Franklin Repository.

Wednesday, February 15, 1865.

THE LATE PEACE MOVEMENT.

At length we have the official statements on both sides relative to the origin, progress and results of the peace conference between Messrs. Lincoln and Seward and Stephens, Hunter and Campbell. From these messages we gather nothing else than that Mr. Blair went to Richmond in accordance with his own inclination; without any instructions from President Lincoln or authority to make any propositions whatever. When he reached Richmond he called upon Jefferson Davis and conferred with him as to the best means to close the terrible war now waged against the government. When he was about to return Mr. Davis gave him a letter designed to be shown to President Lincoln, in which he professed an ardent desire for peace, and proposed to send or receive any sort of agents, formally informally, "with a view to secure peace to *the two countries.*" When the letter was shown to Mr. Lincoln he authorized the return of Mr. Blair to Richmond, bearing a letter from Mr. Lincoln addressed to Mr. Blair, which was to be shown to Davis, in which Mr. Lincoln says that he is "now and shall continue ready to receive any agent whom he (Davis) or any other influential man now resisting the national authority, may *informally* send me with a view of securing peace *to the people of our common country.*" It will be seen that Davis wanted peace for "two countries," while Lincoln wanted peace for "the people of our common country"—a distinction with a most material difference. This was the rock on which all effort at negociation split, and it stood squarely in the way of all adjustment from the start. Davis and his commissioners started out to establish "two countries," while Mr. Lincoln can recognize and must maintain that there is but one "common country," and it must be preserved with unfaltering fidelity.

It will be observed that notwithstanding the clearly defined purpose of President Lincoln to maintain the integrity of the Union, Davis appointed and forwarded commissioness to represent informaly the bogus confederacy and insist upon its recognition. Mr. Blair called the attention of Davis to the concluding portion of Mr. Lincoln's letter, to which he replied that he understood it. But with this understanding he selected commissioners, doubtless with the view of getting them into Washington for several days to confer with all shades of traitors, and report the power of treason in the North. He evidently did not mean peace; but hoped by sending the ablest of his diplomatists to throw the responsibility of future war upon Mr. Lincoln and at the same time gather all the information essential to the rebel cause from their sympathisers in the Union capital. But Mr. Lincoln defeated the cherished hopes of the rebel leaders. He did not allow them to come to Washington, and he did not allow them to leave the conference in any better position to command the favorable judgment of the country and the world than they had before. Mr. Seward was dispatched to meet the rebel commissioners at Fortress Monroe, with a letter from Mr. Lincoln stating frankly the terms on which the war could be arrested. In that letter the President said to Mr. Seward:

"You will make known to them that three things are indispensable, to wit:—

First. The restoration of the national authority throughout all the States.

"Second. No receding by the Executive of the United States on the slavery question from the position assumed thereon in the late annual message to Congress and in preceding documents.

"Third. No cessation of hostilities short of an end of the war and the disbanding of all the forces hostile to the Government. You will inform them that all propositions of theirs not inconsistent with the above will be considered and passed upon in a spirit of sincere liberality. You will hear all they may choose to say and report it to me. You will not assume to definitely consummate anything."

The rebel commissioners demured to the meeting at Fortress Monroe, and claimed that they should confer with Mr. Lincoln at Washington. Mr. Lincoln being advised that they wished to have an interview with him, waived all dignity and ceremony, and proceeded to Fortress Monroe, where a conference was had. What transpired there is best stated by Mr. Lincoln himself in his message to Congress. He says:

"On the morning of February 3 the three gentlemen, Messrs, Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, came aboard of our steamer and had an interview with the Secretary of State and myself of several hour's duration. No question of preliminaries to the meeting was then and there made or mentioned. No other person was present. No papers were exchanged or produced, and it was in advance agreed that the conversation was to be informal and verbal merely. On our part the whole substance of the instructions to the Secretary of State hereinbefore recited was stated and insisted upon, and nothing was said inconsistent therewith; while by the other party it was not said that in any event or on any condition they ever would consent to reunion, and yet they equally omitted to declare that they would not consent. They seemed to desire a postponement of that question and the adoption of some other course first, which, as some of them seemed to argue, might or might not lead to reunion, but which course we thought would amount to an indefinite postponement. The conference ended without result."

—Thus ended the first formal effort to effect an adjustment of our national difficulties and the termination of this bloody war. Mr. Lincoln did all that he could do. He could not surrender the Union—he could not set aside the laws enacted since the outbreak of the rebellion—he could not assume any other position than that the Union must be maintained at all hazards, and its supremacy unqualifiedly recognized. This was, of course, not acceptable to the rebels, and again the sword becomes the arbiter between the loyal people and the insurgents. What the real purpose of the Stephens' mission was, is left to conjecture. They certainly knew that, with our armies triumphant in every theatre of the war, and with an overwhelming declaration of the people just made at the late election, in favor of the prosecution of the war until treason shall bow to the authority of the government, they could not have the remotest hope of any surrender of the national authority as the price of peace. They evidently had some other purpose in view. Just what it was, we are not clear; but we infer that it had reference to recognition by England and France after the 4th of March next. They are exerting almost superhuman efforts to induce England and France to recognize the rebel confederacy by declaring that the States only which participated in the late Presidential election shall be treated as subject to the authority of the United States. This is their last hope—their earnest aim, and they probably expected to turn a sham peace conference to aid this desperate project. But in this they have signally failed, as the conference affords no pretext for foreign recognition, and it cannot come unless it was pre-determined, and of that we see no indications.

