



RIGHT OR WRONG.

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

EBENSBURG:

THURSDAY DECEMBER 24.

The Three Hundred Dollar Exemption Clause.

We are told that the present Congress is likely, within a few days, to repeal this provision in the Act of Congress, fixing \$300 as an equivalent for military service. If this repeal is yielded to the clamor that was raised against it, we are convinced it will be against the better judgment of the members of Congress passing it. The Pittsburgh Commercial asks, why should we not have an equivalent in money for military service? Nearly every European nation has this fixture in its laws. If it is not thus, indeed, the draft becomes onerous to the poor man. The wealthy who do not desire to go will of course find substitutes at \$300-\$1,000—if need be \$3,000. Some money equivalent should be fixed in the laws, unless that Congress will go the whole length, and utterly prohibit a substitute under any circumstances. We do not say that \$300 is the exact equivalent. Perhaps it ought to be more, but, having commenced to act under the law, it is unjust to the names already in the wheel to either repeal the clause or increase the amount. If we must have a new enrollment, why, then, let this matter of its entire repeal come up on its merits. But, when the General Government has the names already in the box—one fifth of which have been drawn out under the existing law—why should the other four-fifths have any such radical change made as is now contemplated? The thing strikes us as preposterous. Those names already drawn from the wheel submitted to the law, and yet, if one-half the changes now proposed become law, the other four-fifths will be forced to submit to an entirely new set of regulations.

The time has not come to adopt radical changes in this act. As soon as, and no sooner than the names in the present boxes are exhausted, and a new enrollment has to be made, can those wholesale changes be engrained by Congress in the law.

It is said that Copperheads raised a clamor against this \$300 feature. So they would if Congress should re-enact the Lord's Prayer, the Constitution, or anything else. But the public enforced this law in 1863, will enforce it in 1864, or any other time until this rebellion is ended. We do not care what Copperheads say; the probabilities are that it was right, because they assailed it. If you wish to please them, you would have to repeal all laws allowing the State or the Union to suppress this rebellion.

As soon as the nation has exhausted the names collected in the box, then let us have a new Act of Congress, based on our experience of the workings of the present. But while we have on hand the names furnished by the last enrollment, let us not change until all have had their chances under the same law. Equity is equity. If the first fifth had submitted to the existing law, so should the other four-fifths, whose names are already in the box.

We have no right to reject the Acts of Congress, and thus subject the names heretofore obscure to the chances of a new deal. Nor have we a right to subject them to any harder terms than were imposed on those first drawn.

If this three hundred dollar clause is now repealed, why then Congress may say that no substitute shall be allowed, and thus the remaining names be subjected to terms ten times as onerous as were imposed on those first drawn. With all its imperfections we should make no radical changes in the Act until all the names in the wheel have been drawn, and all had an equal chance to serve their country—to exemption under its disability clauses, or else have paid their money equivalent.

Late news from Washington seem to indicate that the draft will be postponed twenty days. There is great diversity of sentiment among the Congressmen as to whether the \$300 clause of the Conscription law ought or ought not to be repealed. It is believed the commutation will be ultimately increased from \$300 to \$500.

Jottings from Washington.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 17, 1863. To the Editor of The Alleghenian:

On Monday, the standing committees for the session were announced in both Houses of Congress. In the Senate the committees are first selected by a committee appointed for the purpose, and are then confirmed by a ballot vote of the Senators themselves. Generally, the nominations by the select committee are indorsed nem. con. In the House the committees are appointed by the Speaker, and there is no revision of his choice. After the committees are constituted, vacancies which may arise by death, resignation or otherwise, are filled respectively by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. A glance at the committees themselves: In looking over the list of the Senate committees, I observe that Senator Cowan is a member of the Finance committee and chairman of the committee on Patents and the Patent Office. He was chairman of this committee during the last session. Mr. Buckalew is a member of the following committees—Post Office and Post Roads, Pensions, and Indian Affairs. In the House list, Hon. Archibald M'Allister is a member of the very important committee on Military Affairs. Coffroth of Somerset is a member of the committee on Revolutionary Pensions and the Expenditures of the Interior Department. Dawson, who succeeds John Covode, is a member of the committee on Foreign Affairs. The two Pittsburgh Members occupy honorable positions. Moorehead is chairman of the committee on Manufactures, and a member of the committee on Naval Affairs. Williams is a member of the Judiciary committee. Judge Hale, of Centre county, is chairman of the committee on Claims, Pennsylvania, by the way, furnishes more chairmen of committees than other State, except New York, which supplies an equal number. In addition to Kennedy Moorehead and Judge Hale, already mentioned as chairmen respectively of two important committees, Thaddeus Stevens is again chairman of Ways and Means—a position which carries with it the leadership of the dominant party in the House; Thayer, of Philadelphia, is chairman of Private Land Claims; and Amos Myers, of the "Wild Cat district," is at the head of the committee on Expenditures of the Treasury Department.

