

# THE RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL.

Raftsmen's Journal.



BY S. J. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., DEC. 14, 1864.

GEN. SHERMAN.

We had hoped to be able to present our readers, this week, something satisfactory, in regard to Gen. Sherman's movements and doings in the South; but we are nearly as much in the dark now, as we were two weeks since.

We have, however, through rebel sources, the statement that on the 7th instant, Sherman's army was east of the Ogeechee river, twenty-five miles from Savannah, and moving on that city; and that on the 6th he had marched eighteen miles. That this is true, admits of little doubt, for by the arrival at Philadelphia on the 11th, of the steamer Donegal, which left Port Royal on the 7th, we have the announcement that on the 6th a joint naval and land expedition, under Admiral Dalgreen and General Foster, proceeded up B. and River and destroyed the Poctaligo Bridge on the railroad between Charleston and Savannah, thirty-five miles from the latter city. It is also stated that the scouts of Gen. Foster had communicated with Gen. Sherman's forces, which were marching on Savannah. Such being the facts, Gen. Sherman, by marching 10 miles on the 6th, would be within 25 miles of Savannah on the 7th, as stated by the rebel papers.

The Poctaligo bridge being destroyed, and Sherman having cut all the other railroads, it is not likely that Savannah can be relieved by Jeff. Davis, or that our forces will meet with any very obstinate resistance in taking that city.

## THE WAR NEWS.

On the morning of the 7th the 5th corps, with three divisions of the 2d, and two brigades of Gregg's cavalry, Army of the Potomac, moved south towards Stony creek Station, on a reconnaissance. Some firing was heard in that direction, and it is supposed that some fighting took place between Gen. Warren and the enemy. Nothing definite is known, however.

Another reconnaissance was made towards Hatcher's run south of Petersburg, on the 8th. The rebel videttes were driven across the run, when, after some sharp skirmishing, our troops charged some rebel breastworks on the opposite side, and covered them—the rebels making good their retreat. We lost 17 men wounded in this affair. Rebel loss not known.

On the 7th, some troops under Gen. Ludlow were thrown across the James river, who, after some skirmishing succeeded in occupying the rebel position opposite Dutch Gap—which relieves our troops working on the canal from Rebel annoyance.

## An Important Suggestion.

The suggestion made by Mr. LINCOLN, in his message, that it might be "both competent and expedient for Congress to provide that a limited amount of some future issue of public securities might be held by any bona fide purchaser exempt from taxation, and from seizure for debt, under such restrictions and limitations as might be necessary to guard against abuse of so important a privilege," is conceded to be both original and eminently worthy of consideration.

No inconsiderable portion of the National debt might be placed thus in hands where it would operate as a perpetual benefit—much in the nature of a life insurance, only it would be earning instead of costing something annually. In consideration of the proposed exemptions, an abatement of some part of the usual interest would save the nation millions annually. Not the least of the arguments in favor of the suggestion, is the incentive to men of small means to get enough ahead to avail themselves of the provision, "against a rainy day," and enable them to lay aside a sum exempt from the contingencies of life and fortune. It is not difficult to see that this may be the germ of a grand system of National economy and beneficence.—*Pittsburgh Commercial*.

About one hundred and fifty vessels are now in Boston harbor, and more than fifty are now on the way there from different parts of the world, mostly laden with large and valuable freights. Cargoes from India and the distant Pacific ports so large as those of 1864 have not been received there for many years.

From the annual report of the School Commissioner of Cook county, Ill., it appears that there are in that county 199 schools, 32,333 scholars; the Bible is read in 128 schools; there are 531 teachers; teachers' wages amount to \$139,251.99. The total amount expended for school purposes is \$218,542.62.

The merchants of New Haven have just sent to the soldiers of their State three hundred and fifty pairs of gloves and one hundred pairs of mittens.

