

Franklin Repository

CHAMBERSBURG

Wednesday Morning, July 15, 1863.

JOHN K. SNEYD is authorized to receive subscriptions and contract for advertisements for the Repository in the Eastern cities.

Gov. CURTIN arrived here on Monday evening from the battle-field of Gettysburg, accompanied by Gen. W. W. Irwin, Commissary General of the State. He has been at Gettysburg for several days, giving his personal attention to the care and removal of our Pennsylvania wounded, and it is his purpose, we learn, to move with Gen. Couch's column, and remain until the final struggle has been fought on the banks of the Potomac.

THE SITUATION.

At the time of this writing (Tuesday noon) there has been no general engagement between the armies of Gen. Meade and Lee. Skirmishing has been almost constant for several days, and the loss on both sides has been unusually severe for outpost engagements. Gen. Buford had quite a spirited fight with the rebel cavalry a little west of Boonsboro' on Friday, and Gen. Kilpatrick engaged the rebels at Funkstown on Saturday, routing them handsomely. The same day a part of Sedgwick's corps engaged Lee's extreme right under Longstreet, near the old Antietam battle-ground, and compelled Longstreet to fall back some five miles towards Williamsport with considerable loss. On the west Gen. Mulligan has had heavy skirmishing, but has steadily advanced down the National road, until he now holds Clearspring, and the important positions on the Potomac within a few miles of Williamsport.

These collisions have been but efforts on both sides to feel the positions of the respective forces. The decisive battle has yet to be fought, and it promises to be deadly and desperate beyond precedent in the war. Lee fights from necessity, not choice. Like a stag at bay, he turns upon his pursuer, because the angry waters of the Potomac forbid his escape, and the remnant of his shattered army must fight for existence. That they will do so, and with the energy of despair attempt to save the army of Virginia, though it be behind monuments of their dead, we cannot doubt.

Lee's position is naturally a strong one, and he has doubtless added every possible element of strength to it that military genius could suggest. His lines are short, covering the single ford at Williamsport, and he has certainly received supplies and ammunition from Virginia. Although full thirty thousand of his army are numbered with the dead, wounded, captives or deserters since he entered Pennsylvania, still he has probably fifty thousand left, and with the choice of position, and the advantage of entrenchments, he hopes to hold his lines until the Potomac falls to a passable point.

Gen. Meade is immediately on Lee's front, with the preponderance in numbers; with equal skill in officers; at least equal courage and experience in his ranks; with an army fresh from the signal triumph of Gettysburg, and anxious to complete the destruction they there so effectually commenced. Gen. Kelley threatens Lee on his left flank and Gen. Couch is rapidly pushing his large column down upon the foe. Indeed Lee is completely encircled by the swollen Potomac in his rear; by Kelley on his left flank; by Couch on his left front; and by Meade from thence round to the Potomac at Shepperdstown. When the great struggle is to be made is for Gen. Meade to determine, and that will be, we feel assured, just when he is entirely ready.

That Gen. Lee will escape to Virginia with his command, however disastrous may be the issue of the impending battle, there can be no reasonable doubt. Sensation newspaper correspondents habitually prate about the certainty of "bagging" Lee and his army; but it must be clear to every reflecting mind that it is not possible. Gen. Meade may practically destroy Lee's army if he can break his chosen and fortified lines; but still he can save the remnant of his men and take them, however heartless and hopeless, to their desolated homes and crumbling government. But to break the rebel lines in their present position would be an achievement as yet unknown in the history of the

war. If Meade shall fight him with equal loss, and compel him to retreat hastily across the Potomac leaving his dead, wounded and despairing deserters behind him, he will have accomplished all we can hope to realize. Indeed he will have accomplished everything. He will have saved Pennsylvania; saved Maryland; saved Washington; saved the heroic Army of the Potomac; SAVED THE REPUBLIC!

THE SUPREMACY OF LAW.

The supremacy of law is the only safety of the citizen, and we cannot, especially at this time, inculcate the sanctity of civil and social order with too much earnestness. One of the inevitable results of fraternal war, in all ages, has been a tendency to lawlessness; a disregard of constituted authorities; a contempt of rulers; and unless arrested by the power of the government, has ever resulted in anarchy.

