

RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL.



CLEARFIELD, PA., MARCH 1, 1865.

THE WAR NEWS.

As stated in our last, Charleston was evacuated by the rebels on the 17th. Several of the fortifications were left unimpaired, which, together with 200 cannons fell into our hands. The stars and stripes now again float over the city and Fort Sumter. The rebels set fire to Charleston before leaving it, and about two-thirds of the city was destroyed ere the flames could be arrested. Several iron-clad gunboats were also destroyed by the rebels previous to their leaving Charleston harbor. During the burning of the city a large number of the citizens had congregated at the Wilmington railroad depot, when a most fearful explosion occurred by which several hundred lives were lost. These people generally belonged to the poorer classes, and could not leave the city for want of means. The cause of this horrible disaster is not known, but is supposed to have been the result of the explosion of torpedoes, or some other infernal machines lying in the depot buildings. A blockade runner which had just arrived, also fell into the hands of our troops. Thus, one rebel stronghold after another is taken possession of by our gallant Union boys, and we hope soon to see the now tottering "Confederacy" going to pieces altogether.

The news from our armies continues favorable. On the 17th our forces under Gen. Scofield left Smithfield, on Cape Fear river, and commenced an attack on Fort Anderson, while the fleet under Com. Porter went up the river, and also opened a heavy bombardment on the fort, which was kept up during the day. On Saturday night, however, the rebels evacuated—most of the garrison making its escape towards Wilmington. On Sunday morning the 18th, our troops took possession of the rebel works. Our entire loss in the engagement was only eight. Rebel loss not known. Wilmington, too, has fallen into our hands. As our troops advanced on the place the rebels evacuated it also. Our troops occupied the city on the 22d, Washington's birthday. We captured in all about 700 prisoners and thirty cannons, at Fort Anderson and Wilmington. In the city the rebels burned one thousand barrels of cotton and fifteen thousand barrels of flour.

From the tone of the Richmond papers we infer that much despondency prevails in the Confederacy. In fact, they admit that their cause is in a critical situation. The authorities have set apart the 10th of March as a day of fasting and prayer, and the people are exhorted to devote the whole day to the service of God, and asking his aid in behalf of the rebel cause. The arming of negroes is a matter of much controversy among the rebel leaders, and as yet nothing definite has resulted therefrom, as many fear to trust their "servants" with guns in their hands.

The news from Sherman is quite indefinite—the only information of his whereabouts being through rebel sources. At last advice he was forty miles north of Columbia, South Carolina, and threatening Charlotte in North Carolina—but whether the latter place is his destination is not known.

JAUZEL.—The Mexican President, says the Pittsburgh Chronicle, challenges our admiration by that courage and fortitude with which he maintains front against the foreign adventurers who are holding riot in Mexico. He has issued a stirring proclamation declaring that the republic shall be sustained at all hazards, and urging the people to stand firm. The news from Mexico is of an encouraging character. The States of Chihuahua, Sonora and Sinaloa have pretty much driven off the Imperial troops, and there are nearly twenty thousand republican troops under arms in those States. MAXIMILIAN finds the English newspapers regular "Jon's comforters," for they are busily predicting all manner of embarrassment and disasters to him. As for LOUIS NAPOLÉON, notwithstanding the oracles of Paris correspondents of New York papers, he is doubtless heartily glad that he has shifted upon other shoulders the responsibility of an enterprise the most Quixotic of the age, and, next to this rebellion, the most criminal.

STERLING UP THE HORNETS.—Late telegraphic dispatches report a great commotion in the rebel lines, both about Richmond and Petersburg. The rebel leaders are in a pretty flutter of excitement, and the privates are ungratefully deserting on every occasion. The rapid advance of ALABAMA, as the rebels style General SHERMAN, makes it necessary to do something else but fluninate in their newspapers and quarrel over arming negroes in their "Congress." They must either change their base, and crush out one of the main armies operating against them, or be smothered in Richmond like so many hornets in a hole. What they decide to do must be done quickly. We shall not, therefore, be astonished to hear of the whole swarm buzzing about GRANT'S headquarters soon, or taking flight into the mountains of East Tennessee.