—We must therefore accept war—bitter, relentless, desperate war for another season, unless the military power of treason shall sooner be destroyed. There is but one road to Peace, and that is over victorious battle-fields. Treason is still not content. It has surrendered more than half its territory—has lost every important port—has its armies all shattered but that of Lee, and that is wasting and dispirited by the fearful tide of disaster that has befallen the rebel cause; but it will make one more death-struggle, and for that we must be prepared. Let every loyal man stand firmly by the government, confident that with a just cause and a heroic army, all must soon be well.

GEN. COFFROTH'S SPEECH.

We give in to-day's paper the speech delivered by Gen. Coffroth in Congress, in explanation of his vote for the resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution for the abolition of Slavery. As his vote has been severely criticised, it is but just to him that he be heard in vindication of his act. During the previous session, when the same resolutions were before Congress, Gen. Coffroth opposed them with considerable earnestness, and voted against them. Now, however, he has seen fit to change his position, and eminently for the better in our judgment, and we give him the benefit of the widest publicity for his remarks

It was once well said by an old judge to his son, who was about to assume the ermine, that he should decide as he thought just, but to be extremely careful not to give reasons therefore unnecessarily.—This admonition would have been of inestimable value to Gen. Coffroth, if accepted by him. Hitherto he has almost invariably voted wrong, and when he blundered on the right, he gave nearly every possible reason for it but a rational one. Had he said when he cast his vote—"I voted against these resolations before in obedience to my own convictions and the teachings of my party; but since then the Nation has decided by an overwhelming vote that Slavery must cease to curse this fair land with discord and death, and I bow to that verdict of the sovereign people," he would have been understood, and whatever might be the judgment of the politicians of the day, his record would have been one of consistency and in harmony with the inevitable progress of the age.

But Gen. Coffroth vainly endeavors to explain that in voting for the constitutional abolition of slavery, he don't mean anything—he is merely experimenting and don't seem to care much whether the thing hits or misses, so his status in the Democratic party is preserved. This is a weakness worthy of Gen. Coffroth. Any average fool would have known that to vote at this time for so wise and patriotic a measure as the constitutional extinction of slavery, would alienate him from the confidence and support of every regular Democrat in this congressional district, and from nine-tenths of the same party throughout the State. The Democracy of this district will stand a great deal with most amazing patience, as they have demonstrated during the last two congressional contests; but they will not tolerate a desertion of the doctrines of the party as they understand and teach them; and one of those doctrines is fidelity to Slavery regardless of its persistent aggressions and final war upon the government. Gen. Coffroth is therefore outside the pale of the Democratic faith, and it was the sheerest folly for him to attempt to prove the contrary. He might have argued with some plausibility that the Moon should be annexed to the United States or that there should be an air-line railroad through to China, but to pretend to be Democratic and vote to drive the last nail into the coffin of the first, the last and only love of the Democracy, is a refinement of nonsense in which none but himself could be his parallel.

We rejoice that Gen. Coffroth has cast the vote in question. True, taking him at his word, he did not seem to know exactly why he did it, for every reason given is only an argument against the act; but he has nevertheless cast a most righteous, patriotic and christian vote—one of which he may well be proud and for which his children will bless his memory. That he is not awarded the credit for the vote that its high morality and patriotism merit, is not to be disguised; but, as his successor is chosen, he can now retire to enjoy the sweet fragrance of the flowers loved ones will cause to bloom over his political grave. *Au revoir*, Coffroth!

STEVENS, CLAY AND WEBSTER.

We give in to-day's paper a communication vindicating Henry Clay from the generally accepted conviction that he interposed to defeat the appointment of Thaddeus Stevens to a position in the Harrison cabinet. From the general tone of the article and the initials appended thereto, any one conversant with our public men and their relations to each other in the past, will readily recognize Thomas H. Burrows as the author, and the late Charles B. Penrose as the competitor of Mr. Stevens for a seat in the ministry of 1841. Mr. Burrows was the devoted personal and political friend of Mr. Stevens, and at that time had been for some years conspicuous as a sagacious and successful political leader. He gives, in the brief chapter he has added to the unpublished history of political movements in the State when the Whigs first attained power, an interesting account of the under currents whose results only have hitherto been known to the public.

