

Franklin Repository

CHAMBERSBURG

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

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THE SITUATION.

The Old Flag of the Union waves in triumph at every point where patriots and traitors have confronted each other, to decide the future destiny of the Republic by the shock of battle.

Vicksburg and Port Hudson have fallen—their rebel garrisons are prisoners, and the Father of Waters is open to the free navigation of loyal men from its source to the Gulf. Prentiss repelled the attack of Price at Helena, capturing some 2,000 of his men, and thus perished the last hope of rebel foothold on the Mississippi. Six months ago Jeff. Davis declared before the Mississippi legislature, that "the Confederacy must stand or fall by the defence of the River!" The River has fallen from the cruel embrace of treason, and the Confederacy reels in the last violent throes of death.

Little Rock, the capitol of Arkansas, has just been captured by Gen. Blunt, and Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, has been captured by Gen. Sherman, with 6,000 prisoners. Johnston is now retreating upon Pearl River with his shattered and hopeless army.

Bragg has been driven nearly out of Tennessee by Rosecrans, with a loss of 4,500 prisoners, and Chattanooga and all of East Tennessee, with thousands of loyal souls, are now, or soon must be, under the protection of the Old Flag.

Lee has been retreating his defeated army toward Richmond as rapidly as possible, and Meade is pursuing him on the eastern side of the Ridge, and will, we trust, strike the rebel commander at Gordonsville and utterly route the demoralized and despairing remnant of his army. Invasion in force is ended, and the effort has given the deepest and keenest stab to the vitals of treason. If Meade shall reach Lee at Gordonsville, the rebel army of traitors will cease to exist save in history.

Charleston, the hot-bed of the rebellion, is about to pay the penalty of her causeless war upon the government. The doomed city is now closely besieged by land and water; the out-works of the enemy have been gained, and Fort Sumter, on which the first flag was struck to traitors, must soon surrender to the gallant Gilmore.

In the brief period of thirty days, the monster treason has been discomfited at every point, and the cause of Free Government, under the guidance of Him who holds the reigns of Justice, seems to break upon the noon-tide of victory!

THE RETREAT OF LEE.

The popular disappointment at the retreat of Lee, with the remnant of his army, across the Potomac with comparative safety, is keen and undisguised. With many the unreasonable hope was cherished with confidence that Lee would be utterly destroyed or captured; but with the more reflecting there prevailed a conviction that Gen. Meade would deliver battle with every chance of success, and that the rebel hosts would be routed and practically destroyed as an army.

It is possible that General Meade could have engaged Lee on Monday of last week, and routed him. Certainly had he known how helpless Lee was just then, with part of his artillery already across the river, the destruction of Lee could have been attained. But Gen. Meade must not be judged and censured rashly. A glance at the map given on our first page will show what an herculean task he had to perform. It must be borne in mind, too, that Lee had gained possession of the South Mountain passes from the Potomac up to the Gettysburg turnpike, before Gen. Meade had command of the Army, and that Lee's open line of retreat was in his own hands and beyond the power of Meade to interrupt.

Lee commenced his retreat on Saturday morning, July 4th, of course

presenting a strong front to Meade until his artillery and baggage were safely out of reach. He then withdrew his rear guard, leaving his dead and wounded to the tender mercies of the Union commander. Lee had thus full twenty-four hours start of Meade in his movement, and he was falling back toward his base and shortening his lines, while the pursuit by Meade extended his lines and involved immense transportation of provisions and ammunition over two mountains and bad roads.

Lee had but to recross the South Mountain into Franklin county by the Gettysburg and Monterey passes, and from thence had a straight line to the river, reaching his new position in a march of thirty miles. On the other hand Meade's army had been brought to Gettysburg by the most exhausting forced marches, with the smallest possible amount of transportation, and the very hour his troops reached there the engagement commenced, and for three days it raged with the deadliest fury until full twenty thousand of his gallant warriors were numbered with the dead, wounded and captured. Although victorious in holding his position and utterly defeating and turning back the rebel hordes under Lee, still the shock of that battle, with the dead and wounded of both armies in his hands, left his army in a sorry condition for prompt pursuit. He did pursue, however, as rapidly as was possible to move and supply his men; but he had to march nearly thirty miles to Frederick, thence across the Catoctin and South mountains to Boonsboro, nearly twenty miles more, and then found the rebel lines extending from Sheperdstown to Williamsport, (as marked on the map by dotted lines) and also covering Hagerstown. He promptly made reconnoissances from Boonsboro to the Antietam, to Funkstown and Hagerstown, and Sedgwick compelled Lee to retreat from the Sheperdstown ford and shorten his line immediately around Williamsport.