The four years of continued suffering which the people of Savannah have endured have left an impression of pain upon their faces. Men have remained in their houses for months, without ever going into the streets, for fear of being conscripted; and an instance is mentioned of one man who had not gone outside of his doors for three years.

A NEW SPOKE IN THE WHEEL.—The landing of General SCOFIELD, with a very considerable force, at Newbern, prepared to build and equip railroads, indicates that that place is to be a water base for important operations towards Goldsboro and Raleigh. It will not be long before Raleigh will be reached, when Richmond will be completely isolated.

"THE WAR IN CLEARFIELD." Ever since troops were sent to Clearfield county to arrest deserters and enforce the laws, "certain distinguished leaders of the Democratic party" in this town, have labored anxiously, through the columns of their organ, to shift the responsibility for what has ensued from their own shoulders where it properly rests, and fasten it upon "certain cowardly Abolition leaders," whom they cannot find language sufficiently strong to denounce. To this end they have misrepresented and distorted the facts, published deliberate falsehoods, and exhausted every expedient that political cunning and legal ingenuity could devise. But all this time the true record is steadily being made up, and when completed, it will not only fully vindicate "the cowardly Abolition leaders," so wanting in principle and every manly "instinct," but it will demonstrate to the most humble comprehension, that the men who counseled their fellow-citizens not to furnish another man or another dollar to prosecute the war, are justly accountable to them for all the suffering, calamity, and trouble, the adoption of their advice has entailed.

We publish to-day one chapter of this record—the clear and lucid statement by Col. CAMPBELL, of the reasons which induced him to make a requisition for troops to be sent to Clearfield. No doubt many persons will be surprised to learn, after the fulminations of the Clearfield Republican, that the information upon which he acted reached him "through the direct official channel," and that the troops were asked for by that "vigilant and attentive" officer, whose "requisition" the Republican so much deprecates, Capt. JOHN S. M'KIERNAN. Surely that "faithful and gentlemanly officer," who was able to discharge his duties so as "to meet the approbation of the Government and the people," could not have been mistaken when he reported "the impossibility of obtaining aid or assistance from the inhabitants in the prosecution of his duties—that, on the contrary, deserters and non-reporting drafted men were 'secreted, harbored, and employed by many influential citizens—that his efforts must prove fruitless unless sustained by a military force, and that he had been repeatedly fired upon while in discharge of his duty.' Can it be possible that a life-long Democrat—a supporter of M'Clellan—a high-minded gentleman and true soldier—one who was removed "because he would not participate on behalf of the Abolition party in the late political contest" (vide Republican, 16th Nov. 1864), could have been guilty of manufacturing "base fabrications," to induce the authorities to send troops to Clearfield, and perpetrate "a fraud upon the Government?" Certainly this report of the special favorite of the Republican, cannot be charged upon the "cowardly Abolition leaders." With still less propriety can they be charged with the failure of over three hundred and fifty drafted men to report. Had their advice been adopted, the quotas would have been filled; there would have been no draft, no failure to report, and no troops sent to the county. They did not place over proclamations for the draft, the headings, in glaring capitals, "Your money or your life," "The bloody wheel," and others of like character, to make the measure odious to the people. They did not hold meetings and advise those who looked to them for counsel, not to furnish another man or another dollar to prosecute the war, and then when trouble ensued in consequence of the advice, place themselves out of reach of the men they had deluded. They sold no revolvers, distributed no ammunition, and upon whose premises was harbored any deserter, or upon whose premises was based. By so doing you will confer favor on.

Yours, &c., H. BUCHER SWOOPÉ.

OFFICE PROVOST MARSIAL, Ridgway, February 19th, 1865. H. B. SWOOPÉ, Esq., Clearfield, Pa.: Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 8th instant, with copies of the "Clearfield Republican" containing the editorials to which you refer, and as I do not deem it inconsistent with the public interests, but a duty which I owe to myself and the Government which I represent, I will, with pleasure, briefly furnish you with the reasons which prompted me to require the presence of an armed force in Clearfield county.

