

Raftsmen's Journal.



CLEARFIELD, PA., MARCH 29, 1865.

THE FLOOD.

The recent high waters extended over a very large area of territory. The destruction of property was unprecedented. Its value will reach many millions of dollars.

All along the Philadelphia and Erie, Williamsport and Elmira, Lackawanna and Bloomsburg, Atlantic and Great Western, New York and Erie, and New York Central Railroads the damage was immense.

On the Allegheny, and its tributaries, the freshet was equally destructive. At Oil City, and points above, the loss is estimated at two millions of dollars—some thirty houses being swept away at that town alone.

The flood of March 1865 will long be remembered. It was, perhaps, the most destructive to all kinds of property that ever occurred in this country.

INTERESTING TO SOLDIERS.—The exorbitant charges made by claim agents for collecting bounties and pensions due soldiers' widows, are attracting some attention in the proper quarter, and the legal remedy will be applied to correct the abuse.

The Sentences.—We are informed, that the sentences have been published in the following cases, tried before the Military Commission at Harrisburg:

Samuel Lansberry fined \$1000, and two years imprisonment in Fort Mifflin. Jacob Wilhelm fined \$500, and two years imprisonment in Fort Mifflin.

GOLD GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.—In regard to Government securities, the decline of gold and consequent appreciation of paper money, should and will have the effect of restoring confidence in the value of all Government issues, beginning with legal tenders and ending with the bonds and other evidences of the debt.

A CHIEF GONE.—CHARLEY OSAGE, a distinguished chief of the Osage tribe, died on Tuesday last, at the City Hospital, at St. Louis. A few days before his death, one of his legs had been amputated, and he suffered greatly from the operation.

THE CLEARFIELD COUNTY CASES BEFORE THE MILITARY COMMISSION AT HARRISBURG, PA.

CASE OF GAINOR P. BLOOM, ESQ.

Gainor P. Bloom, Esq., was called up for trial on the 21st of March last. The Commission consisted of COL. CHARLES EWING of 4th New Jersey, President; COL. GEO. ZINN of 57th Penn'a, and CAPT. A. G. HAPPER of 11th Penn'a, and CAPT. H. L. JOHNSON, A. A. G., Judge Advocate.

Mr. Bloom was defended by the WM. P. JENKS, Esq., of Brookville. The order convening the Court was first read to him, when he was asked if he had any objection to be tried by the Court as constituted.

CHARGE I.—Entering into, confederating and assisting in forming combinations to resist the execution of certain provisions of an Act of Congress approved the 3d day of March, 1863, entitled "An Act for enrolling and calling out the National forces," and the several supplements thereto.

Specification 1st. In this: that he, the said Gainor P. Bloom, a citizen of Clearfield county, State of Pennsylvania, did unite, confederate and combine with A. L. HICKOK and Samuel Miles and many other disloyal persons, whose names are unknown, at or near the county of Clearfield, State of Pennsylvania, to resist the draft and prevent persons who had been drafted under the provisions of the said Act of Congress, approved March 3d, 1863, and the several supplements thereto, from entering the military service of the United States.

Specification 2d. In this: that he, the said Gainor P. Bloom, a citizen of Clearfield county, State of Pennsylvania, did unite, confederate and combine with A. L. HICKOK and Samuel Miles and many other disloyal persons whose names are unknown, and form or unite with a society or organization, commonly known and called by the name of the "Democratic Castle," the object of which society or organization was and is to resist the execution of the draft, and prevent persons who have been drafted under the provisions of the said Act of Congress, approved March 3d, 1863, and the several supplements thereto, from entering the military service of the United States.

Specification. In this: that he, the said Gainor P. Bloom, a citizen of Clearfield county, State of Pennsylvania, did by words, in substance, threaten and declare that he would resist by force all the officers and others in aid of the Government of the United States, concerned in enforcing the laws of the United States for enrolling and drafting any and all persons subject to military duty under the laws thereof, and counseled and advised others to resist by force all officers and others in aid of the Government of the United States, and of persons drafted into the military service of the United States.

Specification. In this: that he, the said Gainor P. Bloom, a citizen of Clearfield county, State of Pennsylvania, personally came and deposes as follows: I was thirty years old the 8th day of June, 1864. I have been living in the aforesaid township the past thirteen years. Some time in August, 1864, there was an organization formed in the aforesaid township and county under the name of "Democratic Castle," of which I was President, Frank McBride, Secretary.

Before commencing the testimony, it is proper to explain, that in Military Courts, all the witnesses are excluded from the room, and are called in and examined separately. Each witness is therefore ignorant of what has been stated by the others.

