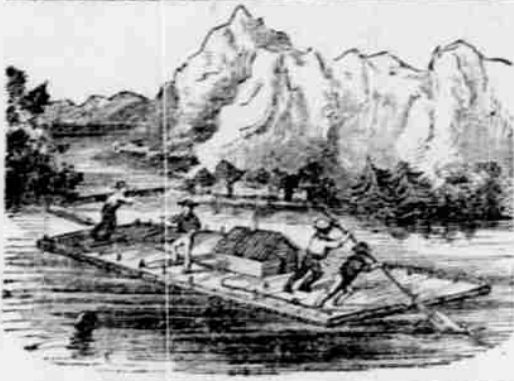


Raftsmen's Journal.



BY S. J. BOY.

CLEARFIELD, PA., NOV. 9, 1864.

PROGRESS OF "ABOLITIONISM."

We don't know what Copperhead orators and editors will do in a short time, if the progress of "Abolitionism" continues as it has for the last year or two. Every day hundreds of slaves are set free by the advance of our armies, until the number, if Jeff Davis is to be believed, foots up two millions since the war began. Between eighty and ninety thousand others had their shackles knocked off at a single blow by the adoption of the new Constitution in Maryland, at the late election.

This freeing of slaves is not, however, to be confined to it would seem, to the States now under Federal authority. The Rebels themselves are moving in the same direction. At a convocation of the Governors of the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, held recently at Augusta, Ga., the expediency of employing negroes in the army was fully discussed, and they recommended the Confederate authorities, under proper restrictions, to appropriate such part of the negroes to the public service as may be required. That this will, sooner or later, be done, is scarcely to be doubted. Indeed, a letter from Richmond to a Southern paper says that "arrangements are now being made to arm for the spring campaign 300,000 slaves, whose masters are to be compensated by the Confederate government. The slaves thus armed are to have their freedom and fifty acres of land each, which ensures them permanent homes in the South."

Here we have practical "abolition" on a stupendous scale. The slaves are to become soldiers and then freemen. Whether the wives and children of these three hundred thousand are to remain in slavery, or are to share in their freedom, does not as yet appear. But we have the great fact that the rebels, who were so furious about Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation proclamation and the arming of the blacks, are themselves emancipating and making soldiers of them. What will the Copperhead brawlers have to say about their "dear Southern brethren" turning "abolitionists" in this wholesale manner? Will they denounce them as they did Mr. Lincoln, or will they approve their course? "We shall see what we shall see."

H. B. SWOOPE, ESQ.

No man, during the canvass which has just closed, has worked more faithfully for the Union cause, and with more credit to himself and the State Executive Committee than our townsman, H. B. Swoope, Esq. Prior to the October election, he canvassed the western part of the State, speaking to immense and enthusiastic meetings in Jefferson, Clarion, Venango and Alleghany counties. Since then he has been through the eastern part of the State. His speech at the Hall of the Union League in Philadelphia, on Friday evening last, to over four thousand ladies and gentlemen, is spoken of by the North American and other papers as one of the most eloquent and effective made in that Hall. This is no ordinary compliment when we remember that Vice President Hamlin, Henry Winter Davis, Judge Kelly, Gen. Carey, R. H. Dana, and many other equally distinguished men have spoken there night after night, during the campaign. Mr. Swoope, after a continued absence of over two weeks, wound up the canvass at Harrisburg on Monday night, with Geo. Francis Train, to one of the finest audiences ever assembled at the State Capital, returning home yesterday just in time to vote.

THE ST. ALBANS RAIDERS.

The proceedings at Montreal in the case of the St. Albans raiders, are represented as very satisfactory. Several raiders have been fully identified; also a large amount of money stolen from the St. Albans bank. Counsel for the United States had a consultation after the adjournment on Friday, and determined to proceed with one case reserving the right to proceed with the others. If the prisoners are surrendered upon this one case further steps would be unnecessary. The object of this movement is to close the case within a few days. Hon. J. Rose has been retained in behalf of our Government.

Maryland a Free State.

As announced heretofore, Gov. Bradford issued his proclamation declaring that the free Constitution in Maryland had received a majority of the votes cast—the highest courts in that State having overruled all the technicalities raised by the rebels and copperheads for an injunction to restrain the Governor from proclaiming her free. The new Constitution went into effect on the 1st day of November and we notice that many of the slaves in Baltimore were at once set free, in pursuance of an order of the Court. So Maryland has entered upon a new life, and right gladly will her loyal sisters welcome her to the long career of prosperity and power now before her.

A GROSS CALUMNY.

The Clearfield Republican, a few weeks since, charged us with publishing articles full of "vituperation and personal slander," trying manifestly to create the impression that it was free from anything of the kind. No paper in sympathy with the Rebels of the South has, however, indulged nearly so much in "low, dirty personal abuse" as this same Copperhead sheet printed in our town. It is true that these attacks were generally made covertly under the guise of a letter or communication, but the "ear marks" showed too plainly that they were the production of some one of the junta of scribblers who cook up the editorials of the Republican. Private citizens, who were taking no public part in the political canvass, have been the objects of its base calumnies no less than those who were. Thus we find one of the most highly respectable families in Brady township—the Arnolds—denounced, in its last issue, as "traitors to their God and their country," the only ground for this libellous accusation being the fact that they intended to vote for Lincoln and Johnson. But of all the mean, villainous, slanderous and cowardly attacks upon private character that we have ever seen, none presents a parallel to that contained in a letter, purporting to be written by "Jos. Lansberry." The charges made in this article are too shocking to repeat. Suffice it to say that all the proprieties of life have been disregarded, the sanctity of the family circle invaded, and allegations made, which, even if they were true, have no bearing whatever upon any question which was before the people. If the "respectable portion" of the Democratic party can longer "give their aid and countenance" to a paper that indulges in such malicious, devilish "vituperation and personal slander," they are possessed of less "manliness" than we are prepared to believe.