In pursuance of the call of the President of the United States, there were drafted into the service, in Clearfield county, on the 31 day of October, 1864, 666 men. The Board of Enrollment, by order of the War Department, notified them to appear at Brookville, Jefferson county, on the 20th of the same month, where the Board repaired for the purpose of holding the necessary examinations for the Eastern counties of the district. Of the number drafted in Clearfield county over 350 men failed to report.

After much inquiry and careful investigation into the causes of this failure, the Board became satisfied that concerted action had been taken amongst large numbers of the drafted men, aided and abetted by many citizens of the county, with a view to resist the draft. Evidence was also laid before me of the existence of a widely extended, secret, oath-bound association for the purpose of resistance—proof having previously been furnished that large numbers of revolvers and other arms, with unusual quantities of ammunition had been imported.

In addition to these facts, I was in possession, officially, that numbers of deserters from other counties in the State had repaired to and were lurking among the fastnesses of Clearfield county.

The Deputy Marshal, Captain M'Kiernan, stationed in that County, had from time to time reported the impossibility of obtaining aid or assistance from the inhabitants in the prosecution of his duties—that, on the contrary, deserters and non-reporting drafted men were secreted, harbored, and employed in defiance of the laws, by many influential citizens—that his efforts must prove fruitless unless sustained by a military force, and that he had been repeatedly fired upon while in the execution of his duty.

From a knowledge of these facts I was prepared, when the drafted men failed to report, to make a requisition for troops upon the Government. But the citizens of Clearfield county, without regard to party, charged upon me, while at Brookville, that the officer employed by me had not been effective—strenuous efforts had not been made to arrest and bring to justice the delinquent drafted men and deserters—that every pacific measure had not been, and should be exhausted before troops were called into the county. On this representation, on 25th October, 1864, I sent Col. Cyrus Butler and Lieut. George Van Vleet, special agents of the Government, to arrest a notorious deserter named Joseph Lansberry, residing within a short distance of Clearfield borough. In the effort to make the arrest Col. Butler was murdered and I am sorry to be compelled to add, the assassin was sheltered, secreted, and assisted; his wounds dressed, and his wants relieved, and in consequence thereof, he is still at large.

When this overt act was committed, in addition to the state of the county as above detailed, it would have been ineffectual, to say the least, if I had not made the requisition upon the Government for troops to arrest the murderer—break up and disperse the organization against the Government known to exist, and secure and deliver over to the proper authorities for punishment the lawless bands of deserters, non-reporting drafted men, and disloyal citizens, who had by their acts provoked this measure.

I, with a full knowledge of the facts and responsibility, state that I made the requisition upon the Government for the troops to enter Clearfield county, and am alone responsible to the people and the Government for the act; and can freely and candidly assert that I was prompted by no political or partisan purpose; but with the determination to compel obedience to the law, and to consult and promote the best interests of the people, and the Government. Had I not adopted this course, the Supplementary draft would have been exceedingly onerous and unjust to those who were willing to respond to the call of the Government and discharge their duty.

The result has fully demonstrated the wisdom of the measure. No less than 105 drafted men, who had refused to report, have been brought to headquarters by the troops; while they have arrested over 40 other deserters and bounty-jumpers, and have to a great extent, if not entirely, broken up the secret organization to resist the draft. The supplementary draft has been made, and the quota filled, without interference on the part of the troops.

A mass of evidence has been collected, which, when the proper time arrives for its publication, will remove all doubts as to the expediency and propriety of sending troops to your county.

In the discharge of our unpleasant duties, the Board of Enrollment has studiously aimed to reach the knowledge of any man's politics; but it may be right that I should here state, that the charge that members of the Republican party influenced me in sending troops into Clearfield county, is wholly without foundation, and that I was wholly uninfluenced by the feelings, passions, or animosities of a single citizen in your county. The information upon which I acted came through the direct official channel, and the responsibility for whatever has ensued rests properly on those who had conducted me the measure necessary.

I am, sir, very respectfully yours truly, H. S. CAMPBELL, Capt. and Pro. Mar. 19th Dist. Pa.