GEORGE KORB, of Brady township, was the first witness called, who testified as follows: I am a farmer, and reside in Brady township, Clearfield county, Pa. I know Gainor P. Bloom, Esq. I attended a secret meeting in Brady township, called "The Democratic Castle," sometime last fall. I do not remember the month, or George Weaver's house. The first night there were some 20 members. I was at a vendue on that day, and Bloom told me there was to be a meeting there that night.

Question.—Did or did not you start with others to rescue drafted men who were in custody of the Marshal? Answer.—I did. I thought it was my duty under my oath. Henry Aurand was in the party. He was an officer of the "Castle." It was the object of the organization, and therefore I believed it my duty to go. The party was arrested. I had a gun.

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Lieut. GEO. W. RAWLINS, was the next witness. He testified as follows:—I am in the military service of the U. S. I am First Lieutenant, Company C, 16th Regt. V. R. C. I know Bloom by sight. He was arrested about the 21st or 31st of January 1865. I was acting Provost Marshal of the town of Philipsburg. He made a statement before me on oath. I think it was on the 4th of January. I was in the office when Bloom came in, accompanied by the Deputy Provost Marshal, who told me he wanted to make a statement, and asked me if I would take it down, which I did. There were no inducements of any kind held out to him to my knowledge. I think I saw him shedding tears. I told him I did not want him to say anything but the truth, and nothing but what he could conscientiously stand up in Court, and swear to before the accused. He replied that he knew what he was doing as he was a Justice of the Peace.

The witness proceeded as follows: He stated to me that there was an organization formed in Bloom township, sometime in August 1864, called The Democratic Castle, of which he was President, and a man named M. B. BRIDE, Secretary—that John Hoover came to his father's house and requested him and others to form the organization, as it was just the thing they wanted, and every body was going into it—that John Hoover furnished him with the papers, the Constitution and the By-laws—that the object of the organization was to resist the draft—and that its members were sworn—that they were bound to keep secret everything connected with the order, and to stand by the order and resist every attempt on the part of the authorities to enforce the draft—that they were furnished with signs and pass-words so that they could recognize one another—that they were bound to keep fire-arms and ammunition to make resistance when it should become necessary. He told me that he understood that the members did keep on hand fire-arms and ammunition as they were directed to do—that the members who were drafted were instructed not to report, and resist the officers who should attempt to arrest them. He said he thought four of the drafted men in his township were members of the order. He said that they had met about six times—that it was about the third meeting when the signs and pass-words were given—that he received them from Abel Hickok, who was President of the Castle in Knox township, where he was sworn in. He described the pass-words signs, &c.—and the working of the system. It is all contained in his written Statement, signed and sworn to by himself—I took it down just as he told it—as nearly as possible in his own words.

Question.—Did or did not you start with others to resist by force all officers and others in aid of the Government of the United States, and of persons drafted into the military service of the United States? Answer.—It is. He signed it in my presence, and swore to it by the up-lifted hand. Centre County, Pennsylvania: Gainor P. Bloom, of Bloom township, Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, personally came and deposes as follows: I was thirty years old the 8th day of June, 1864. I have been living in the aforesaid township the past thirteen years. Some time in August, 1864, there was an organization formed in the aforesaid township and county under the name of "Democratic Castle," of which I was President, Frank McBride, Secretary.

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was: "A soldier." Then he would ask how he should know he was a soldier? The answer was "By signs, grips and pass-words." Then he would say give us your pass-words. The pass-words was Jackson. Then on entering the room we saluted the President by lifting the right hand and drawing it across the mouth, which was answered with left hand drawn across the eyes. The members of that meeting that I saw there on entering, were John R. Dunlap, Isaac Dunlap, Able Hickok, Thos. Adams, David McCullough, William Dunlap, John Sloss, Rolls and others. These meetings were called Sub-divisions. That of which I was President did not receive any designation, but we were instructed to send a delegate to Clearfield town on certain days designated, for the purpose of receiving instruction. I never went down. The secretary of our meeting, Frank McBride, went down as delegate. I think he told me that Walter Barrett, son to Judge Barrett, was President of meeting in Clearfield town. This delegate was furnished with letters and figures to use in communications with different members of the Order, so that only those for whom it was intended could read it should it fall in to other hands. I could not understand them. Some numbers were to be placed on Republican houses, and some on Democratic houses. This is what was to be placed on Democratic houses: 25 + 19 = 34. This was known as a house that belonged to a member of the Order. I don't recollect what was placed on a Republican house, except one mark which was this, C. The delegates that were sent from Brady township were George Weaver and Samuel Miles. They live near Leithersburg. I think Samuel Miles was President of the meeting in Brady township. It was understood that the headquarters for all the townships in Clearfield county was at Clearfield town, and each member was taxed twenty-five cents to support that headquarters, to build a house and for other purposes. I make this oath freely, without any hope of reward, and of my own accord, considering it a duty I owe my country.