It is not to be disguised that the evil fruits of lawless teachings have been manifested in the North. For more than a year past, with a considerable portion of reckless political leaders, the safety of the Republic has been subordinated to the hope of petty party triumphs; and the government has been assailed at every point while engaged in a death-struggle for existence. Every measure adopted for the suppression of murderous treason has been perverted and condemned, and even the solemn enactments of our highest legislative tribunals have been denounced to the very verge of resistance. Efforts of the government to save our heroic brethren in the field by swelling their numbers have been met by resistance to the draft or insidious or open hostility to enlistments; and the purpose of the administration in the prosecution of the war has been unscrupulously falsified, and declared as meriting the scorn and contempt of the citizens rather than their earnest and cordial co-operation. This is lawlessness in spirit under every guise, and often so in fact; and it is not surprising that it has enforced a lawless tendency looking to retaliation.

Especially would we warn Union men against this insidious, this fatal evil. We who sustain the government in its sacred work of preserving the institutions of our fathers, do so in the name of the law; and we appeal to its paramount claims upon every citizen, when we ask all men in the North to join in preserving the life of the Republic. We call for men of every persuasion to fill the ranks of our volunteers and conscripts, and we do so because it is a just and lawful duty. Those who share our political faith have control of the different branches of the government; have made our laws looking to the prosecution of the war; have determined the particular line of policy to be adhered to in our holy effort to preserve the Union of the States; and however men may differ as to particular measures or as to the policy of the administration, we expect obedience from all men, in the war policy and efforts of the government, not only because patriotism would so dictate; but we expect it—yea, we enforce it, because the law demands it at their hand.

The crowning object of this war is to establish for ourselves and for those who shall come after us, the sanctity of government, the immutability of law; and in no way can the cause of government be so successfully impaired as by lawless spirit amongst our own people. Men may be lawless in purpose; guise lawlessness with chosen words in speech, or commit lawless acts insolently by actual hostility to the government and its measures; but the lawful authorities, and not lawless mobs, should correct such abuses and punish the guilty with an unsparing hand. If men will make foolish speeches—as is very common these days, and never was very uncommon—to punish them to speak to empty benches and undemonstrative brick and mortar, is the sorest of punishment; and if men make wicked speeches, the laws of Pennsylvania and Congress afford due process and ample penalties. If men violate the articles of war by correspondence with the enemy, let guilt be first clearly established, and then let the guilty die with the fitting ceremony of military law. If men print silly newspapers, venturing upon the threshold of treason as far as they dare, so as to preserve the claim to loyalty, it is infinitely better for loyal men to with-

hold their patronage and quit their subscription lists, than to make loyal and disloyal alike pay for gutting their offices. The one is the proper remedy to evince a regard, and enforce respect, for law; the other is a lawless remedy which places loyal and disloyal upon the common level of lawlessness, and invites the foes of the government to disregard all the solemnity and claims of legitimate enrolments. Let treason and treasonable folly be held to the strictest accountability in the name of the law, and let all remember that the safety of persons, of property, of life, and of all our civil and religious rights, depend upon the supremacy of law.

UNION STATE CONVENTION.

The Union State Convention, called originally to meet at Pittsburg, on the 2d of July, was postponed to the 5th of August, in consequence of the rebel invasion. The Union Committee recognized the fitness of postponing all political movements while there should be a foe upon loyal soil, and thereby relieved many delegates to the Convention who are now in the ranks to defend the border.

The names of quite a number of able and meritorious men has been suggested for the Union nomination for Governor. Messrs. John Covode, of Westmoreland; J. P. Penny and J. K. Morehead, of Allegheny; W. W. Ketchum, of Luzerne; Jas. H. Campbell, of Pottsville; M. M. Michael and John C. Knox, of Philadelphia; Jas. L. Reynolds, of Lancaster; Heister Muhlenberg, of Berks; F. Jordan, of Bedford, and probably others whose names we do not now recall, have been advocated by their respective friends; but the manifest unwillingness of the party to relieve Gov. CURTIN from a re-nomination has deprived the struggle of its usual animation and earnestness.