## CLEARFIELD SALT WELLS.

The search for petroleum now in progress in this county, has awakened considerable interest in the salt-wells bored many years ago along the river, and on Clearfield creek. The existence of salt is indicated at many points along our streams by the natural "licks," or places where the deer and cattle come to drink on account of the saltiness of the water. We do not know when the first efforts were made to procure salt in quantities, but as early as 1828, a well was bored by Dr. J. P. Hoyt and Job Packer, about one mile and a half above Curwenville. The site selected for their experiment was at the foot of a high hill, and about thirty feet from the brink of the river. The *modus operandi* was exceedingly simple. Steam engines were not in vogue, and the necessary power was obtained from a lever worked with a treadle by two boys. The drill was fastened to the end of a pole or rod, to which other rods were screwed as the well increased in depth. Some idea of the tedious character of the experiment, and the patient perseverance requisite in prosecuting it, may be formed from the length of time required to draw out the whole length of rods every time it was necessary to sharpen the drill, or discharge the ground-up fragments that collected at the bottom of the hole. It had to be done with every few inches sunk, and it was necessary after thus drawing out all the rods to which the drill was attached, to send them down again with a sand pump and bring up the fragments. This was then lifted out, each pole unscathed as it came up, and then the whole returned with the drill to recommence the boring. Slow and tedious as this method was, however, they persevered until they reached a depth of four hundred feet. At a distance of nineteen feet from the surface they struck the sand-rock; at twenty-four feet passed through a nine inch coal seam; at about forty feet below the bed of the river, after boring through slate, soap-stone, and sand-rock, they penetrated a coal seam six feet in thickness, the last through which they passed, underlying which was about ten feet of slate and soap-stone (probably fire-clay); they then entered a sand-rock which continued for about three hundred feet, varying in texture and hardness, with occasional thin bands of iron ore; at about three hundred and forty feet they passed through red slate about five feet thick; then into sand-rock again, in which, at a depth of four hundred feet from the surface they found salt water. The salt manufactured from it was dark and unsatisfactory. A stream now flows from the well strong enough to turn a mill. It is impregnated with salt, and deposits red oxide of iron.

Another well was bored, about twenty years ago, on Clearfield creek near the Cambria county line, by a company organized for the purpose. Jonathan Boynton, Esq., of this place was one of the officers. The site selected was about five miles above Glen Hope, and the whole depth bored, five hundred and eighteen feet. The strata passed through may be stated as follows:—Earth and gravel 24 feet; black slate 7 feet 6 inches; coal 6 inches; fire-clay 13 feet; coal and slate 5 feet; hard sand-rock 12 feet; black slate 2 feet 6 inches; coal 5 feet; black slate 9 inches; coal 4 feet 6 inches; sand-rock 14 feet; coal and slate 2 feet; fire clay 34 feet; sand-rock 135 feet; fire clay 5 feet; sand-rock 260 feet. Salt water, very strong, was obtained in abundance. But the well having been bored without "reamers," the hole was so crooked that they could not get the tubing down, and the project was abandoned.

Other wells were bored at Salt Lick, below Karthaus, where salt was manufactured in considerable quantities. We have no authentic account of these, however, and cannot record their history, until some of our friends in that vicinity are kind enough to furnish us the data.

There are certain important and interesting deductions to be drawn from the facts established by these old wells, together with the one now in progress here. We do not intend to do more at present, however, than to put these facts on record for future reference.

**The United States Supreme Court.**  
The appointment on December 6th of Mr. Chase as Chief Justice, completes the organization of the Supreme Court of the United States. The Court is now composed of the following:

Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio, Chief Justice; salary \$6,500.  
Nathan Clifford, of Maine, Associate Justice; salary \$6,000.  
Samuel Nelson, of New York, Associate Justice; salary \$6,000.  
Robert C. Grier, of Pennsylvania, Associate Justice; salary \$6,000.

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Mr. Usher for Mr. Smith, Mr. Fessenden for Mr. Chase, Mr. Dennison for Mr. Blair and Mr. Speed for Mr. Bates. The seats in the Cabinet are now filled as follows:

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

On the outside of this day's *Journal* will be found President LINCOLN's fourth annual message. Like all of his State papers, it is a plain, business-like document. It represents our relations with foreign countries as being, generally, in a good condition; but, in view of the recent hostile demonstrations made upon some of our northern border towns by Rebel emissaries in Canada, it has been thought proper to notify the English Government that, after six months, the United States will hold themselves at liberty to increase their naval armament on the Lakes. The public debt, on the 1st of July last, was \$1,740,690,489. Should the war continue another year, it may be increased, perhaps, five hundred millions. The National Banking system has proved an entire success, and no less than 584 banks had been organized under it on the 25th day of November. The postal revenues of the year ending June last were \$12,438,537.88, and the expenditures \$12,644,786, showing an excess of the latter of \$206,235.42. The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows a total of 671 vessels, and about 51,000 men, including officers, in the naval service. Since the last annual message, all the important lines and positions then occupied by our forces have been maintained and our armies have made steady and extensive advances into the revolted territory.