INTERESTING PROCEEDINGS. Donation to Rev. L. M. Gardner.

On Tuesday evening of last week, a large number of ladies and gentlemen from Clearfield and Curwensville, met at the Methodist Episcopal Parsonage, for the purpose of making a donation to the Rev. L. M. GARDNER, whose Ministerial term here has just expired. H. BUCHER SWOOPÉ, Esq., stepped forward and spoke as follows:

MR. GARDNER: The ladies and gentlemen by whom I am surrounded, have assigned to me the pleasant duty of presenting you with this purse I hold in my hand, containing the sum of \$250.00, which they beg you to accept as a slight token of their esteem for you as a man, a Christian, and a patriot. Holding different religious creeds, as you may perceive, sir, yet unite in this testimonial on the eve of your departure, to evince, more especially, their appreciation of your earnest and unwavering support of the great cause of our country, which all have so much at heart. That a Minister of the Denomination to which you belong—a Denomination which, it is not invidious to say, has, perhaps, done more than any other not only to Christianize but to enfranchise the races of men—should yield a cordial and hearty support to the Government during the momentous struggle in which it is engaged, was only to be expected. But, sir, not alone did your loyalty and patriotism find expression in fervid invocations to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for his aid and blessing throughout this fearful trial—not alone in eloquent and glowing words of encouragement and exhortation to your people to render to the Government a firm, united, and hearty support—but when the State was invaded by a hostile force, and its Capital was threatened, you were found armed in the trenches, ready to assist in defending our hearts and homes; and on the bloody field of Gettysburg you knelt by the side of the sons and brothers of our neighbors and friends, ministering to their wants, dressing their wounds, and preparing them for the land of the Hereafter. Again, when the news flashed over the wires, that our brave boys were surrounded by the dreadful carnage of the Wilderness, you promptly left your home, and for weeks devoted your time, strength, and energies in seeking out and administering to the temporal and spiritual wants of the heroic men who represented this county in the fierce shock of battle. For these things, sir, you are entitled to the lasting gratitude of the loyal people of Clearfield. Accept, then, this purse not as a compensation for services which no amount of money could repay—but as a slight testimonial of our regard, gratitude and confidence.

There is a peculiar fitness in our meeting together on this evening, for this purpose. The news which we have just received that Charleston has fallen—that the starry flag of the Government waves again in triumph over the city in which the Rebellion had its origin—gladdens all our hearts, and lends a zest to our intercourse which the usual incentives to social hilarity would utterly fail to give.

Had your sojourn with us been longer, sir, our offering would, in all probability, have been larger. But as you are leaving just as the Oil has been discovered, you will fail to reap any portion of the harvest. We have no doubt, however, that wherever your lot may be cast, you will always rejoice in the prosperity of your friends in Clearfield.

Though the intrinsic value of the gift which I now place in your hands is not large, we trust it will be heightened in appreciation by the circumstances and association which surround it. Receive it, sir, with the assurance, that your sojourn among us will always be remembered with kindly and grateful emotions.

MR. GARDNER, replied as follows: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I can hardly find language to express the sense of gratitude which I feel for this testimonial of your regard and esteem. It deserves, and shall have the lasting thankfulness of my heart. I cannot too highly appreciate such a substantial evidence of your respect and confidence. It gives me pleasure to say, that during my residence among you, I have always found you kind, indulgent, and liberal; and now, that the relation of pastor and people is about to be dissolved, in the order of the Church, this agreeable surprise will only cement more strongly the bonds of affection that bind me to you. The ministerial office is not exempt from perplexities and trials. It has its seasons of trouble and affliction, but, it has, also its "green upon which the sunshine of joy beams with undimmed radiance. The smiling faces around me, and your handsome donation make this to me, indeed, a green spot in the path of life. In after years, when far away, mingling with other friends and surrounded by other circumstances, I shall not forget this scene. It shall live in memory till life's latest hour, and be thought of only with emotions of pleasure.