We presume that ninety-nine hundredths in this State who have any opinion on the subject, believe that Mr. Clay defeated the appointment of Mr. Stevens to the cabinet under Gen. Harrison. Until we perused Mr. Burrows' article, we never doubted it; and knowing as we did that Gen. Harrison had, before the election of 1840, voluntarily tendered Mr. Stevens a place in his cabinet in the event of his election, we stated in a recent article that the real author of Gen. Harrison's violated faith probably sleeps beneath the shades of Ashland. Mr. Clay and Mr. Stevens were never devoted friends. The one was a Mason and the foe of Anti-Masonry, of which Mr. Stevens was confessedly the life and leader in this State, and contributed more perhaps than any other man of that day, to give vitality and power to that organization in the several States where it was formidable. He was not, therefore, in sympathy or in co-operation with Mr. Clay, and it is well known that the Anti-Masonic element prevailed in the Harrisburg Convention of 1839, and set aside Clay for Harrison. To this end Mr. Webster contributed indirectly. He was in harmony with the Anti-Masons, and when his nomination could not be compassed, his friends naturally joined the *friends of Harrison*. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Webster were thus contributing to the same end, and the friends of Mr. Stevens confidently expected the prompt and cordial sanction of Mr. Stevens' appointment in the cabinet. From Mr. Clay they expected opposition; but Mr. Webster was approached by Mr. Burrows, the representative of Mr. Stevens, with entire confidence, and was chilled by the Websterian reserve that foreboded disaster, and in the end Mr. Stevens was sacrificed.

Mr. Burrows makes out a very plain case. Gen. Harrison had committed himself without solicitation to call Mr. Stevens to the cabinet even before the election. The offer was certainly made in good faith, and the appointment would have been one of eminent fitness: but some potential voice interposed, and it seems that it was not Mr. Clay, while Webster, who should have been friendly, refused to co-operate. He was the Premier of the administration; none could have been more powerful in dictating the cast of the remainder of the ministry; and he doubtless made the fatal thrust at Mr. Stevens. Whether he feared the obscure son of New England who had risen to rival his fame, or simply hated *him for his genius and power*, are questions not now to be answered; but he evidently was the author of Gen. Harrison's violated faith and Mr. Stevens discomfiture in 1841.

We thank Mr. Burrows for his article, and regret that he has not given us a more thorough insight to the polical movements which followed the Whig triumph of 1840.

THE DRAFT.

The draft under the President's call of December 19th, for this district, will very shortly take place, probably be commenced this week. Last week we published the quotas assigned to the several townships. The proportion of men required is large—about two men in seven of those liable to be put in the wheel. We understand that since the quotas were assigned at Washington, a large reduction has been made in the enrolment of this and other districts of the State. If this reduction has been in the same proportion over the whole country and the government must have the additional three hundred thousand men, of course there is no equitable ground for the reduction of the quota of this district, but if a greater reduction has been made here than in other localities, owing to the more diligent attention of the people to their own interests, some abatement is due to their faithfulness and industry. We think it the duty of the board of enrolment to present the case of this district to the authorities at Washington, and see that the people are required to furnish no greater proportion of men than is their due.

As we saw from the beginning, the counties that have furnished their quotas without a draft, or whose citizens have responded at once when drafted, are now reaping the fruits of their promptitude and loyalty. A great number of persons drafted from Bedford and Fulton who failed to report and who are yet at large, being considered in the service by the fact of the draft, had to be stricken from the rolls. The enrolment of those counties has consequently been reduced largely, whilst that of Franklin and Adams having been but moderately curtailed affords the basis for the exhausting quotas now demanded of them.

But notwithstanding these local inequalities, the responsibilities of the hour must be met. Every person liable to draft should look the fact in the face that within a few days his services may be required against the rebels in arms. And it is well enough, too, to remember the fact that substitutes are very difficult to obtain. The probability is that of the nine hundred men wanted out of Franklin county, not one hundred, even if they desire it, will be able to obtain substitutes, for the reason that the substitutes are not to be had and none are forthcoming.

Notwithstanding, under whatever circumstances, we doubt not the people of this county will acquit themselves creditably and fill the requisition made upon them at any sacrifice of mere personal considerations. The people of this section have passed through too stern a school of adversity to balk at giving their personal services in the field against a foe that has visited them more than once with such relentless savagery. More than once it has been predicted that the last call for men had come, and that no more would be required. It really seems now as if we had reached that stage. At all events the government, as well as the most competent military men, cherish the belief that with our armies replenished to the extent that the late call will allow, the nation will shortly be in a condition to dictate terms to an arrogant rebellion and restore the people of all sections to a state of happiness and peace.

—Hon. Geo. Sanderson, Dem., has been re-*elected Mayor of Lancaster city*

THE Democratic papers of this district, excepting the *Spirit* and Somerset *Democrat*, are silent in reference to Gen. Coffroth vote for the constitutional abolition of Slavery. The *Spirit* reads him out of the party, and the *Democrat*, among other unkind things say:

"Mr. Coffroth assumed the responsibility to misrepresent his party and his constituents, and we now assume the responsibility to tell him plainly in his own classic language that 'he is doomed to the forever consignment among the (Abolition) cohorts of machinations.'"