GAINOR P. BLOOM. Sworn to before me this 4th day of January, 1865, at Philipsburg, Centre county. (Signed) GEO. W. ROLLINS, First Lieut. 16th Regiment V. R. C. and Provost Marshal of Philipsburg, Pa. Cross Examined.—I have spoken from recollection. I recollect the facts independently of the papers. He was not under guard when he made his statement. He had the right to control his own actions. He was not weeping when he made the statement, though I think I saw him shedding tears before. I cannot say positively whether he had been confined in the Guard house or not. Maj. Gable was present part of the time—I think most of it. I do not remember of his saying anything to the accused when he was making his statement. He was not unduly excited, and there was nothing to intimidate him. He seemed to understand perfectly well what he was about.

S. B. BENSON, sworn.—I am Deputy Provost Marshal of the Nineteenth District. I ordered the arrest of Gainor P. Bloom. After he was arrested he was brought before me at Philipsburg. The arrest was made at Curwensville. When he came before me, I had a casual conversation with him about the matter. He wanted to tell me all he knew—I was busy, and asked Lieut. Rawlins to take down the statement, which he did. I told him if he was going to tell anything to tell the truth. There were no inducements held out to him of any kind within my knowledge. I was not present all the time. I was in and out attending to other business. I was in when it was read over to him, and saw him sign it. (Paper shown to witness.) Is this the paper which was read over to him, and which he signed? Answer.—It is. I have no doubt he was perfectly aware of what he was doing. He seemed to act and talk intelligently. He did not seem to be unduly excited. He spoke calmly and deliberately.

Cross Examined.—He had been arrested and held in custody by armed men, but I think had been released on parole, by the Major, and was not under guard when he made his statement. I was not present all the time. I heard it read over to him. Major F. A. H. GOEBEL, sworn.—I am Major, commanding 16th Regt. V. R. C. I was placed in Command of the troops in Western Pennsylvania, on Dec. 4th 1864, with Head Quarters at Philipsburg. I know the Prisoner by sight. I first saw him about the 2d of January at Philipsburg. He was brought to my Head Quarters under arrest. Capt. Kerr, commanding at Curwensville had him arrested. He sent me word that he had made a statement to him, and seemed disposed to tell all he knew. When he was brought up, he seemed to be much afraid as to what disposition would be made of him. I concluded not to examine him, and permitted him to go and stay at the hotel on parole. I told him I considered him a gentleman, and would take his promise not to run away. I was present most of the time when his statement was taken down by Lieut. Rawlins. It was the next morning after my conversation with him. I think he knew perfectly well what he was doing and what he was saying. There were no inducements held out to him, of any kind, to get him to make a statement. When he expressed his desire to make it, I tried to explain to him how he would be held as a witness, but he offered to tell all he knew before I made any explanation to him whatever. No threats or promises were made by me, or in my hearing to induce him to make a statement.

Cross Examined.—His mind was probably full of fear, when he came before me the first time. His appearance was that of a man who felt he was in a very tight place. His conduct however, was very gentlemanly, and I endeavored to do nothing that would excite him. He was brought under guard the first time, when the guard brought me the papers from Capt. Kerr. He was not under guard when he made his statement, he was on parole. He had no right to return home.

SAMUEL MILES, sworn.—My family is now in Centre county. I am a day laborer. I know Bloom. I am a member of "The Democratic Castle." I think it was sometime in October, when Bloom organized it in Brady. I was President. Instructions were given by Bloom. He instructed us in the signs and pass-words. The special object was to keep the drafted men at home until after the election, so as to get their votes. He distinctly instructed us that it was our duty to rescue drafted men, if arrested. The members were sworn in by Bloom. We were to stick together and

keep the drafted men at home. At some time during the meeting he said, that after the election there would be no use in staying at home, as if M. Clellan was elected we would all go of course, and if Lincoln was elected, we would all have to go, or something to that effect.

Cross Examined.—There was something in the paper about obeying the Constitution. By the Court. Question.—Did Bloom tell you to stick together, and resist the draft, and the officers sent to enforce it? Answer.—I will have to say that he did. We were to resist, and keep the men at home. These were the instructions as near as I recollect.