The passage of a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery throughout the United States, is recommended. The President says the passage of such an amendment of the Constitution is only a matter of time—that if the present Congress does not pass the measure, the next certainly will.

The late election has developed the fact that in the most important branch of National resources—that of living men—we do not approach exhaustion—that while it is melancholy to reflect that many have been killed in battle and died of disease, it is a relief to know that a great majority who composed the corps, divisions and brigades are still living. The important fact remains demonstrated that we have more voters now than we had when the war began—that we are gaining strength, and may, if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely—that our resources of men and material are inexhausted and believed to be inexhaustable.

Tellers were duly appointed. The ballots of all the Electors having been taken, they were severally opened and read by the President, and recorded by the Tellers; and the ballots and tally papers corresponding, it appeared and was declared by the President that

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, of Illinois, had received twenty-six votes for President of the United States.

The College then proceeded to a similar ballot, and the President declared that

ANDREW JOHNSON, of Tennessee, had twenty-six votes for Vice President of the United States.

JOHN A. HIESTAND, Esq., was appointed as bearer of one of the packages of votes and certificates, directed to the President of the United States Senate.

ELIAS W. HALE, Esq., was appointed the bearer of packages directed to JOHN CADWALADER, Judge of the District Court of the United States, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CHARLES H. SHRINER, Esq., was appointed to deliver the certificates directed to the President of the Senate of the United States, Washington D. C., to the Postmaster of the seat of government of this State.

A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered to the presiding officer of the college, to whom he responded in a few well timed parting remarks. A unanimous vote of thanks was also tendered to the Secretaries of the college adjourned *sine die*.

### HANCOCK'S CORPS.

Orders for the organization of a corps, to be made up of 20,000 veterans, who have served not less than two years, and been honorably discharged and therefore not liable to draft have been issued by the Secretary of War.

Recruits in this corps will receive a special bounty from the Government of \$300 besides the usual pay and perquisites of volunteers. Their first step is to present themselves to the Provost Marshal of their proper district, who, if they be found qualified, will furnish them with transportation to Washington, D. C., where they will be mustered into the service of the United States.

Recruits will be credited to the district in which they or their families are domiciled. As evidence of the place of domicile, the affidavit of the recruit will be required. If it shall subsequently be ascertained that the place of domicile has not been correctly given, the credit will be taken from the place to which it was erroneously assigned, and transferred to the proper place of domicile of the recruit.

Whether the word "district" in this paragraph means sub-district is not clear; but we think it would not be quite safe for a sub-district to pay a local bounty to a veteran whose proper domicile is in another sub-district, even though it should be in the same district.

Neither do we believe that a sub-district could claim the exclusive credit of one of its residents to whom it paid no local bounty; but that he would be credited to the district at large. These points ought to be, and must be, more explicitly defined, if the work is to be successful.

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The Jersey City Times says: "A sailor recently went ashore at Ambey, New Jersey, and asked for the office of the American consul!"

The Wisconsin State Prison is vacated and the jailor is away on a vacation.

The diggers in Australia are picking up a great many diamonds now as well as nuggets.

In an engagement between our batteries and the rebel rams on the James river, one rebel boat was considerably damaged.

The Cabinet—The Changes.

Since Mr. Lincoln's inauguration in March, 1861, there have been five changes only in his Cabinet: Mr. Stanton for Mr. Cameron, Mr. Usher for Mr. Smith, Mr. Fessenden for Mr. Chase, Mr. Dennison for Mr. Blair and Mr. Speed for Mr. Bates. The seats in the Cabinet are now filled as follows:

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