

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1863.

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

SINGLE COPIES OF THE REPOSITORY can be had at the counter, with or without wrappers. Price five cents. Persons ordering single copies to be mailed must enclose a two cent postage stamp.

We invite the earnest attention of the people to the order of Gen. Couch in our advertising columns, giving notice that after the 5th of January next no more than \$100 bounty will be paid to volunteers.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The new Pennsylvania Legislature will meet on Tuesday next. It embraces rather more than the average amount of legislative talent, and when once fairly organized, will, we trust, make a working and creditable history for itself.

The Senate is always an organized body. It is necessary that it should be so in order to provide for the contingency of the death of the Governor, in which case the Speaker of the Senate takes the Executive chair. Hon. John P. Penny, of Allegheny, was chosen Speaker at the close of the last session, because Speaker Lawrence retired from the Senate, and it was necessary therefore to elect a successor who held over for the coming session.

Union men have no course left them but to stand upon their extreme rights. Fortunately Speaker Penny can be in no sense objectionable. He is a high-toned, honorable Senator, and commands the unbounded respect of all his associates regardless of party lines.

One important duty of the legislature will be to pass the proposed amendments to the Constitution, allowing soldiers to vote; and also to make provision for submitting the amendments to a vote of the people, at a special election some time during the summer, so that the amendments may be adopted in season for the soldiers to vote at the October election.

FIRST IN THE FIELD.

Gen. McClellan's political friends have reversed his military policy by bringing him first into the field for the Presidency in 1864. True, he has not been made a candidate enough to hurt him or any body else seriously; but he is nevertheless in the field, favorably mounted, with a hind-rider of the most approved conservative sort.

Some weeks ago a self-constituted Committee, styling themselves Conservative Unionists, met in Cincinnati, we believe it was, and like the two tailors of Tooley street, London, who resolved that "we the people of England," &c., they set about the business of fixing up the disjointed affairs of the Nation. They had a sprinkling of broken minded, spavined and heavy old political nags from the skirts of all the old parties—men who had in turn left almost every live political organization for said organization's good, and with a solemnity becoming a meeting of departed spirits, they resolved that the war should never have begun; that it should be stopped fraternally; that the conservative element alone could save the government, and finally that they were the conservatives.

On Thursday last the spirits met again in Philadelphia, at the Continental Hotel. Hon. Amos Kendall, a bereaved and wandering spirit ever since the retirement of Van Buren, was chosen to preside, and around him sat fully a score of sober political ghosts, all nerved for the task of producing a candidate for Vice President. They reviewed their work done at Cincinnati, and seemed content; Nobody had declared for their nomination, and nobody had taken the trouble to declare against it, therefore they were satisfied that their work had been well done. They then resolved to add the name of Wm. B. Campbell, of Tennessee, to their ticket for Vice President. This was a judicious ghostly act. He has been Congressman, twice Governor; has been for the Union, then for the rebels, and now again for the Union since the Unionists hold Tennessee; and he is of course eminently conservative, and will become more so at any time if the rebels should happen to get a good hand again. Being rather a variable spirit, with changing hues, from conservative Union to very conservative Rebel, his nomination fitly crowned the stupendous work of getting out a pair of political ghosts for the Presidential race of 1864. The ticket of the Departed is therefore in the field, and but for the fact that it has no organs, no electoral tickets, no stumpers, no supporters, save among the dead, it might figure respectably in the "scattering" at the next election. As it is, it must be content with fulfilling the scriptural phrase that "the first shall be last."

The Falcon Republican has hoisted the name of Abraham Lincoln for President and Gov. Andrew for Vice President.

OUR NEGRO TROOPS.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 17th inst. solves the problem of negro prisoners by frankly admitting that they have been murdered. Speaking of the government sending negro troops to the field it says: "Should they be sent to the field, and be put in battle, none will be taken prisoners—our troops understand what to do in such cases. If any negroes have been captured during the war we have not heard of them."

Hitherto the government has been unable to get any official information from the rebels as to the fate of our negro prisoners; but the truth cannot now be long suppressed even in official circles. What course the authorities will take we can't pretend to indicate; but they will doubtless vindicate the rights and avenge the wrongs of our negro troops to the uttermost. To this the government stands pledged not only by its acceptance of such troops, but by its formally pledged faith; and it would not recede from it if it could; it certainly could not if it would. Every negro soldier, regularly mustered into the service of the United States, who has been captured under the National Flag, must be accounted for by the rebel authorities, and wherein the common dictates of humanity have failed to insure justice to prisoners the terrible lex talionis must do its work.