You have been pleased, sir, to allude to the position I have sustained among you, in reference to the cause of our common country. With me, that position has been maintained, not only as the conviction of my best judgment, but of my conscience. From that hour when Sumpter fell, and our glorious flag was insulted by rebel hordes at Charleston, where to-night it waves again in triumph, I felt it to be my solemn duty, as a Christian minister, to give whatever influence I possessed in favor of the Union and the Government. I have sincerely regarded the cause of the Republic as the cause of God, and have contemplated its destruction as the most appalling calamity that could befall mankind. Hence, in the pulpit and out of it, in public and in private, I have endeavored to inculcate a spirit of loyalty and patriotism.

With your permission, I was absent on two occasions from the charge, for the purpose of assisting to alleviate the sufferings of our brave soldiers who were wounded in defence of the flag. On the field of Gettysburg it was my privilege to bind up the wounds of many noble men who had fallen in the strife, and to point the dying heroes to the Lamb of God. And never, till I witnessed the sufferings of those brave and glorious soldiers, did I comprehend the magnitude of the sacrifice that was being made to save the life of the nation. Last summer it was my privilege again to minister to the suffering in the hospitals at Fredericksburg, and on the march to the Chickahominy; and as I saw those gallant men passing into eternity, many of them with a smiling Christian triumph upon their brows, I resolved that while I had a voice to speak it should plead in behalf of the cause for which they died—and that so far as my influence would go their lives should never be absent in vain. For what I have done in this respect, I do not claim any thanks. I have simply performed a sacred duty which I owed to God, to my country, and to mankind.

While I have been among you, the nation has seen dark days. We have wept and prayed together, as clouds gathered over the national hopes; but, thank God, ere we separate the skies have brightened up again, and the conquering legions of freedom are marching on to sure and certain victory. My earnest prayer is, that God may fasten the day when we can congratulate each other upon the salvation of the Union, and the return of peace.

And now, my dear friends, I once more thank you for my heart for this liberal gift; and my sincere prayer is, that God may bless you all with health and prosperity in this life, and should it not be our privilege to meet again on earth, I trust that we shall meet in that better world above, where the chain of friendship is never broken, and eternal joy is the lot of the blest.

As an eloquent and gifted preacher, a devoted patriot, and good citizen, MR. GARDNER has few equals, and no superiors. He leaves his Charge with the respect and esteem, not only of his own immediate people, but of the community at large.

THE ENROLLMENT LAW.—The amendments to the Enrollment law will come up at once in the House. It is not expected that any important change will take place, but an effort will be made to rectify one of the interpretations put upon the present law by General FAY. He decided last summer that where a man liable to draft shall put in a substitute in advance for three years he shall be exempted for that time, the substitute not being liable, but that when a man wanted to be drafted, and was drafted, then, although he furnished an acceptable substitute for three years, he shall not be exempt for but one year. This unjust decision the House will probably correct. In other respects the present law will doubtless be improved.

The Copperhead Commissioners of Center county lately refused the use of the Court House in Bellefonte to the Rev. J. Walker Jackson, of Harrisburg, who had been invited to lecture for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of that place. His subject was "Andrew Jackson," and as nothing could more strikingly display the deformities of Copperhead Democracy than an exhibition of the history, character and principles of the founder of the Democratic party, it is not surprising that malignant enemies of the government and sympathizers with treason should attempt to prescribe Mr. Jackson for dragging to descent upon the virtues of his illustrious namesake.

A son of Dr. Livingstone, the African traveller, who enlisted in the Federal service when the war broke out, was in the latter part of last year, taken prisoner by the Confederates.

THE CLEARFIELD COUNTY CASES. Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer. The Military Commission.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 25, 1865.—The trial of Samuel Lounsberry, the second on the list of Clearfield county prisoners, was concluded this morning. The existence of a secret organization to resist the execution of the draft was most clearly proven in the case. If anything were needed to add to the verification of the fact, the case of Patrick Curley would immediately settle the matter. By his confession an ex-Governor and a State Senator, both able men, high in political circles, are represented as counselling the prisoner and others in opposition to the Government; and this, too, early in August last, at a meeting held at Clearfield, and at a time when there was no excitement of a political campaign to serve as an excuse for such violent utterances.