The position thus chosen by Lee was one of singular strength naturally, and was fortified so as to make it almost impregnable. Meade might have attacked it successfully on Sunday, but at a sacrifice of nearly two of his brave veterans to one of the enemy, and even if successful in driving Lee from his chosen and fortified position—a success as yet never achieved by either side in this war, although attempted by Burnside at Fredericksburg and Lee at Gettysburg—Lee could still have retreated up the Potomac, and, if pressed, could have chosen a position at Hancock in the mountains from which double the force of Meade could not dislodge him. With an adequate force on the south side of the Potomac, he might there have suffered capture; but he could scarcely have failed to make good his escape across the river before the Union army could have been thus disposed to cut off his retreat.

We doubt not that Meade maneuvered his army under positive instructions from the Commander-in-Chief not to uncover Washington, or, in other words, not to deliver battle with the enemy between him and the National Capitol. The peril of this movement doubtless prevented Meade from throwing his army around from Boonsboro to Hagerstown to attack Lee from the West on his comparatively unprotected left flank. But such a change in the Union forces could not have been made for an attack in less than twenty-four hours, and Lee would have simply declined battle by crossing the Potomac, as it was passable by the time Meade could have reached a position on his left.

It is due to Gen. Meade, who so nobly redeemed Northern soil from rebel invasion by his skill and heroism at Gettysburg, that the almost immeasurable difficulties which confronted him in the pursuit and attempt to engage Lee again, should be known and duly considered. Had he hurled his decimated army upon Lee's fortified lines on Saturday or Sunday, and suffered a repulse, Lee would have been re-inforced and renewed his offensive movements upon our soil; and the fruits of the deeply crimsoned victory of Gettysburg would have been lost. Instead of Lee retreating with a shattered, dispirited and hopeless army upon Richmond, Meade would now be retreating with the gallant Army of the Potomac upon the defenses of Baltimore and Washington. Disappointed as

we must be that Lee has not been destroyed, let us be thankful for the rich fruits of Meade's signal though incomplete triumph, rather than ungenerous in our exactions.

We have read much, not only in this, but in other campaigns during this war of the certainty of "bagging" rebel armies; but in field operations such results are simply impossibilities. Burnside was defeated at Fredericksburg with a river in his rear, commanded by rebel batteries yet he withdrew his army safely, losing his dead and wounded. Hooker was defeated at Chancellorsville with a river in his rear swollen to the angriest tide, and Sedgwick was at the same time repulsed with fearful loss on the Fredericksburg heights,—yet both re-crossed their commands in safety in the very face and under the very guns of a rebel commander to whom masterly ability is conceded by friend and foe. Nor did Hooker and Burnside withdraw their commands from before an army worn out by forced marches, and just from fields dripping with the gore of full one-fourth their comrades who entered the battle. Lee's army was comparatively fresh and on its long-occupied ground after the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, and their loss in neither engagement equalled ours. Yet the Union army retreated in safety, as did Lee from the front of Meade, nor was Lee held as wanting in ability or energy because he did not "bag" Burnside and Hooker. And it is worthy of consideration that the repulses of Burnside and Sedgwick at Fredericksburg, and the disastrous repulse of Lee at Gettysburg, were the results of attacks against skillfully selected and fortified positions just such as Lee held, and Meade must have assailed at Williamsport. Let us deal justly if not generously with our heroes, and sustain and strengthen their hearts for future triumphs, rather than cripple them with ill-considered and unmerited criticism. Gen. Meade has done well—who has done better?