Some anxiety has been felt as to the course the Hon. Reverdy Johnson of Maryland would pursue in the Senate on the great questions of the day. He is one of the ablest jurists and most profound statesman in the country, and his influence, it was felt, would be irritating and damaging to the Administration if cast in the balance against it. But the anxiety has been dispelled, and Reverdy Johnson is all right! The Fernando Wood and Garret Davis side of the scale kicks the beam. In a speech delivered in the Senate on Tuesday, Mr. Johnson replied in a strain of the loftiest patriotism and most convincing argument to a dastardly attack by Garret Davis upon the policy of the Administration with regard to the negroes, and its motives in prosecuting the war. While he did not unqualifiedly indorse the wisdom of the emancipation policy, he yet approved in unequivocal terms of the policy which armed the blacks. The President had the right under the Constitution to do this. The safety of the nation required it. As to slavery itself, he did not defend it; it could be defended on no plea, human or divine. The speech will gladden the hearts and strengthen the hands of the emancipation party in Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky and Missouri. They have found a champion of their cause in the person of the man they feared might be the leader of their enemies. A Border State man himself, he will possess the respect and confidence of loyal slaveholding communities to a greater degree than any other Senator from a Slave State. Rapidly and earnestly the Border States are wheeling into the line of unconditional and anti-slavery loyalty, and they can have no fitter exponent of their views on the floor of the United States Senate than the venerable Senator from Maryland.

Fernando Wood and his party found themselves in a minority of thirty the other day when they presented in the House a resolution to send commissioners to Richmond to offer propositions of peace. The resolution was laid on the table by a majority of thirty. As the vote was a test of the strength of parties, it was significant. The Peace-at-any-price party will not give us as much trouble as it was supposed they would. Many so-called Democrats will refuse to countenance the cowardly schemes of Northern submissionists, and will zealously support on the floor of Congress the war measures of the Administration.

The country has met with a real loss in the death of General Buford, which took place at the residence of Gen. Stoneman, in this city, last evening. His disease was typhoid fever, following protracted chronic diarrhea. He was one of the best cavalry Generals, if not the best, the service could boast. It is said of him that, while he was always vigilant, and always daring where there was hope of success, he never sacrificed a life unnecessarily or recklessly. The country will read with pleasure that the President, on learning yesterday that the eyes of the brave Kentuckian were about to close forever, at once sent him a commission as Major General. Mr. Lincoln's kindness of heart never forsakes him. He has done this thing before. I have just learned the facts in a little romance which I jot down for the lady readers of The Alleghenian. One of the new Members of Congress from the State of Maine is the Hon. James J. Blaine, of the Augusta district. This gentleman was born and grew to manhood in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. From there he went to Washington, Washington co., and, we think, became a teacher of mathematics in the Seminary there. Possibly he may only have been a student in the College. The fact is not essential. It is enough to know that while in Washington he fell in love with and married one of the lady teachers in the Seminary—a Yankee girl, all the way from Maine. That love scrape settled his destiny, and a fortunate one it has proved to be. Blaine, of course, visited Maine with his wife, and so pleased was he with the attractions which that young State presented, that he resolved to make his home among his new kindred. He became an editor, and a good one; studied law; went into politics; was elected several terms to the Legislature; became its Speaker; was appointed Chairman of the Union State Committee last Summer; and finally was elected to Congress. He is one of the most popular men in the State, and, we are informed, the most influential—even Vice President Hamlin's star having paled before his. He is still a young man, and will go higher. He is the first Pennsylvanian who ever represented a Yankee constituency upon the floor of Congress. And all through his falling in love with a Yankee school-mistress!

The rainy season—corresponding to the snow and ice, the sleigh bells and frozen apples of the North—has commenced along the Potomac. The campaign of Gen. Meade for 1863 may be considered at an end. J. M. S.

The steamer Chesapeake has had a short voyage in her new capacity of Confederate pirate. Unable, from lack of men and coal, or afraid to put to sea, the murderers who seized her have hung around the small harbors of Nova Scotia, until justice has overtaken them. The Ella and Annie (herself but a few weeks since caught in trying to run the blockade) caught the Chesapeake in Sambro harbor, 30 miles from Halifax. Unfortunately, nearly all the crew escaped and took to the woods; only three of the men who assisted in the seizure were taken, the others of those caught having been shipped in Nova Scotia. The gunboat Dakota soon after came up and ordered both the vessels to Halifax. Upon their arrival at that port, intense excitement prevailed and a crowd at once rescued the pirates. The British Government officials who attempted to hold them, were seized by prominent citizens, and prevented from performing their duty. The pirates all escaped and were sent off out of danger of further molestation.