The case for the Government here closed. SAMUEL MILES, was then re-called for the defence. Question.—State whether the paper marked "B," now shown you, is not the Constitution of the Democratic Castle? Answer.—As far as I can understand it, it is one of the papers we had there. (This document was attached to the original record, which was sent to the Commanding General, and no copy of it is in our possession. It contains nothing, however, that was particularly objectionable.) SAMUEL REED, sworn.—I am 49 years of age. I am a day laborer. I live in Bloom township, and have known Gainor for 10 or 12 years. I have never known him to be against the Government or to advise against it. He advised the drafted men to report at Brookville last October, and offered to take his team and haul them out. He sent word to them to report.

Gen. Couch was applied to by a widow to protect her property during the march. The General replied substantially, "I have protected a great deal of property in the South during our marches; but when the rebels burned my house at Chambersburg last summer, I swore vengeance. I have not yet found it in my heart to take it, however, and I am afraid I will lose my chance. Your property shall be protected. I keep thinking that I ever get into South Carolina I will take my vengeance there, but I guess it would be about the same there." At one time a large barn was found full of corn and other stores. Enough was taken to supply the wants of the army, and a large amount left. A few miles further on the General and staff stopped at a house where the men, as usual, were out in the rebel army. "We found them entirely out of provisions, 'We can't see you starve, if you are rebels," said he; "I have got a whole barn full of corn back here, and will divide with you." Accordingly their wants were supplied.

KINSTON.—Kinston dispatches give interesting particulars of the occupation of that place, on the 14th inst., by General Schofield's armies, the rebels marching out after making slight opposition. The repulse of BRAGG's army before that place in the engagements of the 8th, 9th and 10th instant, was of the greatest importance. If BRAGG had succeeded in defeating SCHEFFELD's troops, the latter would have been compelled to fall back to Newbern, and General SHERMAN's advance might have been thereby materially delayed.

INCENDIARISM.—An incendiary fire took place at Port au Prince, February 28, destroying about one hundred and fifty houses, occupied mostly by retail merchants. Subsequently another attempt was made to fire the city, but the incendiaries were caught and shot.

THE FIGHT AT BENTONVILLE. The fight which the rebels report as having occurred at Bentonville, North Carolina on the 19th instant, in which SHERMAN was "routed," with a loss of three guns, was probably an unimportant and indecisive affair between the rebels and a small force of ours, used as a corps of observation on the left flank of SHERMAN's army, on the march to Goldsboro. Bentonville is about twenty miles southwest of Goldsboro and southeast of Raleigh. It is not on the road from Fayetteville to Goldsboro, which SHERMAN is pursuing, or we think at more correct to say, has pursued his march, for there is little doubt of his having already arrived at Goldsboro. There is nothing in the rebel bulletin itself to warrant the very cheerful headlines in the Richmond papers.

During the first day's fight near Kinston Lieut. Col. Scott of the 17th Wisconsin, suddenly and unexpectedly ran upon five rebels. Assuming a bold front, he ordered them to surrender. One of them replied, "I am hungry and tired; I will do most anything for something to eat." "Yes, you will," said the Colonel, "come here." The fellow then tremblingly took aim at Colonel Scott. "Not drop that," exclaimed the Colonel, "and come right here." He did as he was told. "Now hand me that gun." He obeyed again. The Colonel now having a weapon to use, took aim at the others successively, and by the same cool effrontery already indicated, brought them all to his side and took them in triumph. Strange to say he was without his pistol, having no weapon to commence with but his sword and his boldness.

CANADIAN UNION.—The scheme of a Canadian confederation is not finally settled by the passage of resolutions in favor of it by the Canadian Parliament. The province of New Brunswick holds the key to the scheme. If it fails to approve finally, the Confederation will be a failure. That province lies between Canada and Nova Scotia, separating the two geographically. It has, so far, looked with aversion upon the proposed union. Prince Edward's Island, an adjacent province has also rejected it. Newfoundland has deferred action upon it, and Nova Scotia has so far manifested no particular desire for a more intimate political union with the larger provinces.

POOR MAN.—MAXIMILIAN's position in Mexico appears to be far from agreeable and decidedly precarious. The priests, who were angry with JUAREZ for his sequestration of the immense estate of the church, and who consequently welcomed the new Government, have become much disgusted at finding that the Emperor has pursued the same policy. It is a significant circumstance that MAXIMILIAN, whose acceptance of the imperial authority was preceded by a renunciation of his rights to the Austrian succession. This would seem to betoken a suspicion on his part that Mexico may not long continue an eligible residence.

NASSAU.—The dear people of Nassau have suddenly discovered that there is such a Government as the United States, and that they have always greatly admired and respected said Government. It may be mentioned in this connection, that there are thirty-four fine blockade-running steamers lying idle in Nassau harbor, and more are arriving almost daily from England, only to be sent back without discharging. The ware houses of the city are full of goods intended for the rebels, that are scarcely worth paying insurance upon. A few supposed private steamers are lurking around the Bahamas, but thus far they have done nothing.