DEMOCRATIC FIRE IN THE REALM.

The Harrisburg Patriot and Union is the central organ of the Democratic party of the State, and claims to favor the suppression of the treasonable and murderous rebellion now seeking to destroy the Republic. Few and hearless are the words of encouragement it gives to those who are shedding their blood to preserve the Government; and it announces the triumphs of the Union army with a confusion of terms that but too clearly betokens the sad disappointment that rankles in the breast that dictates its leaders.

But a few days ago the North stood appalled at the invasion of loyal soil by eighty thousand traitors in arms, seeking at once to desolate our fair land and deal a death-blow to our sacred Nationality. The stoutest and truest hearted quailed as the insurgent leader hurled his legions to the very doors of our capitol, and threatened to make the line of the Susquehanna the future battle-ground of the war. With clouded hope all eyes turned toward the Army of the Potomac as it made forced marches to meet the insolent foe, and earnest were the supplications to the God of battles that He might shield it and the Nation from disaster.

The gory field of Gettysburg attests how nobly the Army of the Potomac fought; how heroically its bravest warriors died; how its bronzed and tattered flags bore the signal of victory after three days of the deadliest conflict. The insolent invader was turned back upon his heels, made waste by wanton, wicked war, and half his army was strewn in his bloody path as he retraced his steps to the dominions of treason. Thus was our State, our capital, our Nationality saved over twenty thousand fallen heroes of the Army of the Potomac.

Of that gallant army full eighty thousand are numbered with the dead, the wounded and the disabled by disease. Its shattered ranks appeal to the Nation by its many battles won and lost with honor; by its deeply crimsoned but glorious history, and by its bright hopes of future triumphs for the cause of Right—it appeals to every loyal impulse to fill its blurred and blotted rolls, and swell its columns until it shall be invincible in its holy war against the treasonable authors of this sanguinary fraternal strife.

The government responds to its call. Those who share the priceless blessings of free government—who owe to it life, liberty and every civil and religious privilege, are enrolled for conscription to give heart and hope and strength to the battle-scarred veterans of the Army of the Potomac. With a victory so costly in loyal blood, so decisive in its triumph, as that of Gettysburg to inspire the friends of the government, none but a craven or a traitor could interpose his voice against a measure fraught with the safety of the remnant of our noble army, and the safety of the Republic.

To this call the Patriot and Union responds as if driven to fenshish folly by the victories of Gettysburg and Vicksburg streaming on our old and honored flag. In its issue of the 14th inst., in an elaborate leader, abounding with the most reckless misrepresentations and appealing to the basest passions, it answers the call of the Army of the Potomac for men in this wise:—"Yes, the Conscription act must be enforced at once; the altar of the modern Moloch needs a fresh supply of victims. Homes are to be made desolate; fire-sides invaded; children must be torn from their parents; husband from wives; brothers and sisters must be parted, and the clasped hands of love of every degree be wrenched asunder by the rude force of military power! Such is the fiat of Black Republicanism." In the same article it sighs for the advent of a Woodward to "put an end to this groveling position of our old commonwealth!" and groans in agony "for that glad and speedy approaching day when she (Pennsylvania) will take her stand properly and proudly by the side of New York, with her admirable Seymour!"

The same paper gives the sickening details of the legitimate fruits of the teachings and policy of the "admirable Seymour." An effort to swell our armies by conscription in New York resulted in a riot, inflamed by the men of whom the Patriot and Union is a humble echo. For four days the sworn officers of the law had their houses plundered and sacked and their lives jeopardized, and the "admirable Seymour" addressed the mob as his "friends," assured them "their rights should be fully respected," and implored them to moderation in their stealing and butchery; but not a word did he utter looking to the enforcement of law or the strengthening of our armies in the field!