—Will the *Democrat* and *Spirit* be kind enough to inform us who was honestly elected to Congress in this district last fall?

DURING the last session of Congress A. H. Coffroth made a speech against the Constitutional amendment for which he this session has voted. Col. M'Clure is of the opinion that *his* "animadversions" upon that speech may have contributed to change Coffroth's views. There are other versions about this conversion, but they do not assume the shape of "animadversions," although the relation of them would make the Democracy "mad" enough to hear them and thus know how badly they were sold.—*Patriot and Union.*

IT is most cowardly to stab by innuendo. If the *Patriot and Union* has any charge to prefer against Gen. Coffroth it should do so with some degree of manliness. What "other versions" has the *Patriot and Union?* Let us have them.

SEVERAL correspondents have inquired of us whether it is true, as has been stated in the *Spirit* and other Democratic journals, that a tax of five per tent on real estate has been imposed by Congress. It is not true, Congress has not imposed any tax whatever on real estate.

DEMOCRACY CROPPING OUT.

We copy the following account of a small copperhead revolution in Somerset county from the Somerset Herald. The government force employed in the hunt of the skulking conscripts consisted of twenty-five men under Lieut. Anthony Ewing, of Capt. Weaver's Independent company. The young man said to be mortally wounded is one of the best soldiers in the company, and a woman at the house tried to cut his head off with an axe after he had been shot. The following is the account of the Herald:

"It being known to Deputy Provost Marshal Cunningham for some time past that a number of skulkers from the draft and deserters from the ranks, were secreted in Lower Turkeyfoot township, and had been concocting measures of resistance he, (counting on the bitter cold weather of last week to drive them into their houses), accompained by a squad of cavalry, under command of Lieut Ewing, started on Thursday afternoon last on a raid, to beat up their quarters. Arriving in the neighborhood after night he proceeded from house to house that he had "spotted," and succeeded in arresting no less than seven of them.

"At the house of Thomas A. Murray, that gentleman attempted to secrete himself in the garret, and when discovered, *fired upon the party inflicting* an ugly and painful wound upon the head of private Francis Boice of the cavalry. So murderous was the intent of his family, that after the poor fellow was prostrated by the shot, from the *husband, the wife rushed upon him and inflicted* a couple of blows upon him with the poll of an axe, before he could be stayed. Happily, neither the shot nor the blow, proved mortal and the wounded man, who was brought to town is doing well.

"At the house of Aaron Heider resistance was also met with. He had fled to the loft of his house, and on the soldiers attempting to follow he hurled *down at them, a heavy shoe last, striking private* Geo. B. Groul on the temple knocking him senseless, and inflicting so severe an injury upon him that his physician thinks that it may yet result in death. Encouraged by his success Heider maintained his position with a club at the trap, to which only a ladder led, and notwithstanding a number of shots were fired at him in the dark, could not be dislodged. At last Marshal Cunningham gave orders to fire the house, which after *combustibles had been gathered and ignited*, brought him to terms, when he surrendered, and the fire was extinguished. We are sorry that these miserable men through evil counsels have been induced to thus resist the law, and jeopardise their own lives."

THE Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin* has appeared in a new and beautiful dress. It is now disenthralled from divided counsels in the ownership, and exhibits increased energy and ability in its management. It is one of the most reliable Union journals of the State, and well deserves its liberal patronage.

RICHMOND papers of Saturday confirm the report that *Branchville occupied* by our troops under Sherman.

HARRISBURG.

The Ratification of the Amendment of the Constitution Abolishing Slavery—Interesting Debate—Local Bills—The Bounty Question—The River Beds in the Oil Region.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

HARRISBURG, February 10, 1865.

The great struggle of the present legislature was had on the ratification of the proposed amendment to the constitution abolishing slavery. In the Senate the amendment was ratified without debate on the question, although there was considerable skirmishing on side issues; but in the House there was a protracted and earnest debate. It commenced on Friday of last week, when the House resolution was under consideration.—Messrs. Brown, Wells, Manly, Shenk, Cochran, of Erie, Guernsey, M'Clure and Allelman advocated the adoption of the resolution, and Messrs. Searight, Purdy, Pershing, Rice, Alexander and Rose opposed it. The debate took a decided partizan shape after the speech of Mr M'Clure, who took the position that Slavery and Democracy had ever been united in life, and in death they should not be parted. This brought Pershing to the defence of the Democracy, in an elaborate and able speech. The vote was then taken and the resolution adopted by a strict party vote. The two branches of the legislature on the same day ratified the proposed amendment to the constitution, but each had adopted its own resolution and neither had been concurrently adopted. The House therefore took up the Senate resolution on Tuesday evening last, and the debate was renewed. Messrs. Hakes and Boyer were the main advocates on the Democratic side, and Messrs. Kelly, Marsh, Ruddiman, Sturdevant and Denné spoke in support of the amendment. Mr. Sharpe was not present at this discussion in consequence of the illness of his child. It was understood that he would have spoken in reply to his colleague, Mr. M'Clure, had he been in his seat. On his return he recorded his vote against the resolution, and procured the consent of the House to print in the *Legislative Record* the remarks he had prepared to deliver in the House. There was much disappointment that he was not able to participate in the debate. He was by general consent of his party in the House assigned the task of replying to Mr. M'Clure, and all felt that he would have done it as creditably as his more than doubtful cause would allow, and it would probably have led to an animated discussion between the two Franklin members. Mr. M'Clure's speech was greeted with hearty applause, which the Speaker endeavored to suppress. I have never before witnessed the House so forget its propriety. The galleries were crowded and heartily responded to the applause of the House. A number of copies of Mr. M'Clure's speech have been ordered in pamphlet form for circulation by the members.

