



RIGHT OR WRONG.

WHEN RIGHT, TO BE KEPT RIGHT,
WHEN WRONG, TO BE PUT RIGHT.

EBENSBURG:

THURSDAY.....DECEMBER 10.

The Late Contest—Copperheadism.

The friends of the Union in Pennsylvania have fought a good fight, and have achieved a victory, great, grand and glorious. And now since the smoke of the battle-field has all passed away, and the slain enemies of the country sleep quietly in their dishonored political graves, it may not be amiss to take a glance at some of the peculiarities which characterized the recent contest. But, in the first place, we must congratulate our friends everywhere upon the result. Amongst the thousands of gallant and brave men who contributed towards it, we are confident there is not one who feels a more heartfelt pleasure in it than ourself. No political canvass was ever carried on with so much bitterness on the part of our opponents, and without intending disparagement towards any of the aspirants before the Pittsburg convention, we repeat now, what we have uniformly believed and expressed, that Andrew G. Curtin was and is the only man who could have saved our people from the disgrace of a Copperhead triumph, and the nation from the evils which would flow from a hostile State administration.

In former political campaigns—and we have participated in quite a number—we have always found more or less of honesty and principle in our opponents; but in the one just closed, we regret to say, they seemed utterly devoid of any and all such attributes. From the moment our candidate was placed in the field, down to the closing of the polls, on the evening of the second Tuesday of October, they kept up a deliberate personal warfare against him, which in its malignancy and wickedness has never been paralleled. Every slander which their malicious heads could invent, every means which Satan could suggest, was employed by them to defeat our nominee and elect their own. Men, too, in our own midst, from whom better things might ordinarily have been expected, willfully ignored everything like manliness and fairness, and lent themselves, body and soul, to this shameless and dirty work.

We cannot afford now to dignify these individuals, and at the same time pollute our columns, by naming them here. We know them, and the public know them, and this is sufficient. They have furnished a striking proof of the truth of the old saying—"Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad." Their task is done, and they have their reward in the triumphant re-election of the man whom they have vilified and defamed.—To this they are welcome.

The course pursued by the leaders of Copperheadism, since the commencement of the Rebellion, has been strange indeed, but not more strange than infamous.—They are themselves responsible, in a great measure, for the dastardly attempt which has been made to overthrow our Government. In the campaign of 1860, they publicly proclaimed that, if Mr. Lincoln should be elected, the Union would be dissolved, alleging that the people of the South could not be expected to remain under the Presidential rule of an "abolitionist." This was an invitation to the Slave States to try the experiment of Secession; and when, after the election of Mr. Lincoln, they made the attempt to go out, these same Copperhead leaders stood by with their hands in their pockets, and like poor old Buchanan, did nothing but bellow out "no coercion!"—whilst not a few of the more fool-hardy among them, declared that their party in the North would forcibly resist any attempt on the part of the incoming administration to compel the South to return to its allegiance. But when Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated, and when, after exhausting all peaceful means in vain, he was eventually forced to call upon the military to put down the insurrection, and to wipe out the insult which had been offered to our flag at Fort Sumter, then, indeed, these sympathizers with treason quite changed their tune. All of a sudden they became wonderfully loyal and patriotic, but their

professions in this behalf are now well understood to have been neither more nor less than a bid for patronage and power, for no sooner had Old Abe distributed his offices and left these men out in the cold, than they all with one accord turned upon him. Could he have given them all fat places, it is quite likely that both he and the Union would now have their support. But this was impossible, and so Old Abe and the Union have had to get along without them, and so far have shown themselves quite equal to the emergency.

Failing to get control of and to run "the machine" as they had fondly hoped, these Copperhead leaders have from that time forward opposed the National Administration and all who sustain it in the prosecution of the War. It is scarcely necessary for us to particularize; we need only utter the great truth, that they have, by every means in their power, sought to embarrass the head of the government; and in proportion to their success in this, so have they succeeded in giving aid and comfort to the Rebels. As evidence of the fact that their labors have been duly appreciated down in Secession, we may mention the well-known truth that the leaders of the Rebellion were extremely anxious to see them triumph at the State election. The Richmond papers counted largely upon the advantage which, in such a contingency, would result to their cause, and got off numerous labored editorials to show that an advance of Lee's army into Pennsylvania would be a sure way to attain the desired end. It was warmly urged that this would give encouragement and strength to the so-called "Democracy," through whom alone they could expect to obtain peace, and a recognition of their bogus Confederacy!