FAILURE.—MESSRS. STREETER, FAXON and POTTER, New York dry goods merchants, have suspended. They had made a quarter of a million, but the shrinkage in values left them stranded.

The Confederates are a nation of regicides. They have been burning their king—cotton—ever since the war began.

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New Advertisements.

Advertisements set in large type, cuts, or out of usual style will be charged double price for space occupied.

TAKE NOTICE.—The Commissioners of Clearfield county have adjourned until Monday the 10th day of April, 1865. By order of the Board, W. S. BRADLEY, clerk. Com's office Clearfield Pa. March 29th, 1865.

LOST.—A large light tan-colored dog, named (times taken for white,) about the 10th of January last, with a long bushy tail, and named a tiger. The sum of five dollars will be paid for his return to Cook's Mill. J. C. & S. H. BOGNER. March 29th, 1865-pd.

WHISKERS! WHISKERS!—Do you want Whiskers or Moustaches? Our Grecian Compound will force them to grow on the smooth face or chin, or hair on bald heads, in Six Weeks. Price, 50 Cents per bottle, sent by mail, enclosed, on receipt of price. Address, WARNER & CO., Box 135, Brooklyn, N. York. March 29th, 1865.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—Letters of Administration on the estate of Wm. P. Bloom, late of Pike township, Clearfield county, Pa., deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons having claims against the estate are requested to present them properly authenticated for settlement, and those indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, without delay, at the residence of the subscriber in Pike township, Pa., March 29th, 1865-pd. REUBEN HALL, Adm'r.

ESTATE OF ALEX. STONE, DEC'D.—The Administration on the estate of Alex. Stone, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present them properly authenticated for settlement, and those indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, without delay, at the residence of the subscriber in Pike township, Pa., March 29th, 1865-pd. JOSIAH R. REED, Adm'r.

CLEARFIELD ACADEMY.—D. W. McCarty, A. B., Principal.—The next quarter will open on Wednesday, the 23d of March, 1865. Studies or terms as follows: Common English, including the branches not higher than Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, English Grammar and History, per quarter \$ 5 00 Higher English branches, 7 50 Languages, 10 00

BROWNING'S EXCELSIOR COFFEE.

Whilst trying Coffee of all the various brands, Remember—BROWNING'S EXCELSIOR—at the head it stands. True, it's not like others that are "SOLDEVERYWHERE." A little stretch, we all do know good wools will easily bear. (But a stretch like this—"sold everywhere"—is very apt to tear.) Now, I can safely say, without any hesitation, There's no one like "BROWNING'S EXCELSIOR" in this enlightened nation. Skilled chemists have not found a Coffee from any store Possessing the same ingredients as "Browning's Excelsior." Nor is there any one, in or out of the Coffee trade, who knows the article from which Browning's Excelsior is made. I'm told it's made from barley, rye, wheat, beans, and peas; Name a thousand other things—but the RIGHT ONE if you please. But with the coffee men I will not hold contention For the many, many things they say—too numerous to mention. Whilst they're engaged in running round from store to store To learn the current wholesale price of "Browning's Excelsior." Some who know my Coffee gives perfect satisfaction, Have formed a plan by which they hope to cause a quick reaction. The case—"tis with a few; no doubt 'twill be more." To name their Coffee after mine, (BROWNING'S EXCELSIOR, Some say 'tis the only brand that will stand a ready test. Now, try a little of them all—see which you like the best; Three years have past away since first I sold a store. Never have I in your paper advertised before; Nor would I now, or ever consent to publish more, If like some used by "everybody," "sold everywhere," "in every store." A trade like this I do not wish; the orders I could not fill; The factory all Jersey's land would take—leave not a foot to till. My trade is not so very large; still I think I have my share. But, reader, you must rest assured; 'tis NOT "SOLD EVERYWHERE."

Manufactured and for Sale by the writer, GEORGE L. BROWNING, No. 20 Market street Camden, N. J. This Coffee is not composed of poisonous drugs, it contains nothing deleterious; many persons use this Coffee that cannot use the pure coffee; it takes but one and a half ounces to make a quart of good strong coffee, that being just one-half the quantity it takes of Java Coffee, and always less than half the price. RETAIL DEALERS may purchase it in less quantities than ten gross at any price at the Wholesale Grocers. Orders by mail from Wholesale Dealers promptly attended to. Mar. 8-2m

FOUR (4) good draught horses for sale by E. A. JAVIS, Curwensville.