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FROM THE NEW YORK HERALD OF NOV. 24.

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THE WAR NEWS.

Sherman is again victorious. A brief dispatch from Nashville announces that Hood was defeated on the 3d inst., in attempting to cross the Tennessee river at the mouth of the Blue Water. So the last effort, the grand invasion, which Jeff. Davis threatened and Hood undertook, has come to nothing. Hood undoubtedly chose the most favorable point for his attempt, and has failed at the very start.

From North Carolina we have important news through Rebel sources. Plymouth has again been captured by our troops. The destruction of the Rebel ram Albermarle, having opened the river to admit Porter's fleet, the forts were passed by his gunboats and the Rebels forced to evacuate. The possession of Plymouth completes and insures the naval and military possession of Albemarle Sound and its adjacent country, and its apparently easy conquest is conclusive as to the weakness of the Rebel forces. All their troops are wanted in Virginia, and this fortified town, which they captured by a desperate effort and at great loss, is surrendered as soon as the ram which defended it is sunk. It is evident we are to have the seaboard of North Carolina without a struggle.

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THE NORTHWESTERN CONSPIRACY.

Honore Hiffern, Deputy Grand Commander of the Order of the Sons of Liberty, in Indiana, who for some weeks has been on trial at Indianapolis, for his participation in a treasonable conspiracy, on the 4th inst. State's evidence, and made a startling revelation of the schemes of the Order. He said that nobody but Democrats had ever been admitted into the Order, or would be if they applied. He confirmed the previous evidence of a military organization in the Order, and the appointment of a Major General to command it. Dr. Bowles, one of the accused, was Commander-in-Chief, with a staff of which Dr. James B. Wilson, recently arrested, was Adjutant General. He said that a committee of thirteen was appointed to prepare for an insurrection, and that the insurrection was intended to release rebel prisoners in the Northwest, arm them from government arsenals, overthrow the State governments, kill Gov. Morton, or hold him as a guard for captured insurgents, and then form the Northwest into a separate Confederacy. He said it was told by Adjutant General Wilson of Bowles staff, that \$500,000 had been sent by Rebel agents in Canada into the Northwest, to purchase arms for the order, and that 200,000 had been left in Indiana in the hands of Dold and John C. Walker, store agent. Wilson showed Hiffern \$1,000 he had received from Bowles, to buy arms in Washington county. Hiffern said furthermore, that a committee of thirteen had appointed ten men to kill Gov. Morton, and a few days since the Governor received a letter signed "one of the men," declaring that the writer and his associates were sworn to kill him and would do it. Hiffern's revelation startled the Court though prepared by previous evidence for part of it. If Governor Morton was killed, Dr. Atton, Secretary of State, and a member of the order was to take his place as provided by law in case of the death or disability of the Governor and Lieut. Governor.

OUR NAVY.

The navy of this country is becoming a very powerful arm of the national defense. There are in actual service 558 steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 408,000 tons, against the original 26 steamers and 49,700 tons, with which the war commenced. Of this number 200 steamers, with an aggregate of 244,000 tons, have been built by the Department. The additions which are now being made to our navy, are of vessels of the first class, which will largely increase its efficiency. There are seven wooden steamers, two built by outside parties, the others at the naval ship yards, of 3,300 tons, intended to have a speed of sixteen knots an hour. They will carry immense batteries, be full rigged, and will doubtless prove the fastest and most formidable ocean cruisers ever built by any power. There are also in progress of building by the Department, twenty first class wooden screw steamers of two thousand two hundred tons each, to have a speed of thirteen knots, carry enormous batteries, and be full rigged for ocean cruises. They will soon be completed. There have just been completed eight screw steamers of 523 tons each. The machinery is from the designs of several parties building to compete with the Department. The first three, having the Department's machinery, have been thoroughly tried, and can maintain a speed of 11 knots. There are a few nearly completed the wooden iron-clad coast steamers Tonawanda, Montauk, Ascutawaga, and Monadnock, of 1,564 tons, drawing 12 feet of water, and having two funnels each, carrying 20 15-inch guns. The Monadnock has been tried, and is found capable of achieving a maximum speed of 11 knots. Four other iron-clads of the same type but larger and faster, being 2,200 tons, are being constructed. The Monitor iron-clad, constructed under the act of 1862, has a displacement of 78,100. This powerful navy should have been completed within three years, when the means of command were first beginning to be put into operation, shops, some of them without tools, machinery or workmen fitted for the work required, proves how readily the skill of the country can adapt itself to the circumstances required, and how great are the resources of the nation to supply any of its wants.—Philadelphia Ledger.

OUR GENERALS AND ARMIES AND THE DEMOCRATIC PAPERS.

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