We have said that, when the call for troops was first made, the Copperhead leaders evinced a willingness to aid in prosecuting the war. Such was the case in our own county, with perhaps some exceptions, and the same may be said of all the Northern States. When the Government had once fairly taken its position, few indeed were found to raise their voices against volunteering for the war, whilst many did all in their power to promote enlistments. Stephen A. Douglas and other good men like him had assured the President of their sympathy and support, and not a few of those who had been the friends of the arch-traitor Breckinridge now buckled on their armor to fight for the Stars and Stripes. Examples were set which were well worthy of emulation. Our readers will remember the eloquence which was expended by certain Democrats, now Copperheads, of our own county, and the efforts they put forth to procure troops for the service. They attended and harangued all the war meetings, made contributions, and for a time seemed to forget political distinctions and to recognize but one party, and that the party of the Union. Would that this state of affairs had continued; but it could not be so. The patriotism of these men was not so strong as their appetite for patronage and gain. True it was that both the President and the Governor had recognized the Union Democrats by conferring upon them many of their best appointments; but what mattered this, so long as they had failed to provide for these particular individuals and their particular friends! A certain so-called Democrat, not living a thousand miles from this place, fancied that, because he had had some experience as an officer of the militia, he was therefore entitled to be made a Colonel or a Brigadier in the army, and not attaining to either of these, he aimed at being appointed to enrol the militia of the county preparatory to the draft of 1862. But failing in this as in the others, his last dodge we believe was to visit Harrisburg and ask an appointment from the military authorities there. It will be borne in mind that, whilst seeking each and all of these positions, he studiously proclaimed himself a War Democrat; but being disappointed in all his selfish aspirations, he fiercely came home to inveigh against the Administration and the war. He has gone on in this way until he has become literally crazy with Copperheadism. Another so-called Democrat, who regards himself exceedingly smart in political games, as in everything else, wished to be rewarded for saying nothing against the Administration. He put himself to the trouble of going to Washington in quest of a Sutherland. But as such appointments are not "lying around loose" at all times, he didn't chance to pick one up. The failure annoyed him somewhat, and he returned to his home, resolved to make himself both heard and felt in the perplexing affairs of the nation. He has ever since been consistent in his opposition to the cause of the country, and one of his last

acts was to preside at a meeting at which more solid lies were told and more bad whisky was consumed than perhaps at any similar assemblage ever convened in the State. Still another so-called Democrat had an elder brother who was urged for Paymaster in the army. The applicant was a Union Democrat—the same that the younger professed to be—and the appointment was urged upon that ground. But as offices are sometimes difficult to obtain, the applicant did not succeed. To show the consistency and worth of the applicant, it is only necessary to say that he promptly entered the service as a subordinate, and sealed his devotion to the country with his life's blood. All honor to his memory! We wish we could say as much for his younger brother.—But no! the young man employs his leisure moments in spitting out low and scurrilous abuse against not only those who are supporting the government, but even against the government itself which protects him.

We mention these little bits of history merely to show the motives by which some of the more prominent Copperhead leaders of our State have been governed. We measure all the leaders of their party, whether in the county, the State, or the nation, by the same standard.—They all adopted and entered upon the same infamous course out of purely selfish considerations. They began their opposition to the Administration precisely at the time they could not use it to subserve their own base purposes. Unable to rule, they were determined to ruff. Nor did they go to work without a system. Early in the summer of 1861, they began their organization under the false but captivating name of "Democracy," and thus lured many an unsuspecting man into their support. Their orators and presses lied freely. They told the people that the Republicans had brought on the war, and were unfit to prosecute it, and that the Union could only be restored through the success and instrumentality of the "Democratic party." Thus they lied and labored. Meanwhile, many of the friends of the Union were enlisting into the service, whilst those who remained at home were striving to obliterate party lines and to harmonize all upon the great question at issue. But our readers will remember that in the fall of 1861, the Copperheads here, as in many other places, succeeded. And here it may not be out of place to refer to another so-called Democrat, who at the outset of our national troubles talked loudly for the Administration and against the Rebellion, and in a speech pledged himself to know no party until the rebellion was put down, but forgot it all when his eyes were dazzled with the prospect of a seat in the Legislature.—The Copperheads held the bait out to him, and he took it. He has been nominated and elected three times. A poor reward for sacrificing principle, and deserting to the enemy in the hour of his country's troubles!