The suicidal madness of the rebel leaders seems to be without measure. We now hold more than one-half their originally claimed territory, with its property and population. Fully 50,000 negro troops are now regularly in service, most of them holding military possession of the lands where they once were slaves; and should success crown the efforts of Gens. Grant and Banks, not less than 100,000 more negro soldiers will be added to the army during the next four or six months. These troops will be the military power of the government in the Southern States, where they are acclimated, and will they be strangers to the dictates of vengeance when they find that they are to be murdered remorselessly, if captured, as their comrades have been? This question is one for the relentless friends of treason to answer. The negro will make all things even in time; and if he must teach humanity to his arrogant foe by fearful vengeance, the crimsoned chapter will be the work of the once master—not of the once slave.

CONGRESS was brought to an unexpected test on the employment of negro troops last week, by Mr. Harding, Border State Copperhead. When the bill providing for counties to volunteers was under consideration, the "friends" of Jeff Davis were quibbling and dodging about as usual, when Mr. Harding, who don't disguise his rebel proclivities, moved to amend by providing that no part of the fund should be used to recruit negro troops. It threw the rebel stool-pigeons into a fearful flutter when the yeas and nays were called; but the call was insisted upon and they had to face the music. Fernando Wood, the leader of the Peace men, bolted square and voted to pay bounty to negro troops and with him went half a dozen others from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, including Bailey of this State; but Coffroth and all the Pennsylvania Copperheads voted with Harding against offering any encouragement for the enlistment of negroes. The amendment was, however, defeated by the decisive vote of 105 to 41. Will somebody remind Gen. Coffroth that he is a member of the Congress of the United States, and not of the rebel Congress?

THE great international prize fight between the bully bruiser of England, Thomas P. King, and John C. Heenan, the pride of the American devotees of the "manly art of self defence," came off near London week before last, and ended in the defeat of Heenan on the 24th round. The betting was largely in his favor for some time before the fight, and on the ground until after the 12th round the odds of twenty to four were offered on him; but he lacked the consummate science and wonderful endurance of his competitor, and although he seemed to toy with his antagonist at first, in the end endurance and science won, and King staggered out of the ring leaving Heenan senseless and his face jelly by his terrific blows. Inasmuch as both could not be humiliated by defeat, we rejoice that Heenan has been discomfited. We think that any man who goes so far to make a brute of himself cannot be too soundly pummeled.

It has been erroneously stated that all letters to members of Congress must be prepaid. The transmission and receipt of mail matter by their continuance as heretofore under the franking privilege, namely, free. All correspondence, however, addressed to any Executive Department, or any officer of it, must now be prepaid, excepting official communications written by some officer of the Department or an officer under its control, or responsible to it, and in such cases, under the words "Official business" on the envelope, the officer must sign his name with his official designation.

GENERAL McCLELLAN'S REPORT.

Gen. McClellan's official report, covering the operations of the Army of the Potomac for some fifteen months prior to November 7, 1862, has been sent to Congress and is being printed. It covers 765 pages of foolscap, and would fill nearly 200 columns of the REPOSITORY. We have seen only the conclusion of it, which seems to be designed to glorify himself at the cost of the government, and probably to help the little political side-shows which are exhibiting him as a Presidential candidate.

I shall not, nor can I while living, forget that when I was ordered to the command of the troops for the defense of the capital, the soldiers with whom I had shared so much of the anxiety and pain and suffering of the war had fallen back defeated before Washington. They quashed the enemy on the rugged side of South Mountain, pursued him to the hard fought field of Antietam, and drove him broken and dispirited down the Potomac into Virginia. The army had need of rest after this terrible experience of battles and marches, which scarcely an interval of repose, which they had gone through from the time of their leaving for the Peninsula, the return to Washington, the defeat in Virginia, the victory at South Mountain, and again at Antietam.