Thus ends the action of Pennsylvania on the vital question of the constitutional abolition of Slavery. It was a strictly party vote—every Democrat maintaining Slavery to the last. In other States that party divided—in nearly every instance a portion of the Democracy favoring the amendment; but in Pennsylvania every Democratic member gave his vote to protract the life of the institution that has given us perpetual discord, and at last the most bloody and desperate war of history. Can they maintain a party with such a record? Let those who hope or believe that they can, turn to the verdict of the Nation last fall, and let them also turn to the record made by the legislators of Pennsylvania years ago on this question. If that party is to have a future, the greatest millstone about its neck will be the record made in the legislature of this State on the constitutional abolition of Slavery.

Mr. McClure has read a bill in place providing for the appropiation of certain fines and forfeitures in Franklin county to the purchase and maintenance of a Law Library in Chambersburg; and another prohibiting cattle, hogs, sheep, horses &c. from running at large in your county. This law is now in force in most of the eastern counties, and has proved most salutary in protecting property from the ravages of stock at large.

The feeling of the legislature is averse to the encouragement of large bounties under the pending call for troops. The general law now authorizes $300 to be collected by taxation and paid to each recruit, and the feeling is very strongly against legalizing the collection of taxes for any larger sum. The stupendous frauds developed in the recruiting of men, which were stimulated by the high bounties paid and the consequent competition for men, clearly demands that there should be uniformity in the payment of bounties. The payment of $500 last year will be legalized in all cases, and the additional $200 authorized to be collected by taxation; but it will require a peculiar care to procure legislation to authorize $500 to be paid now. There is a prevailing conviction in the legislature that this immense indebtedness must be arrested. Some of the districts have already procured the legislative authority to pay $300 to men who may be drafted to fill the pending call as well as to volunteers. This seems to be just, and it enables districts to proceed at once to put in recruits, with the assurance that if they don't fill their quotas entirely by volunteers, the conscripts will be paid the same bounty

The river beds in the oil regions are now the bone of contention in the legislature, and all sorts of speculative schemes are on foot to control the action of the legislature thereon. One bill before the legislature proposed to organize a company with the exclusive right to patent the beds and develope them by paying a certain per centage as royalty to the State. Another proposition authorizes the beds to be taken up by any person in plots of one hundred acres, and one-fifth of the gross revenues therefrom to be paid to the State. This bill led to a warm discussion, during which Mr. Cochran, of Erie, proposed to pay one million for the lands and one-sixth of the proceeds as royalty. As he could not make such a contract with the State, and could not fulfill it if it were made, it was accepted as one of the follies of a weak brother in search of some sort of distinction under difficulties. Mr. M'Clure supported the bill before the House and defended it on the ground that if the beds are half as valuable as its opponents alleged, the State would thereby receive the largest revenue. The bill was finally referred to the committee of Ways and Means for consideration. HORACE.

LOCAL ITEMS.

GOSSIP WITH OUR FRIENDS.—Sunday, February 5th, 1865—New York—smoking room of a large Hotel, where no one cares for any one or anything but himself; where, on an alarm of fire, each would save himself and let his neighbor burn. What a contrast to our dear old charred town! It is a painful change from Thursday last, when among old and valued friends greetings and good wishes were interchanged with a cordiality that New York can scarcely appreciate. But a truce to such thoughts, they do not become a news letter.

What makes the C. V. R. R. so rough? I felt every minute as though our train was about to pitch into or down a bank. But we sustained the old reputation, for we didn't pitch into anything but Harrisburg, and that at the regular time. It is unnecessary to say that we all *put up* at Hutchison's, or that we were well treated. The only redeeming feature in Harrisburg (to us) is that there is one Hotel at least that seems like Home. The very name is pleasant—UNITED STATES. May Heaven prosper the *United States* as it has friend Hutchison!