Patrick Curley Came before the Commission this morning, after the trial of Lounsberry was concluded. The charges and specifications against him were read, and instead of making a defense, he pleaded guilty, submitting a written statement to the Court. The following is an abstract of the

CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS: CHARGE I.—Entering into, confederating and assisting in forming combinations to resist the execution of certain provisions of "an Act for enrolling and calling out the national forces." Specification.—That he, Patrick Curley, combine with Jacob Hubler, Jacob Wilhelm, and many other disloyal persons, in Clearfield county, to resist the draft, and prevent persons who had been drafted from entering the service, resisting and evading, and counselling others to resist and evade, the execution of the conscription laws. All this about the 3d of October, 1864, and at other times and places.

Specification.—That he, by words in substance, threaten and declare that he would resist, by force, all the officers and others in aid of the Government concerned in enforcing the laws for enrolling and drafting persons subject to military duty, and counselled and advised others to resist by force all officers and others in aid of the Government, and prevent the arrest of deserters from the service, and of persons drafted; all this about the 3d of October, 1864, and at other times and places.

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Statement of the Prisoner. To the Honorable Commission.—Now, this 25th February, 1865, I, Patrick Curley, waive my right to a trial on the charges and specifications pending against me, and plead guilty, but beg leave to present the following statement:

I was a member of the Democratic party of Clearfield county, and Governor William Bigler and Senator William A. Wallace were its acknowledged leaders.

On the 13th day of August, 1864, they held a large meeting in the town of Clearfield, some three thousand people being present, at which these gentlemen made speeches, the tenor and effect of which was, that no more men or money should be furnished for the prosecution of the war. I was present at that meeting, and, with others, was taught to believe that it was the purpose and intent of our party to entirely withhold its support from the Government in carrying on the war.

I was informed, by Samuel Lounsberry and others, that a secret society was being organized for that purpose, and was induced to attend a meeting at Jacob Hubler's, where I was sworn into the society by John J. Kyles. I was misled into joining the organization and pursuing the course I did, by the counsel of Governor Bigler and Senator Wallace, as given at the meeting I have mentioned. After I was arrested and learned all the circumstances, I voluntarily stated to Major Gable, the officer who first had charge of me, all the circumstances and facts within my knowledge, giving him the Constitution and forms of the organization.

I was paroled, and while I was at home devoted my time to assisting the officers of the Government in the execution of their duties. It is my purpose and desire to sustain the Government and to discharge my whole duty as a loyal citizen. The services I have rendered are within the knowledge of Major Gable and of several loyal citizens of Clearfield county.

Recent reports from nearly all our armies show that the number of deserters this winter from the rebel armies is more than three times as great as it was last winter, and the estimate is held that more would desert if able. The general disposition of many of the prisoners lately taken is averse to returning to the South, and since the exchange has been resumed over sixteen hundred men, now in confinement, have refused to be exchanged. The significance of these facts is further enlarged by the report of Gen. Grant that since the campaign began last May, the whole number of deserters arriving within our lines from Lee's army alone is about 17,000.

JOHNSTOWN, February 25.—An accident occurred on the Pennsylvania Railroad yesterday, four miles west of Cresson, resulting in the death of two persons almost instantly, and seriously injuring twenty five others.

Strikes have been numerous in all branches of business during the past year, but the only successful ones have been among those who have "struck it."

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New Advertisements.

Advertisements in large type, cuts, or on a formal style will be charged double price for space occupied.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—Letters of Administration on the Estate of J. W. Shawson, late of Burnside town, Clearfield county, Pa., deceased, having been granted to the undersigned; all persons indebted to said estate are hereby required to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same will present them properly authenticated for settlement.

ASA GOSSMAN, Administrator. Feb. 1, 1865-Pa.

CLEARFIELD ACADEMY.—D. W. McCurdy, A. B. Principal.—The next quarter will open on Monday, the 20th of March, 1865.

TERMS OF TUITION AS FOLLOWS: Common English comprising the branches not higher than Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, English Grammar and History, per quarter \$ 5 00

Higher English branches. 10 00

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