When the slowly provided supplies came to us, I led the army across the river: renovated, refreshed, and in good order and discipline, and followed the retreating foe to a position where I was confident of decisive victory—when, in the midst of the movement, while my advanced guard was actually in contact with the enemy, I was removed from the command. I am devoutly grateful to God that my last campaign with this brave army was crowned with victory, which saved a great nation from the greatest peril it had then undergone. I have not accomplished my purpose if by this report the Army of the Potomac is not placed high on the roll of the historical armies of the world. Its deeds ennoble the belief to which it belongs. Always ready for battle, always firm, steadfast and trustworthy, I never called on them in vain, nor will the nation ever have cause to attribute its want of success under myself or under other commanders to any failure of patriotism or bravery in that noble body of American soldiers.

No man can justly charge upon any portion of that army, from the commanding General to the private, any lack of devotion to the service of the United States Government and to the cause of the Constitution and the Union. They have proved their fealty in much sorrow, suffering and danger, and through the very shadow of death. Their comrades, dead on all the fields where we fought, have scarcely more claim to the honor of a nation's reverence than the survivors to the justice of a nation's gratitude. The report covers the period from the 26th of July, 1862, to November 7th, 1862.

A BRILLIANT RAID.

Gen. Averill has just made one of the most brilliant raids of the war in West Virginia. We submit his official report:

BRADY, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, Dec. 21, via Beverly, Dec. 23. To Maj. Gen. Halleck, General in Chief.—I have the honor to report that I cut the Virginia and Tennessee railroad at Salem, on the 16th inst., and have arrived safely at this point with my command, consisting of the 2d, 3d, and 8th Virginia Mounted Infantry, 14th Pennsylvania (Dobson's) Battalion of Cavalry, and Ewing's battery. At Salem three depots were destroyed, containing 2000 barrels flour, 10,000 bushels wheat, 100,000 bushels shelled corn, 50,000 bushels oats, 2000 barrels meat, several cords of leather, 1000 sacks of salt, 31 boxes clothing, 20 bales cotton, a large amount of saddles, equipments, tools, oil, tar, and various other stores, and 100 wagons. The telegraph wire was cut down and posts burned for half a mile. The water stations, turn-tables and three cars were burned, and the track torn up and rails heated and destroyed, as much as possible in six hours. Five bridges and several culverts were destroyed over an extent of fifteen miles. A large quantity of bridge timber and repairing materials were also destroyed.

My march was retarded occasionally by the tempest in the mountains and the icy roads. I was obliged to swim my command and drag my artillery with ropes across Crog's creek seven times in twenty-four hours. On my return I found six separate commands under Generals Early, Jones, Fitz Lee, Imboden, Jackson, Echols and McClellan, arranged in a line extending from Staunton to Newport, upon all the available roads, to prevent my return. I captured a dispatch from Gen. Jones to Gen. Early, giving me the position, and that of Jackson, at Clifton Forge and Covington, selected to be carried. I marched from the front of Jones to that of Jackson during the night. His outposts were pressed in at a gallop by the 8th Virginia mounted infantry, and the two bridges across Jackson's river saved, although faggots had been piled ready to ignite. My column, about seven miles long, hastened across, regardless of the enemy until all but my ambulances, a few wagons and one regiment had passed, when a strong effort was made to retake the first bridge, which did not succeed.

The ambulance and some sick men were lost, and by the darkness and difficulties the last regiment was detained upon the opposite side until morning, when it was ascertained that the enemy seemed determined to maintain his position upon the cliffs which overlooked the bridge. I caused the bridges, which were long and high, to be destroyed, and the enemy immediately changed his position to the flank and rear of the detachment which was cut off. I sent orders to the rear to destroy our wagons and come to me across the river or over the mountains. They swam the river, with the loss of only four men drowned, and joined me. In the meantime the forces of the enemy were concentrating upon me at Collaghan's, on every available road, but one, which was deemed impracticable, but by which I crossed over the top of the Alleghenies with my command, with the exception of four caissons, which were destroyed in order to increase the teams of the pieces. My loss is six men

drowned, one officer and four men wounded, and four officers and ninety men missing. We captured about 200 prisoners, but have retained but 4 officers and 80 men, on account of their inability to walk. We took also about 150 horses. My men and horses have subsisted entirely upon a very poor country, and the officers and men have suffered cold, hunger and fatigue with remarkable fortitude. My command has marched, climbed, slid and swam 355 miles since the 8th inst. W. W. AYERLL, Brig. Gen.

THE PRESIDENCY.

