

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.

It is usual, on the meeting of the Senate, to proceed to the election of a Speaker. The custom has been accepted, just as is the custom of the Speaker to resign at the close of the session, even if his time does not expire, and we doubt not that it will be observed at the coming meeting of that body. But if the Senate fails to elect, as we presume it will, is it to be regarded as a body wanting in organization? So will the Democrats probably declare it, but we do not for a moment accept such a conclusion.

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.

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

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.

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; and there may be even two or three papers in the United States sufficiently bold to espouse the cause of the McClellan-Campbell ticket.

FIRST IN THE FIELD.

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 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. They then called up a spirit named Geo. B. M'Clellan that had entered the shades of death with one Woodward, about the 14th of October last, and declared him their candidate for the Presidency.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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 lost their confidence in me as their commander. They sprang to my call with all their vigor, discipline and courage. I led them into Maryland and fifteen days after they had fallen back defeated before Washington. They vanquished 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.

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.

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 Slinger—Hon. Wm. M. Meredith. Correspondence of The Franklin Repository.

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 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 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.

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 emineence, 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's complete degree of military knowledge which is useful, with out that amount which renders its possessor principally a military man.

It is conceded, I believe, that Hon. Eli Slinger, 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. Slinger 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-grandmother, who was fourth daughter of William Fitzgerald, of Cloonmore, in the county of Roscommon, and great-granddaughter 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.

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.

Reader, you can have an enduring, always ready, and reliable Gold Pen, exactly adapted to your hand and style of writing, which will do your writing vastly cheaper than Steel Pens; and at the present almost universal High-Pressure Price of everything, you can have a Morton Gold Pen cheaper, in proportion to the labor spent upon it and material used, than any other Gold Pen in the world. If you want one, call on A. J. MORTON, No. 25 Maiden Lane, New York, or inquire stamp for circular. dec-30-63

GELWICKS keeps the largest assortment of Groceries and Household articles in town. He sells cheap at Wholesale and Retail. Buy your Kerosene Oil from Gelwicks, he is agent for one of the best Oil Companies in the State and always sells the best oil wholesale and retail.