Rarely in the history of politics in this State has there been such a spontaneous expression of preference for a candidate as has been exhibited in the demand for Gov. CURTIN's re-nomination. We have reason to know that he earnestly desired to be allowed to retire at the close of his present term to rest from the herculean labors imposed upon him by the war, and to recruit his exhausted health. In fact his declination was regarded by himself and personal friends as an imperative physical necessity, and it was made in the best of faith, and we doubt not that to this day Gov. CURTIN desires nothing so much as that his party may accept it. But in the face of the formal announcement of his wish and purpose to retire, half the delegates have been positively instructed to demand his acceptance of the responsible trust, and with those previously chosen, fully two-thirds of the Convention will insist upon making him the Union standard-bearer in the coming contest. His matchless fidelity to his great State; his ceaseless devotion to our brave soldiers in the field; his earnest care for our wounded and heroic dead, and the high measure of ability he has displayed and the success achieved in his administration of the government generally, have endeared him to the people of Pennsylvania to an extent that is measured by no party lines, and against which the fiercest political malice must hurl its weapons harmlessly. His re-nomination, therefore, may be regarded as settled; and however reluctant, Gov. CURTIN cannot decline it.

The nomination for Supreme Judge will probably be tendered to the West, and if so, Judge AGNEW, of Beaver, will doubtless be chosen. He is one of the ablest jurists of the State, and would be an ornament to the highest judicial tribunal of the State.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The sincere patriot has much to mourn in the repeated disasters to our arms, and the disappointment of cherished hopes of success in different quarters; but we must not be unkind that much has been already accomplished in narrowing the limits of armed treason, and some of the most brilliant achievements in the history of war have been won by our heroic troops.

When the rebellion opened its fearful drama of blood, it held undisputed sway in all the Gulf States, excepting only Forts Pickens and Fortugas; it had entire possession of Virginia, of Tennessee, of Kentucky almost to the Ohio line, of Missouri, of North Carolina and of South Carolina. This

started this wicked, wanton war—with the conspirators prepared, as far as the labor of years within the government could prepare them, to enact the crimsoned tragedy that has since passed into history. But two years of conflict on the field have restored Western Virginia to the government and added a new State to the galaxy of stars on our national flag. Missouri has been redeemed after several sanguinary battles, and is now under a loyal government, exercising its functions over the entire territory of the State. Kentucky has been wrested from the spoiler, and excepting a very small corner in the Cumberland Mountains, is entirely under loyal rule. Tennessee has been more than half recovered, including its capital. Louisiana is nearly restored to the Union. The chief commercial city of the Gulf, New Orleans, and the capital of the State, with a large portion of the territory, are permanently, we believe, restored to the government. Arkansas has been successfully penetrated by our troops, and the brilliant victory of Pea Ridge taught respect for the old flag in unmistakable tones. A portion of its territory is held by the Union forces. The Mississippi River is opened from its source to the Gulf, excepting at Port Hudson; but the fall of Vicksburg secures the early and complete navigation of the Father of Waters to the trade of our loyal people, besides relieving the immense armies of Gens. Grant and Banks to operate against the rebellion elsewhere. With the Mississippi opened, Arkansas and Texas fall back into the Union with little difficulty. Florida has been measurably restored to the Union, and a portion of her territory is held in the name of the government by the humble negro who, from being his master's slave and chattel, becomes his preceptor of loyalty and enforces it at the point of the bayonet. Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina all have loyal troops on their soil and the old flag waving along the coast, and Old Virginia has surrendered to Suffolk and Norfolk, and the entire line of the Rappahannock to the Ridge, and the Shenandoah Valley beyond. Maryland was invaded by rebel armies one year ago, and restored to loyal rule by the battles of South Mountain and Antietam; and when the rebel hosts were thrown defiantly upon Pennsylvania soil, it was only to find sepulchres for ten thousand of his warriors amongst loyal hearts, and to leave full twenty thousand more bleeding and helpless on the line of his retreat from the bloody field of Gettysburg. These are some of the substantial results of two years of war, during which time we had to prepare, in all respects, for a departure from our established habits of peace.

Be of good cheer, loyal hearts! The cause of Right progresses slowly but surely, and it wants but fidelity from ourselves to insure its thorough and permanent success.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES.