The Indiana American says that the resignation of Major Harry White, State Senator for that county, arrived there on last Wednesday, having been smuggled through the rebel lines by Sergeant Hosack. It is in the hands of his father, Hon. Thomas White, who is authorized to forward it to the Governor. The Judge, we understand, is making a final effort to have the Major exchanged, and in case he fails, the resignation will be forwarded to the Governor, who will order a special election to fill the vacancy. The nomination will be made by the County Committee.

A Sunday paper says: "Gen. McClellan is now engaged upon a series of articles shortly to be published in a popular journal. They will be published as an electioneering document, in connection with his report. A life of McClellan by a popular New York journalist is also under way; and the three—his life, his report, and his explanatory articles—will probably be published some time during the coming March. It is believed that these publications, with his supposed popularity with the people, will give him a very fair show for the Presidency."

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Apropos of the new year: An old female contraband with the Army of the Potomac places upon record the following prophecy: "In sixty-one, the war begun; In sixty-two, it was half through; In sixty-three, the niggers were free; In sixty-four, the war will be o'er."

If nature had kindly provided the editor of the Dem. & Sent. with a caudal appendage—which is evidently an unpardonable omission on the part of nature—why would he then strikingly resemble his editorial columns of last week as encroached upon by the publication of the President's Message? Because he as well as they would be "cur-tailed."

The Erie Observer, an obscure newspaper published somewhere in the vicinity of Canada, says that the Johnstown Democrat, another obscure journal published in the south of this county, is "one of the smartest and neatest papers in the country." Whereupon, the Democrat, acting upon the principle possibly that one good turn deserves another, turns around and calls the Observer "a live paper, spic and vinegar."

Tickle me, Johnnie—do, do, do! You tickle me, and I'll tickle you."

Quill-Drives.

See new advertisements. Slip-up-pery—the pavements. A nuisance—the new postal currency. Snow go—the sleighing hereabouts as yet.

The Confederacy's "last ditch"—the Slough of Despond. The Pennsylvania Legislature meets on the first Tuesday in January. The wife of ex-President Pierce died at Andover, Mass., on the 2d inst.

Read it—the Christmas story on today's outside. Ponder over it—the narrative of barbarities inflicted upon our soldiers in Libby Prison. Played out—the strike of the Broad Top coal-miners. They have returned to work at old wages.

Gen. Buford, the distinguished cavalry officer, died in Washington city on the 16th, of typhoid fever. Late advices indicate that the guerrilla Morgan, instead of being in Canada as was reported, has arrived safely in Dixie.

Does not the Dem. & Sent., in giving the prefix to our cognomen thus, "MR.," make a capital fellow of us? The Dem. & Sent. talks about a "click" of Abolitionists. Like the weather for the past week, this is a very severe spell.

A dolorous query to non-exempts—Will Congress repeal the \$300 clause of the Conscription Act? The Dem. & Sent. says that a couple of logs were poisoned lately by eating a stray copy of The Alleghenian.

We hope our neighbor wasn't one of them. Home on a visit—Jack Rhey, for several years back a departmental clerk in Washington city. He is one of nature's own noblemen.

In a squib last week, the Dem. & Sent. institutes that "Campbell" don't write the editorials for the Johnstown Democrat. When rogues fall out, etc.

By decision of the State Superintendent, school teachers are exempt from duty on Thanksgiving days, Christmas, Washington's birthday and the Fourth of July.

The Johnstown Democrat boasts that it contains more reading matter than any other paper in the county. What it lacks in quality it makes up in quantity.

Our Devil says we have already had several changes as regards the matter of the incumbency of the Stewardship of the county Poor House, and the people now call for one Moore.

The Dem. & Sent. calls "MR. banker" the ostensible editor of The Alleghenian. The difference between ourself and the D. & S. man, then, is this: We are an ostensible editor—he an astensible editor.

Capt. Thomas C. Williams, of Co. C, 19th U. S. Infantry—commander of a company recruited in this county—has been appointed Assistant Adjutant General on Gen. Rousseau's staff.

Excursion tickets will be issued on the Pennsylvania Railroad on the 24th and 25th inst., good for a return trip on the 28th, and on the 31st inst. and 1st January, good for return on the 3d of January.

The Rebel authorities decline allowing any more supplies to be sent from the North to our suffering soldiers in Richmond. Cause why—the Northern press has charged the officials at Richmond with misappropriating aid contributions.