I am expected to say *something* of the C. & A. R. R. Co., of course; and for that reason must mention that the only impediment this time was that all the seats had backs; compensated, however, by the window nearest me being glued shut, for fear (maybe) that I might get a little more fresh air than the law of Jersey allows. Experience is a great teacher. I managed to *taste* a Trenton sandwich this time, by buying *two*, and eating them together, not a stupendous undertaking, certainly, for the two made a very thin slice. I overheard an Irishman declare that his teeth ached from coming together so quickly when he bit into his sandwich.

Well, here I am, safe in the Rebel city, already longing for the time when I shall see the REPOSITORY Office again. Our senior editor is here also, and, from the breakfast I saw him eat, *cujus magna pars fui*, I can report him *sana mens in sano corpore*. The New York *Herald* reports of us—[here the writing of our gossip is entirely illegible.—COMPOSITOR.]

I can't write about New York now, my mind *will* return to C———g. Last Wednesday I visited Mr. McElwaine's school, and was very much gratified. I found one of the most orderly, best conducted schools I ever saw. Mr. McElwaine seemed much surprised to see a visitor, and indeed remarked that he was not accustomed to that kind of thing. I admit that I did not constitute myself a committee of investigation from unselfish motives, but that my having a child under the gentleman's care was the motive. Ah, my *dear gossips, would that you could* wake up to the appreciation of what you owe to an earnest, conscientious teacher! How many parents are with their children *five hours a day?* and yet you entrust one with this important responsibility and never think so far as to see whether he does his duty; or if you *are* satisfied you are so thoughtless as not to thank or encourage him who acts the parent to your own children. I repeat it, I was gratified with my visit, and here record my *testimony* with a pleasure that I hope to make as public as possible There I saw bright eyes and smooth faces that will take our places some day, that will one day control the destinies of our community, and *my word for it*, Mr. McElwaine and his accomplished assistant will have more to do with the future of those pupils than you or I.

Will the old Academy ever be re-built? Will the rising generation have the advantages *we* have had? Or will the marvellous energy of our people be directed in every direction first; and after we have exhausted our money and zeal, will we then think that *perhaps* we may decide that the Academy *ought* to be reanscitated? How gracefully might so prominent a citizen as Judge Chambers, for instance, crown a long and honored and useful christian life by suggesting some simple and feasible plan for the resurrection of the time-honored Academy! I hope that no money will be sent by us to China or New Zealand till we have made provision for a suitable building for a classical school in C. I love China, and have a warm side for the South Sea Islanders, but I love my native town much more.

THE Rev. Mr. Bridenbaugh, of Greencastle, has been elected pastor of the St. James (Lutheran) congregation of Gettysburg.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRAFT.—We have taken the trouble to collect some information on the subject of the draft which we present for the benefit of our readers.

Who are Exempt.—In addition to the physically and mentally disabled, persons under 20 and over 45 years of age at the date of draft are exempt. Family bibles, baptismal certificates and church registers, where these are in existence, are used in establishing non-liability on account of age and should be offered in proof, together with the necessary affidavits.

Aliens are exempt An alien, in the meaning of the law, is a person born under a foreign government who has not filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen, has never voted nor attempted to vote and who has not held an office, civil or military, in this country. The fact of the alienage must be made to appear in due form, supported by the sworn certificate of two persons not themselves aliens, who state that they know the party and believe his statements to be true.

Persons who have been two years in service are exempt. The fact of having so served must be proven by the exhibition of a discharge or other satisfactory proof.

Substitutes before Draft.—As the law now stands, only persons not themselves liable to draft can become substitutes for enrolled men before draft. Of course for such we must look to the list of exempts—persons under 20 and over 45, aliens and such as have served two years since the present war.

It should not be forgotten that the regulations require that a man who offers himself as a substitute for an enrolled man, must prove his non-liability to draft in the same way that he would be required to do if he were drafted and claimed exemption for the same reason.

It should be borne in mind that in all cases of furnishing substitutes in lieu of draft, the principal is exempt only so long as the substitute is not liable, not exceeding the time for which the substitute shall have been accepted. If the substitute enlists at nineteen years and five months of age, the principal is exempt for seven months.—If the substitute be over forty five years of age at enlistment, the principal is exempt for the term of enlistment of the substitute or for a less period if Congress should meanwhile make men over *forty-five liable to draft. In the case of an alien* substitute the principal is exempt for his term of enlistment, although the alien himself may determine his principals liability by filing a declaration of intention to become a citizen, *voting at election* or holding an office, civil or military.

Substitutes after Draft.—Persons themselves liable to draft, may enlist as substitutes for drafted men, but in such case the name of the principal shall again be placed on the roll and be liable to draft on future calls, but not until the present enrollment shall be exhausted. If a drafted man furnishes a substitute not liable to draft, he is exempt for the length of time the substitute is not liable. A drafted man furnishing a substitute can under no circumstances be exempt for a longer period than the time for which he was drafted

Neither substitutes for drafted or enrolled men, nor drafted men themselves, are allowed any choice of regiments, but must go wherever they are assigned.