The remnant of the heroic Pennsylvania Reserves surpassed, if possible, their accustomed gallantry, at Gettysburg, under the lead of their youthful commander, Gen. S. W. CRAWFORD. The Philadelphia Inquirer of Monday thus records the achievements of this justly famed division:

"All will remember that the battle of Thursday was mainly an overwhelming attack of the enemy on the left of our position, and that the brunt of the assault was borne for several hours by the Third Corps, under Sickles, which was at last compelled to give way. He was literally overwhelmed. Then the Fifth Corps, and parts of others were moved in, but a portion of the Fifth was turned and driven back, and disaster was imminent. The retreating column came pressing back on the Reserves when Gen. Crawford, seizing a color, rode up and down the line of his Division, keeping his men steady until the way was clear, when he ordered a charge on the advancing, and almost victorious enemy. This was executed by the brigade of Col. McCandless and the Ninth regiment of Col. Fisher's brigade. Led by these gallant officers in person, they charged and drove back the enemy when victory was just within their grasp, prevented them from gaining the hills, where our left would have been turned, and where they in a few moments more would have been amongst our trains and in our rear. This charge was witnessed by a large number of our officers, who attest its priceless value, and we have no hesitation in declaring that it saved the army from defeat on that day. That high honor is due to the Reserves, and it should be given without stint."

"On Friday the brigade of Col. McCandless and the Ninth, of Fisher's, were the heroes of another gallant action. Holding the position they had so handsomely won, they were again ordered forward. Two brigades of the Rebel General Hood were in possession of the hill called the "Round Top." These were charged, driven out and flanked, by which means the trophies of the day were augmented by a stand of colors, one twelve-pounder cannon, three caissons, and one hundred prisoners. But more than that, the

honor of the army was saved, by the capture of more than six thousand stands of arms, which the enemy had taken the previous day, and by the restoration to our own lines and the care of our own surgeons of an immense number of wounded men.

"The Reserves were fighting on the soil of their dear old State; and noble as were the deeds they had done before, they were eclipsed by their conduct at Gettysburg. Their services in that important battle, and the fact that they saved the fortunes of the day at a most critical period of that battle should not be for a moment overlooked, nor should the names of General Crawford, Colonel McCandless and Colonel Fisher be omitted from the front rank of the heroes of that memorable field."

FERNANDO WOOD, Copperhead M. C. from New York, sometimes tells the truth—perhaps not so much because of the intrinsic merit of the article, as for the sake of rarity or reference. He wrote a letter to the late Democratic meeting in Philadelphia, called to denounce the arrest of Vallandigham, in which he stated, with more candor and courage than patriotism or policy, the real purpose of the Copperhead leaders. He thus flings his banner to the breeze:

"But do not let us forget that those who perpetrate such outrages as the arrest and banishment of Mr. Vallandigham, do so as necessary war measures. Let us therefore strike at the cause, and declare for peace and against the war!"

Gov. Bigler and others made speeches at this meeting; but not one word was said in denunciation of Fernando's proposition for the summary arrest of the war. On the contrary, no sentiment was received with more emphatic approbation by the leading managers of the meeting, from BILLY McMULLIN down to Gov. BIGLER and the short-boys, who furnished applause to order, than Wood's declaration against maintaining the unity of the Republic by resisting traitors in arms. We thank Fernando for the truth, however, and credit McMullin, Bigler & Co., with their just share of hypocrisy.

THE quota of troops called for from Franklin county by the Proclamation of the Governor, to aid in the protection of the State is 840, and it is due to the cause and to ourselves that our full number be contributed promptly to the common defence. At least one Artillery company and several Cavalry companies should be organized, so that we should have artillery and scouts trained and ready to respond at a moment's call in any future emergency. We know how sadly our people have suffered, and that the plundering of our stock and driving away of hundreds of negro laborers, have rendered it next to impossible to spare many men from our fields; but the future safety of the border demands that we should respond with our full quota, and we entreat each district to set about raising men at once.

A. H. STEVENS, the Vice President of the bogus Confederacy, came down the James River last week and sent a letter to Admiral Lee asking permission to go to Washington to deliver a message from Jeff. Davis and personally confer with President Lincoln on the subject to which it referred. Admiral Lee referred the letter to the President who declined the interview, adding that the customary agents and channels were adequate for all necessary communication. The contents of Davis's message to the President are not known; but it is more than probable that Stevens believed Lee's invasion to be successful, and he hoped to find Lincoln prepared to entertain some propositions for peace upon the basis of separation rather than have Lee thunder at his capital.