Thus drags along the slimy, loathsome reptile of treason in the North,—its path crimsoned with blood, and leaving plundered homes, convulsed cities, and anarchy in its tread. As yet it has a tangible footing only in New York, under the "admirable Seymour," but the sigh for "the advent of a Woodward," who shall come with social chaos and butchery in his train, is wide spread amongst the leaders, of whom the Patriot and Union is the organ. The cloven foot is now stripped of all guise, and we rejoice that against "the advent of a Woodward" will be arrayed every heart that beats responsive to the dictates of humanity and of social order; and every patriot who would save our gallant army in the field; save untarnished the sacred memory of our heroic dead, save the great cause of American Nationality.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

The Democratic State Convention, which met at Harrisburg on the 17th ult., after several stormy sessions nominated Hon. GEORGE W. WOODWARD, of Luzerne, for Governor on the ninth ballot, and Chief Justice WALTER H. LOWRIE, of Allegheny, for Supreme Judge without the formality of a ballot. The contest for the gubernatorial nomination seemed at the outset to be between Hon. Heister Clymer, of Berks, and Hon. Wm. H. Wittee, of Philadelphia—the former having 33 votes on first ballot and 62 on the eighth; and the latter having 47 on the first and 51 on the eighth. Before the ninth and last ballot Hon. Frances W. Hughes, of Schuylkill, withdrew the name of Mr. Wittee, and urged the Wittee men to go to Woodward, who had then risen to but 13; and in obedience to orders, they gave Woodward 75 votes to 53 for Clymer, who on the previous ballot was within four votes of a nomination.

Judge Woodward is a man of con-

ceded ability, and as subtle and dangerous as he is able. His official career commenced by his election as a Delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1837, in which body he was one of the youngest members. He took considerable part in the able debates which characterized its proceedings, and made his mark especially in his earnest efforts to disfranchise all foreigners in Pennsylvania. He made one of his ablest speeches in favor of incorporating the denial of suffrage to foreigners with our organic law, but he failed,—so that the Irish and Germans who vote for him in October, can do so with the satisfactory assurance that if Woodward had succeeded in his efforts to amend our Constitution, they would now be without even the right to vote at all. In 1842, or thereabouts, Gov. Porter appointed him President Judge of the Centre District. In 1845, Mr. Buchanan vacated his seat in the U. S. Senate to accept the Premiership under President Polk, and the Democratic legislative caucus nominated Judge Woodward to fill the unexpired term. The legislature was democratic in both branches, but Woodward's ultra Free Trade doctrines were so offensive to a portion of the party, that thirteen bolted the nomination, and joining the Whigs elected Hon. Simon Cameron. In 1846 President Polk, desiring to heal Woodward's Senatorial wounds, nominated him to fill a vacancy in the Supreme Court of the United States. The Senate was largely Democratic, but the Judiciary Committee reported against him, and he was rejected by Democratic votes. In 1852 Gov. Bigler appointed him to a vacancy on the Supreme Bench of this State, and the same fall he was carried into an election by the immense popular tide that gave Pierce every State but four for the Presidency.

He has now been one of the members of our highest judicial tribunal for eleven years; but we believe that his decisions may be searched in vain for a single record pointing to the progress of freedom or the strengthening of our nationality. When the storm of treason gathered over us in 1861, because the people had chosen Mr. Lincoln President in strict conformity with our laws, instead of displaying the common manhood due from every citizen, and especially due from one charged with the maintenance of the laws, he temporized with and apologized for the murderous traitors in arms, and in a public speech in Independence Square, denied the power of the Government to preserve its own existence! In keeping with his settled purpose to weaken the loyal cause and blight the hopes of the brave defenders of our flag in the field, he delivered the opinion of the Supreme Court denying the right of our own soldiers to vote, although they had voted in the Mexican war without judicial hindrance. His nomination was the result of the implacable hatred between the leading contestants for the empty prize, and it took that turn mainly because no man in Pennsylvania has fewer attachments than George W. Woodward. He is a chilling accident on the ticket, and he will fall less lamented by friend and foe than any other man who could have been seriously thought of as a candidate. We thank the Convention for its work!

Judge LOWRIE is a man of high personal integrity, of very moderate ability, of commendable industry, of wonderful self-appreciation and middling loyalty. He is the present Chief Justice of the State, and has been on the Supreme Bench for twelve years. He will rise or fall as a mere appendage to the Woodward kite, as the gubernatorial contest will entirely overshadow the Judgeship. We charge him nothing for advising him to look out for strong gales about next October.