The Copperhead party, once organized, has been carefully kept up, and the bitterness which characterized it at the beginning has intensified with the progress of the war. Somewhat timid at first, its leaders have grown bolder day by day. Their success in carrying the State in the autumn of 1862 made them almost insufferable. They fancied that this was the sure harbinger of their triumph in the then coming gubernatorial contest, so that the way was already paved for a Copperhead to succeed Mr. Lincoln. At an early day, they set up McClellan as their man. They made him their idol—he has been the centre around which they have revolved. They gave him credit for every success achieved by our army, and abused the Administration for every failure. They accused the Administration of jealousy toward him, and of not furnishing him men and supplies when needed; whereas, it is well known that more was done for him than for any other General in the army. No one ever had so many golden opportunities in this war to save the country and distinguish himself; and yet, after he had shown himself totally unfit for the high position which he held, and was removed by the Administration, the Copperheads denounced the act as one of persecution! This was but a part of the scheme to make political capital amongst the ignorant masses.

When, during the past summer, the Copperheads met in convention at Harrisburg, to nominate their candidate for Governor, the Rebel army, under Gen. Lee, was upon the soil of Pennsylvania. It had invaded and taken possession of the Cumberland Valley, one of the finest portions of our State, and was plundering its inhabitants and subjecting them to every imaginable insult and indignity.—

Our people there, unprotected as they necessarily were at the time, were flying before the ruthless invader, who boastfully threatened Harrisburg and even Philadelphia itself. And yet, with the thunders of Rebel cannon almost ringing in their ears, the Copperhead conclave sat in the capital, and closed its sessions without uttering one word of encouragement for the Government, or one syllable of condemnation against the Rebels. On the contrary, the member of that Convention, with others of like ilk, boldly coined and circulated the lie, that there was "not a Rebel in the State," and that the report of the invasion was "a mere fabrication and ruse to get troops to carry on the nigger war," and the Copperhead organ of Ebensburg, namely, the *Dem. & Sent.*, cried out—"Don't be alarmed! it is only a big scare!" Our readers will remember some of the shameful efforts that were made to induce men not to respond to the call for troops in that trying period; and they will remember, too, the long faces worn by the Copperheads when General Meade and his noble army actually found the Rebels "in the State," and gave them a thrashing on the glorious battle-field of Gettysburg.

After Governor Curtin sent his special message to the legislature, declining to be a candidate for re-election, the Copperheads vainly supposed that he was "shelved," and entirely out of their way. With their accustomed hypocrisy, they set up a piteous cry in his behalf; they spoke in the highest terms of him and his official acts; and said he had been victimized by the National Administration. In the meantime, they devoted themselves to the abuse and vilification of such other Union men as they regarded prominent aspirants for the gubernatorial nomination. But when the PEOPLE made themselves heard through their representatives at Pittsburg, and in defiance of the often and publicly expressed opinion of Governor Curtin, again made him their standard-bearer, then indeed the rage seemed to come over the dream of the Copperheads. They at once began to write and show their fangs, and from that time until the closing of the polls, were continually snapping and biting, and spitting their poison at our candidate and his supporters.

They charged Governor Curtin with imbecility in the management of our State affairs, and called him the errand-boy of the Administration at Washington. They denounced every measure of that Administration, and sought to fix upon him the responsibility. They complained of the Tax law—published lying statements purporting to show the proportion that our own and other counties in the State would have to pay of the National Debt—and told the ignorant that, in the event of Curtin's election, they would be utterly ruined. They denounced the Conscription act as a base usurpation—compared it to the highwayman's plea, "your life or your money"—and publicly proclaimed that, if Curtin should be elected, another Draft would immediately be ordered. They made a great ado about the liberty of speech and of the Press, but they were careful to conceal the fact, that, in all well-regulated Governments these rights are subject to certain limitations, and that individuals should always be held responsible for their perversion or abuse. They clamored against "illegal arrests," and pointed to the Traitor Vallandigham, as a victim and—Heaven save the mark—"a martyr." They told the people, in the most solemn language imaginable, that, if Curtin should succeed, all their great liberties and privileges—of speech, of the Press, and of the Ballot—would be forever gone.—Some of the Copperhead orators in this town entertained the most doleful opinions that they would never again be permitted to vote at any election. Others indeed, in their harangues to the ignorant, proclaimed with the most touching pathsos, that they did not know what moment they might be arrested and imprisoned in some dark dungeon. It is a question whether this community, or the cause of Liberty either, would have suffered much had some of these direful apprehensions come true.