THE FRIENDS of the Union cause cannot organize too early or too earnestly. Our opponents are making extraordinary exertions to establish themselves firmly in every district, and they must be met by active and systematic effort if we would secure victory. Thousands of Democrats are loyal in purpose, and need but to understand the disloyal aim of the Copperhead leaders to estrange them from the foes of the Government and bring them into the Union ranks. Be this our work now and henceforth, to unite in effective organizations EVERY LOYAL MAN, without distinction of party. This works wants untiring, judicious organization and labor. Our cause deserves it—let it not be denied its just claims upon every patriot!

THE Northern Central Railroad has been repaired and is now running trains regularly both to Baltimore and over the Hanover branch to Gettysburg.

SOLDIERS in the service are furnished with the Repository at the rate of \$1.00 per annum—but little more than the cost of white paper. The friends of our brave volunteers could not in any other way furnish such an acceptable evidence of their regard for the defenders of the old flag as by sending them a weekly paper from home. The Repository will be mailed to soldiers in strong wrappers, at 25 cents for three months; 50 cents for six months; and \$1.00 per annum. The paper will invariably be discontinued at the expiration of the period for which it is paid. Remittances can be made in postage stamps.

It is a healthy sign of the times that the Peace movement inaugurated by Wood & Co in New York is not encouraged by the Democrats generally. True, Wm. B. Reed, J. Glancey Jones, and a few other fossils, write letters to Fernando in favor of peace; but the shrewder leaders and the masses are unwilling to surrender the country thus shamelessly to treason. Will the Democratic State Convention at Harrisburg, today be reached by Wood & Co.? Another day will determine.

THE Richmond papers of the 6th contain despatches from Lee's army stating that he had defeated Meade, captured 40,000 prisoners and was then marching upon Baltimore! Bully for Lee! Meade will wipe his spectacles when he finds that he has been so soundly thrashed, half his army captured, and Lee vegetating down towards Baltimore!

THE new State of West Virginia recently elected its first State officers. Arthur L. Boreman was chosen Governor, and J. L. Boyers Secretary of State. This is a new, thrifty, free Commonwealth added to the Union; and thus is the glory of old slave-ridden Virginia passing away.

In our advertising columns will be found an official notice of certain amendments to the Constitution, proposed by the Legislature. By one of these, soldiers in the actual service of the United States may be allowed to vote. The other proposes certain restrictions upon the mode of Legislation.

WE surrender our columns almost entirely this week to the details of the battle of Gettysburg, and a history of the rebel invasion. We hope shortly to complete the record of war upon loyal soil, and devote our usual space to the progress and less crimsoned triumphs of peace.

WE ARE glad to record the nomination of Hon. Thos. J. Bigham for Assembly by the Union men of Allegheny. He has served many years in the House, and is a most faithful and able representative. Such men are especially needed in the legislature at this time.

Judge AGNEW, of Beaver, is strongly urged for the Union nomination for Supreme Judge by a number of the Western counties. He is a sound Jurist, and would make a most capable Supreme Judge.

WE are compelled to omit several editorials, including a review of the Democratic State Convention, its candidates and platform.

THE late municipal election in Washington City resulted in the election of the unconditional Union candidates.

C. L. PERSHING, Esq., has been nominated for Assembly by the Democrats of Cambria.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

The Westbote of Columbus, and the Volksfreund of Cincinnati—the leading Democratic German papers in Ohio—refuse to support Vallandigham.

The Democrats of Somerset county have put in nomination A. J. Colborn, Esq., of the Somerset Bar, for Assembly. W. J. Baer, Esq., was recommended as a candidate for the Senate.

The Democrats of Washington County have nominated Wm. Hopkins for Senator, Wm. Glenn and Isaac Newkirk for Assembly, and Andrew Brice for Prythonatory. Washington elects a Senator with Greene.

The Hon. Charles J. Biddle has resigned the appointment of Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee of Pennsylvania, "in order to give, as a private soldier, or in any sphere that may be open to him, his whole exertions for the defense of our invaded Commonwealth." Why resign? Is it against any rule of the Democratic party that forbids its leading members to fight for the Union?