HENRY J. STAHL, of the Gettysburg Compiler, was arrested by Gen. Meade as soon as he gained possession of the town, and sent as a prisoner to Fort McHenry. We cannot form any judgment as to the guilt of Mr. Stahl from the statements and denials in the Gettysburg papers. It is alleged that he gave the rebels information where the Union troops and property were concealed, and rendered himself in other respects useful to the enemy.

We trust that Mr. Stahl has not been arrested and imprisoned without a purpose. If he has been guilty of the charges preferred against him, he should be promptly tried by a mil-

itary court, convicted and shot,—if innocent, he should be allowed an early opportunity to establish it and be discharged. It is high time that military arrests should be understood as meaning something beyond imprisonment without notice of charges and release without explanation. Had Daniel Deichert, of Hagerstown, been tried, convicted and inexorably executed, as he richly deserved, when he was detected as a spy within our lines, corresponding with and furnishing maps to bring the enemy to his own home, justice would have been vindicated and a wholesome practical lesson would have been learned by semi-traitors along the entire border. We insist that military arrests shall mean the prompt trial and conviction or acquittal of the accused, and that the penalty of treason, when clearly shown to extend to positive acts of hostility to the Government, shall be death. It is alike just and humane to the loyal people of the North that they shall not be the victims of cowardly spies and traitors at home; and if Mr. Stahl has by his acts brought himself within that class, he should die. But if he is the victim of personal or political prejudice, or of the inflamed public feeling naturally resulting from the shock of battle between the great armies at Gettysburg, he should have early and ample opportunity to vindicate himself, and be discharged to prove his devotion to the Government by an earnest support of the prosecution of the war. In this particular, we must confess, he has room for improvement.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 6th inst. announced that "Lee defeated the enemy on Friday last," that "they (Meade) are retreating toward Baltimore and Lee pursuing," and that "Lee has 40,000 prisoners on their way to Richmond!" But a vein of sadness is manifested in the Enquirer's rejoicings because, as its calculation demonstrates, it will cost the confederacy \$1.50 per man, or \$60,000 per day, to sustain the 40,000 Yankee prisoners. Naturally inclined to love our enemies, we freely mingle our joy with the Enquirer's that it's \$60,000 per day is saved! It will doubtless sympathize with us when it is informed that Gen. Meade has imposed upon our Government the cruel task of subsisting some 15,000 of Lee's army; but it seems to be Gen. Meade's way and we must submit! When Gen. Lee reaches Baltimore the Enquirer will oblige us by giving early information of the fact!

Gov. CURTIN spent Tuesday of last week in consultation with General Couch, and on Wednesday and Thursday visited the Pennsylvania regiments of militia at different points south of this place. He was received with the liveliest enthusiasm by the troops and addressed them at a number of their camps. On Friday morning he returned to Harrisburg. It is his purpose to make arrangements for the prompt payment of the militia before they leave the field. The fruits of his ceaseless devotion to our troops are manifested in the singular order, discipline and spirit of the men now upon our border. As a military organization it has never been surpassed in efficiency in the brief time employed to create it.

We have unofficial but reliable information that Gen. Lee lost at the battles of Gettysburg fully 6,000 killed; 10,000 wounded left in our hands; 7,000 wounded taken with him on foot and in wagons; and not less than 12,000 in prisoners and deserters—making a total loss of not less than 35,000. He crossed but 41,000 men over the Potomac on his retreat, which, excepting a few cavalry, is the entire force he has taken back to Virginia. But a month ago he crossed into Maryland with over 80,000 men. Gen. Meade's loss at Gettysburg was about 4,500 killed, 10,000 wounded and 4,000 captured.

ANDREWS, the leader of the New York rioters, who maltreated or murdered every negro found on the streets, was captured on Wednesday at a house of ill-fame with a negro paramour. He was the chieftain of those whom Gov. Seymour addressed as "my friends," and to whom he gave positive assurance of friendship in a public speech, while rioting, butchery and plundering were going on all around him. Progressive Democracy that!