It should be stated that it is rarely that a boy under eighteen is accepted into service by a prudent Surgeon, by far the larger number of such being too diminutive and immature. It frequently happens that a man over forty-five makes an available substitute, but his acceptability depends upon a variety of circumstances and cannot be absolutely determined until the man is offered. It is useless in any case to offer a man as a substitute who is over fifty.

Substitutes are not allowed furloughs after enlisting. This remark applies to volunteer recruits as well. Men determining to enlist either as substitutes or recruits should make all their *arrangements before presenting themselves for* enlistment and not importune officers to do that which their instructions forbid. Colored men may be offered as substitutes for white men.

Persons who paid commutation in 1863 are by law exempt for three years from the day they were drafted; those that paid commutation since Feb. 24, 1864, are liable to the draft about to be made.

Any persons who furnished substitutes under the draft of 1862 for three years can have themselves stricken from the lists before draft by producing the certificate of the commissioner at that time and furnishing their own affidavit to the facts set forth in the certificate. The name of the substitute, the date of his enlistment, the regiment he entered and the length of time for which he enlisted must be shown.

Members of religious denominations who shall by oath or affirmation declare that they are conscientiously opposed to bearing arms, and who are prohibited from doing so by the rules and articles of faith of their particular church, are entitled when drafted to be considered non-combatants. They may pay three hundred dollars or be *assigned to duty in hospitals or to the care of* freedmen, as they elect. Such drafted men must show that their deportment has been uniformly consistent with such declaration.

Medical certificates are for the most part useless, although where they come from a respectable source and can in any manner aid the Surgeon of the board, due consideration is given them. Physicians who give certificates for pay are guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to punishment.

Attorneys or agents who assist drafted men in preparing papers to be used in support of claims to exemption, are by law restricted from charging more than five dollars in a single case.

The draft under the call of December 19th last is for one year, although volunteers and substitutes for enrolled men are received for one, two or three years.

The quotas as announced are net, all credits due localities having been computed and allowed before their assignment. It is useless to apply to the Board of Enrollment for an abatement of quotas on account of men enlisted one, two or three years ago, inasmuch as all credits have already been established, and whether properly or improperly, they cannot now be revised.

TRIAL OF A SUPPOSED SPY.—In June last we gave in these columns an account of the capture of a man who gave his name as Lawson W. Lloyd, in the South Mountain, near Cashtown, by Mr. Latshaw, one of Capt. Eyster's officers. He was believed to be a spy, and was severely wounded by Mr. Latshaw before he was arrested. He was held here in the hospital until some time in December, when Gen. Cadwallader ordered him to be sent to Fort Mifflin. The night before he was to be removed he managed to escape from the hospital; but he was vigilantly pursued, and in a few days re-captured quite near to the spot where he had been arrested before. He was still suffering from his wounds, but had managed to get along on his crutches to the mountain, and seems to have been very solicitous to find something he had lost or thrown away when he was shot. He had been at the very spot, and the snow had been cleared away, showing unmistakeably that he had gone there in search of something.

Last week he was arraigned for trial before a court martial at Harrisburg, and Capt. Eyster and some of his subordinates have been there to testify. He is defended by Messrs, Muench and M'Alarney, of the Harrisburg bar, and Lieut. Ripley is Judge Advocate. A correspondent of the *Inquirer* gives the following interesting developments made on the trial: He says that Lieutenant Ripley, the Judge Advocate, has called and examined seven witnesses, who testified very positively in regard to the defendant, who now pleads not guilty of the charge. Several witnesses testify that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, this man marched out of Gettysburg with Lee's army during the invasion of Pennsylvania in 1863, when Lee was defeated, and on the retreat to Williamsport. The defendant was seen there several times while on a visit to a house in the vicinity of Gettysburg, during the Rebel occupation of that place, and then he was regarded with suspicion. It is known that he had on his person the night before his arrest, papers and effects of a suspicious nature, which were not on his person at the time of his second capture, and the fact that after his escape from the hospital he was found near the scene of his first attempt of escape, apparently on the search for something, puts this affair in a very strong light against him.

On his person, however, was found a letter from a Southern lady, with some information of a domestic nature and requests for favors, together with a memorandum for sewing machine needles, which are much in request within the Rebel dominions. He had in his possession a considerable amount of Confederate notes and a large amount in gold coin hidden in a belt. There were also memoranda on his person leading to the supposition that he was here in quest of medical supplies, and perhaps on an errand of house or bridge burning. In these memoranda were the following chemical formulas:—

Formula A.—Rosin, 3 oz.; sulphur, 4 oz.; nitre, 10 oz.; regulus antimony, 1 oz.; mutton tallow, 1 oz; turpentine, 1 oz.

Formula B.—Sal ammoniac, chlorate of potash, muriatic acid, sulphuric acid.