It was by this sort of lying clap-trap, and through the agency of the traitorous order of the Golden Circle, that the Copperheads hoped to carry the late election in this State. They fancied, moreover, that they had done a sharp thing in their Convention, by thrusting aside such open-mouthed blithering Secessionists as Witte and Clymer, and taking a man of "character," who, whilst he was known to them to be "all sound on the goose," had publicly said but little on the subject, and could go through the campaign with his lips hermetically sealed. But in the wise Providence of God, it was ordered

that they should not succeed. Our candidate did not hesitate to go before the people and explain to them the true issues involved in the contest. The hypocritical Woodward was unmasked, and held up to the public in his true colors. The people saw in him the man who, when Rebellion first raised its hydra-head, had given aid and comfort to the Traitors by a speech in Independence Square. They saw in him the man who had pronounced Slavery an "incalculable blessing," and who had ever been a faithful champion of "State rights"—the same detestable doctrines entertained by the Rebels, and for which they have undertaken to overthrow the best Government on earth. And last, though not least, the people saw in George W. Woodward the judge who had decided that the gallant men who take up arms against the Rebels, and imperil their lives for the Union and the Constitution, are not entitled to the privilege of voting at our elections.

It was enough. The Union-loving masses needed nothing more to convince them of the disloyalty of the Copperhead candidate. Strongly in favor of the War, they sternly resolved to take the best means to prosecute it to a successful issue. Curtin had spoken upon the subject—Woodward promised to do so after the election. Curtin's record both as a man and an official was well known, and could not be tarnished by all the lies which Copperheadism could fabricate. The people knew that his past course would be a sure guarantee for the future. Him, therefore, they elected, and Woodward they rebuked. All honor to the People! The election over, Woodward, true to his promise, has made a speech. He has solemnly said that the Conscription Act is unconstitutional. What a pity it is he did not make that speech before the election! All the letters which George B. McClellan, and other ingrates like him, could have written in his behalf, would not have saved him from being beaten worse than Vallandigham himself!

We have thus taken a glance—a mere glance—at Copperheadism as it has displayed itself in our county and State. There are many more things connected with it upon which it might not be unprofitable to dwell. We might, for instance, tell how, at first, they boasted that the Union army was almost entirely made up of their political friends, and yet how careful they have been to oppose every project which might let the soldier have a voice in our elections. We might speak, too, of the wily artifice which they have employed to get Union men into the army, and of the commutation money they have expended to keep their own men at home;—how, in short, they have labored to get the Union men to do the fighting and the Copperheads the voting. All these and more things we might speak of at length, but time and space forbid that we should do so now. We have, perhaps, already trespassed too much upon our readers.—We can only say, in conclusion, that we are diametrically opposed to Copperheadism. We regard the leaders of that vile organization as worse, if possible, than the Rebels themselves, for they are possessed of the same traitorous principles, and have not the manliness to fight for them. It is idle to mince matters with such men. The threats which some of them have recently made against us have but served to increase our contempt for them. The tide which has set in for the Union is and will be irresistible. It has already swept nearly every Northern State; it will sweep the country next November. The Copperheads and their rotten cause will go down with Jeff Davis and the Rebellion, and their memories will live only to be execrated by loyal millions yet in the womb of futurity.

The brief campaign of the Army of the Potomac is over. Having successfully crossed the Rapidan, driven Lee back upon the Orange and Alexandria road, fought one brisk battle on our left wing, and nearly used up their limited supply of rations and forage, a council of war was held, at which it was concluded that a return to the old camping-ground was dictated by every aspect of the case. The main reasons for this course are these: Short rations and difficulty of bringing up more; the enemy strongly entrenched in a position which could not be carried in any event without great loss; very cold weather, making it certain that our wounded, in case of an assault, would suffer and die by hundreds before they could be cared for. These facts led to the order for retreat. There was no fighting—not even a skirmish; and the entire army recrossed the river with all its trains intact.

Gen. John C. Breckinridge is reported killed in the late battle at Chattanooga. It is to be hoped he has gone to heaven.