The Philadelphia North American in an article on the next Presidency, declares in favor of the re-nomination of Mr. Lincoln. It says:

Aside from and in addition to these things, there are reasons and influences with Mr. Lincoln which are not possessed by any of those who might be named in opposition to him. Mere military candidates would encounter some objections, in some sections, springing from the very nature of their eminece, which might not involve other qualifications even more desirable. Civilians, unacquainted altogether with military matters, would, or might be, deficient in that military knowledge which is now, and will be, for greater or lesser periods, continue to be useful. Mr. Lincoln, on the other hand, is a military man, and his knowledge of military matters is not only that amount which renders his possessor principally a military man, but he knows the history already written—the objects now sought—the means which are possible—the objections which can be urged. And he knows these things from no circumscribed field, but from the very highest standpoint. Can more be said for any one?

Undoubtedly, the most unanimous opinion possible is the requirement for the ensuing election. Our remarks seek to indicate only some of the reasons which can be adduced in behalf of a nomination which seems to us most natural of all, and which we think would unite the popular feeling throughout the loyal States. There is a sufficiency of time in which to discuss this matter before the National Convention shall be assembled. It only requires that the matter be opened, pro and con, and all opinions digested in the light of the most sound and patriotic feelings, to reach a conclusion whose correctness will be verified by the people's verdict. Gen. Grant may, possibly, have warmer friends in some portions of the west. Gen. Banks may be more potentially urged in New England. Is there any man who will command more of the confidence of the people anywhere, any man whose mere nomination will make a greater weight in behalf of the Union; any man who will more assuredly sacrifice individual interests to the general good; any man who will command a higher degree of foreign respect than that one who has super-added to some of the most excellent characteristics of Jackson, others which Jackson was never called upon to exhibit.

HARRISBURG.

Gov. Curtin in New York—His Health—The Coming Session—Pennsylvania Finances—Adjutant General Russell's Report—The Organization of the Senate—Senator Ferry—Hon. Eli Slicer—Hon. Wm. M. Meredith.

Correspondence of The Franklin Repository.

HARRISBURG, Dec. 28, 1863. Gov. Curtin went to New York last week to remain some days under the care of his surgeon. He was much broken down by the late exhausting but brilliant contest, and he needs medical care and repose before he enters upon the incessant labors incident to the session of the legislature. He is not in a condition of health that should necessarily create alarm; but he sadly needs rest. Alas! how three brief years have told on our honored Executive. I remember well the day he stepped into the Hall of the House in March 1860, amidst the deafening applause of the Convention, to give his formal acceptance of the gubernatorial nomination just then awarded to him. His step was elastic; his cheeks blooming with health; his manly form was erect, his voice clear as the trumpet's note, and his graceful and thrilling oratory told how perfect health and all the vigor of youth were on his side in the fearful contest then before him. Since then three years of most incessant toil; of most anxious, exhausting care; of most fearful responsibility, have passed away; and his head is silvered, his step less elastic, and his genial face much care-worn; but his labors and anxious care are still unremitting, and his whole energies are given to maintain the honor and welfare of the State, and to preserve our threatened Nationality. When the historian comes to record the heroism that has rescued the Republic from the hands of traitors, Andrew G. Curtin will stand among the most efficient and faithful of those who, in the Cabinet and in the Field, have saved our imperiled Institutions.

His last annual message of his first term will be delivered to the legislature as soon as it is organized, and it will present a record for Pennsylvania of which every loyal heart will be proud. Our finances in the midst of this gigantic war and with all the vast demands upon the resources of the State, will present a most flattering balance-sheet, and the credit of the Commonwealth is to-day second to the credit of no other State, and better, if possible, than that of the National Government. The report of the Treasurer will show an available balance of over \$2,000,000 in the Treasury, while but half that sum will be necessary to meet the February interest; and the forth-coming report of Adjutant General Russell will show that Pennsylvania has done more than her whole duty in responding to the calls of the government for men to meet the murderous traitors in the field.

The organization of the Senate will probably be retarded by the Democrats. It should not be so, but they will most likely be indifferent to every demand of courtesy. Senator Penny, the present Speaker, and who will be the Union candidate by acclamation, is the first man in the Senate, in point of ability, and all the qualities which make up an efficient, faithful and dignified legislator. He has already served five sessions, and no man ever commanded more general respect from both sides of the Senate; and it would be but an act of justice for the Democrats to concede his election, especially as his

majority is dissipated by Maj. White being a prisoner in the enemy's hands. Some years ago when the Senate stood 16 to 17, the Whigs allowed Senator McCashland to be chosen by withholding several votes; subsequently Senator Mathias was elected by Democrats withholding votes, and no man ever was more worthy of such a courtesy than is Senator Penny. Will such men as Clymer, Hopkins and Wallace attempt to defeat the organization rather than concede Mr. Penny the election he is morally entitled to? We shall see.