Alfred E. Eyster, a chemist, of Harrisburg, was called in by the Judge Advocate, and he testified that the ingredients included in the first formula form a very powerful combination, highly *inflammable, easily ignited, and capable of instantaneous* combustion, being very difficult to extinguish when ignited; that the same formula is quoted in the *British Encyclopedia*, in the article on Military Pyrotechnics, and has been used in the English army for firing houses and towns. He testified that the second formula embraced a newly-discovered powder, combustible in nature, and capable of being ignited with muriatic or sulphuric acid.

Experiments were made with the ingredients named, and the result fully sustained the assertions of the chemists.

The defense have called no witnesses. The chemical experiments have rather taken counsel by surprise. The defense was set up that the chemical formulas were merely prescriptions for salves; to which Mr. Eyster answered that the first combination might possibly be used as a medical remedy, perhaps as a pallistive for the itch, but that such an application was scarcely admissible, certainly not in reference to the second formula.

Lloyd presents a very intelligent appearance. He is still suffering from his wounds, and is obliged to use crutches in locomotion. The defense has been well conducted. The determination of the Court will not be known before the appearance of the Commanding General's orders in the case.

ESCAPED.—Information has been received by the friends of our citizens confined in the South, that several of them effected their escape from Salisbury about a month since. The information cannot be doubted as it comes directly from one who was confined in the same prison. Nothing has been heard from them since their escape, and it is not known whether they are still cautiously making their way North or whether they have been re-captured and taken back to their loathsome prison. The journey from Salisbury to the Union lines is a long one, and for escaped prisoners full of danger. But we hope that they may have the strength to accomplish it in safety, and that before long they may be restored to their friends and homes. We have been shown a letter from Mr William Clugston, who for some months past has been in Tennessee in the employ of the Government. He states in his letter that he lately met a gentleman who escaped from Salisbury in November. This gentleman during his *confinement there became well acquainted with* our citizen prisoners. He informed Mr. Clugston that when he left they were all in good health and cheerful, and gave him many interesting particulars concerning their condition and manner of living. When he left, each of our citizens had an employment. George Heck was Commissary Sergeant, Caufman was Hospital Steward; Eiker, McGrath and Kinsler were engaged in manufacturing rings, and Brown and McDowell were studying professions. They were confined in a room with about one hundred and sixty others. Their clothing was very poor, but they were expecting better. Notwithstanding all their sufferings and privations they remain cheerful and are hopeful of soon being exchanged.

COMPARISON OF QUOTAS.—The following table exhibits the quotas of this county under the present call for 300,000 men as compared with the quotas under the call for 500,000 men last summer. If anything more is needed to show the incompetency of the Provost Marshal General, we don't understand either logic or figure-work. Guilford, for instance filled her quota last spring with three years men, and again filled her quota last fall of 49 with one year men, and furnished an excess of nine. Now she is called upon for 75 men. We presume that Gen. Fry has just guessed at the quotas of the several districts, multiplied some of them by two, and then made the official assignment of the quotas. We subjoin the table:

	Quotas for 500,000.	Quotas for 300,000.
Antrim township	62	79
Greencastle borough	23	28
Chambersburg { North Ward	51	77
Chambersburg { South Ward	43	73
Fannett township	22	20
Green do	51	70
Guilford do	49	75
Hamilton do	20	28
Letterkenny township	37	52
Lurgan do	15	17
Metal do	14	13
Montgomery do	59	75
Mercersburg borough	13	18
Peters township	45	50
Quincy do	51	69
St. Thomas township	33	46
Southampton do	32	40
Warren do	6	4
Washington do	41	56
Waynesboro' borough	21	25
Totals	687	915

COPPERHEADISM will crop out occasionally in Fulton county. The *Republican* says that on Monday evening, January 30th, while a protracted meeting was in session at the Christian Church, in Licking Creek township, that county, and while the Rev. I. N. McDaniel was preaching, a party of that scum of earth, known as Fulton county Copperheads, having caught a black sheep, the property of Mr. Joseph Strait, brought it and thrust it into the midst of the assembled worshippers, with the evident intention of breaking up the meeting.

AN ACCIDENT.—We learn from the *Village Record* that on Friday week an accident happened to a little son of Mr. David Shoop, by which he narrowly escaped with his life. It appears he got on the lazy board of a large wagon which was loaded with barrels, and in the act of getting off fell, one wheel passing over his arm and shoulder breaking his arm and otherwise seriously injuring him. Dr. I. N. Snively was called to his relief, and we are pleased to learn that the patient is doing well.

WASHINGTON.—We understand that the Rev. Dr. Conrad has consented to lecture on the evening of the 22d inst., in the Methodist church, on Christianity the moulding power of the character of Washington. A collection will be taken up for the benefit of the poor. Dr. Conrad is an earnest and eloquent speaker, and we have no doubt he will handle this interesting subject with his usual ability. We bespeak for him a full house and for the suffering poor a liberal collection