climates, he thinks must engender great differences in bodily and intellectual habits; and indeed he gives some examples which seem to prove the truth of his position. But these are all taken from ancient history, and are examples rather of the extreme difficulty of keeping under one yoke nations of different races and religions. It is not impossible that, if slavery could have been perpetuated in our Southern States, there might have arisen in the course of the next hundred years a race of men in those States essentially different from those of the free States. But slavery was already, before the war began, doomed to a slow but sure destruction; and, as the Southern States became free, their people would have become in all respects homogeneous with those of the North, Immigration from Europe, which has so powerfully affected the character of the Northern States, would have had its effect in the South also, the moment that the region is opened to white laborers; and, aside from this, in our case, the geographical formation of the continent, the courses of our great rivers, and the trend of our great valleys—circumstances which so greatly control political divisions—point rather to the formation of seaboard, central and western empires, than to separation into north and south. Mason and Dixon's line is the most thoroughly arbitrary line ever drawn across our country.

But when, with the destruction of slavery, the southern states are thrown open to all the influences which have made and modified northern society, then all will be ready for the formation of an American race. What that race will be like is yet a matter of speculation; but we believe that in the western midland States—in the centre of the great Mississippi valley—some of its peculiar features are already cropping out from the older layers and deposits.

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