Hon. Geo. W. Hamersly will be continued as Clerk of the Senate. He is the best Clerk ever called to that position, and is confessedly the most economical officer the Senate has had for many years. He has been Clerk of the Senate at various times since 1838; was a member of the House in 1859, and has been Clerk again during the last two sessions. His expenditures during those two years were not more than one-half the expenditures in the same time by Mr. Russell Everett, his immediate predecessor, and in all the qualifications necessary for the position he is pre-eminent. He is of course a faithful Union man.

It is conceded, I believe, that Hon. Eli Slicer, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and Hon. Wm. M. Meredith, Attorney General, will be continued in their respective positions by Gov. Curtin. They have so discharged their arduous duties as to win the confidence of the people of the State, and it would be most difficult to supplant them with men equally efficient and acceptable. Mr. Slicer has been two years in the House; three in the Senate; three years State Treasurer, and now three years Secretary of the Commonwealth; and in every position to which he has been called he has more than vindicated the partiality of his many friends. Mr. Meredith has filled a wider sphere; has been Legislator, member of the Constitutional Convention, Secretary of the Treasury, now Attorney General and has for many years stood confessedly at the head of the bar of the State. He has been of most essential service to the Commonwealth in the collection of out-standing claims, and has commanded a measure of respect for his official acts and opinions hitherto unknown in the history of his Department.

It is expected that Gov. Curtin will return here early this week. OLIVER.

PERSONAL.

A telegram from Fairfax Court House announces the death of the brave Irish-American soldier, General Michael Corcoran. He died from injuries received by a fall from his horse. For some months before his death he was in command of the division formerly under Brigadier General Rufus King, our present minister to Rome. Corcoran was born in Carrowkeel, county Sligo, Ireland, in 1827—descended from an honorable and patriotic Irish stock—claiming distinct relationship to the renowned Earl of Lucan (Gen. Patrick Sarsfield)—the bravest officer of his day—through his great-grandfather, who was fourth daughter of William Fitzgerald, of Cloonmore, in the county of Roscommon, and great grand-daughter of the gallant Sarsfield. At nineteen, after having received a good English education, he entered the Irish constabulary establishment, serving for three years. In the advance of the army, under McDowell upon Manassas, the "Irish" 69th, under Colonel Corcoran, was brigaded under the command of Col. (now Major General) Sherman. The gallantry displayed by the regiment at the battle of Bull Run, is still remembered with pride and pleasure by every true and loyal American. It was at this battle that Corcoran was made a prisoner. The constancy and firmness with which he endured the malignity of the rebels during his imprisonment, and the threatened dangers that he has so boldly faced, rather than prove recreant to his country and his loyalty, are too fresh and green in all the minds of our readers to need any further comment from us. As a reward, and a just one for his conduct, he was made a brigadier general, his commission dating from the day of the battle of Bull Run—viz; July 21, 1861. Entering into active service again, Gen. Corcoran distinguished himself in East Virginia, under Major General Dix, defeating the rebel General Roger Pryor on the Blackwater. At Suffolk, he was second in command under Major General Peck, and led a number of highly successful movements. He has not lately taken a part in decisive actions, but has filled a position of responsibility.

Gen. Grant has arrived at Nashville, and Sherman is expected there shortly.

MORTON'S Gold Pens are now sold at the same prices as before the commencement of the war; his is entirely owing to the Manufacturer's improvements in machinery, his present large Retail Business Cash-in-Advance System; for, until he commenced advertising, his business was done on credit and strictly with the Trade.

The Morton Gold Pens are the only ones sold at old prices, as the makers of all other gold pens charge the Premium on the Gold, Government Tax, &c.; but Morton has in no case changed his prices, Wholesale or Retail. Of the great numbers sent by mail to all parts of the world during the past few years, not one in a thousand has failed to reach its destination in safety; showing that the Morton Gold Pen can be obtained by any one, in every part of the world, at the same price, postage only excepted.

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