The President has been suddenly taken quite ill again.

Profitable Investments.

The Philadelphia *North American* gives some excellent advice to those who wish to invest money. It is well for all who are in funds to heed the counsel:

"Though money has been temporarily scarce, capital continues abundant; and the recent tumble in the stock market, has brought capitalists to a realization of the unreliable character of many of the securities dealt in. It is greatly to the credit of the Government that its loans, of all the securities daily dealt in on the market, have maintained their integrity of price better than almost anything else.—Its Five-Twenty year six per cent. loan, the interest on which is promptly paid in gold, has been subscribed to, all through the pressure in the money market, at an average of more than two millions per day. And what is not the least gratifying fact in connection with the daily large subscriptions to this popular loan, scarcely any of it is returned to the market for sale. It is taken for investment, and is held with unflinching confidence in its reliability. And why should it not be? It is seen that the Government now, after two years of the most gigantic war that the world has ever known, experiences no difficulty in commanding the necessary means to prosecute it, or in paying regularly the interest in gold as it falls due. If this can be done while the war is being waged, who can anticipate any difficulty in readily accomplishing it when the war shall be ended? What better investment, then, for capital, than the "Five Twenty" Government loan? But if any doubt, let him refer to the statistics furnished by the census tables of the various nations of the world. The facts which they present will prove the most satisfactory mode of dispelling the numberless gloomy apprehensions which are being continually conjured up by those who are disposed to exaggerate the extent of the calamity occasioned by our rebellion. A reference to the state of most of the prosperous nations of the old world clearly disproves such a position, and shows that the highest conditions of national advancement have not been materially affected by the extended wars in which those nations have been immemorably engaged, and that a heavy national indebtedness has not proved an unmitigated evil.

"For instance, Great Britain, France and the Netherlands will undoubtedly be conceded to represent the highest prosperity that has been attained by any of the European nations. And yet no nations have been called upon to endure fiercer or more prolonged wars, domestic and foreign, than they. The effect has been, unquestionably, to incur an enormous national indebtedness; but neither their wars nor their indebtedness have had the effect to destroy their elasticity, nor to check the progress of their general prosperity. The result would have been different, probably, if the nations had been falling into decay, instead of being, as they really were, in a state of development; and in this respect, their case resembles our own, with enormous advantages in our favor. These nations, while undergoing the trials of war, were oppressed by the evils of an immense exodus of their people, caused by the density of their population, the impossibility to provide occupation for them, the low prices of labor, and the scarcity of territory. Compared with our own country, they possessed slight room for future development; they were settled in every part, and no vast territory lay invitingly open to encourage enterprise and settlement. Their great problem has ever been what to do with their surplus population, which, in its turn, has sought new fields for adventure and self support in countries like our own, where an illimitable territory waits to be developed, and where incalculable resources invite industry and energy. The encouragement to be derived from these facts and comparisons of circumstances is very great, and to the mind of any dispassionate reasoner is conclusive that the course of this great country is onward and upward, and that its credit will live unimpaired to the end."

In this connection, we would refer our readers to an advertisement elsewhere with reference to the sale of the Five-Twenties by Jay Cooke & Co., Bankers, Philadelphia.

Congress met at Washington on Monday, noon. Hon. Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, the nominee of the Union caucus, was on the first ballot elected Speaker of the House. The vote was as follows:—Whole number of votes 181; necessary to a choice 82. Colfax 101, Cox 42, King 4, Mallory 10, Stebbins 8, Dawson 12, Blair 2, Styles 1.

NEW BLACKSMITH SHOP.—The subscriber would respectfully inform the public that he has bought out the well-known establishment of Isaac Singer, in the West Ward, Ebensburg, where he will carry on the BLACKSMITHING business in all its branches. Confident in rendering entire satisfaction, he hopes for a share of patronage. WILLIAM GRAY. Ebensburg, Nov. 19, 1863.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—The Letters of Administration on the estate of John Humphreys, late of Cambria county, deceased, having been granted to the subscribers, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to come forward and pay their respective accounts, and those having claims against the estate will present them, properly authenticated for settlement. MRS. ELEANOR HUMPHREYS. ROWLAND J. HUMPHREYS. Nov. 12, 1863-Gt.

Blank Summons, Blank Subpoena, Blank Executions, Constable's Returns, &c., for sale at this office.