We have been so lucky as to secure the services of an able Washington correspondent, who will during the session of Congress favor our readers with a weekly budget of news transpiring in that metropolis. See his initial letter elsewhere.

A lot of prayer-books just received and for sale by James Murray.—Dem. & Sent. We would respectfully suggest that the editor of the D. & S. enter into negotiations looking toward the purchase of one. He needs something of the sort badly.

Our Devil, who is a "gay and festive cuss," asserts that if the Ladies' Fair of Johnstown, for the benefit of the New Catholic church, only prove half so attractive as the Fair Ladies of Johnstown, the enterprise must needs be a success and give unlimited satisfaction.

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The War Power.

The war power is still our main reliance. So the President said, after proposing to the country a plan for the restoration of peace, and offering pardon to the people of the South. Unquestionably he is right. The success of the war is understood to be the groundwork of any plan for such a peace as we require, and until the war power has overthrown the armies of the rebellion, it will be impossible for those who are desirous of accepting the magnanimous offer of the President to make their wishes known. All proposals of peace and pledges of pardon must be preceded by a victorious army. Our Generals are our best ambassadors to the people we wish to reclaim, and where they fail our Statesman cannot succeed. These people are, in respect to the proclamation of pardon, as the slaves are to the proclamation of emancipation: they dare not accept it without gaining the assurance that the United States will protect them from the vengeance of the enemy. Within the lines of the Union army thousands of former Secessionists are eager to take the oath of allegiance, and prove by their actions the sincerity of their repentance. Beyond those lines no sign of loyalty is given. Wretched is the Southerner who, being in the power of the usurpation of Mr. Davis, dares to express willingness to accept the offer of the President. Therefore, a paradox easily understood, we must conquer the South to free the South; we must make the war power our main reliance in working for a permanent peace. The phantom of Peace, holding in her hand the delusion of a compromise, must not be pursued, for it leads to the reality of prolonged and fierce war. Peace, when it comes to this nation, will be in the form of a United States soldier, resting on his musket, in the capital of Richmond.

Now that we have read the noble message of the President and studied his plan of restoration; now that we have examined the official history of the past year, we can better understand the work before us. We can clearly see that all measures concentrate in one object—the strengthening of the war power. If Congress authorized a conscription, it was to increase our armies; if it authorized the creation of a national debt, it was to sustain those armies; if it gave to the President extraordinary powers during the war, it was that he might use those armies with energy; if we have submitted to taxation, before the rebellion unknown to us, to the loss of our friends and relatives in battle, to the draft, cheerfully accepting these misfortunes and inconveniences, it is solely because we wish to strengthen the war power. We have abandoned all hope that is not embodied in war; we have scouted the suggestion that cowardice or compromise could bring us peace; our voice is still for war, and for the war of the giants—for war, with its thousand battles and shaking of a hundred thrones; for the greatest of all wars, if that be necessary, so that in the future we shall have the purest and profoundest peace. We have accepted the Napoleonic maxim that Providence is on the side of the heaviest artillery; not irreverently, but from a conviction that Providence will always take care to give the heaviest artillery to the side which is right. It follows that in simple consistency we should cast as many guns as we can pay for.

A nation so thoroughly dependent upon war as this nation now is, cannot afford to wage war upon any scale less than Titanic. Two thousands of millions of dollars will cheaply purchase peace, and maintain a Republic worth millions of millions. No sacrifice of life can be too great if victory is obtained by it. The grave of every loyal soldier is an argument for still mightier war, for vainly have our heroes fallen if the battle they nobly begun is meanly ended. So largely has the nation invested in the war, that it is ruined if it abandons the enterprise. And if we fail, to what depth do we fall? Our national degradation will be greater than our former national glory; our shame will be perpetual, our ruin irretrievable; the sceptre of the continent will have passed from the hands of its inhabitants. Europe will govern America; the destiny of the New World will be controlled by the despotism of the Old. It is impossible to exaggerate the universal evil of failure in this war, and, therefore, impossible to strive too earnestly for success. Let the people of America look, then, to their armies. The war power of the Government is the strength of the nation, and to increase it by men, money, and measures, is to legislate for freedom and build upon enduring foundations the temple of perpetual peace.

Late dispatches from Chattanooga say the army will soon go into winter quarters. The situation is unchanged.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—Letters of Administration on the estate of Emmeline Benson, late of Wilmore, Summerhill tp., Cambria county, deceased, having been granted to the subscriber, all persons indebted to said estate are notified to come forward at once and settle their respective accounts, and those having claims against it will present them, properly authenticated for settlement. JOSEPH MILLER, Adm'r. Wilmore, Dec. 17, 1863-6t.

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.

COMMISSIONERS' SALE.—

The Commissioners of Cambria county will offer for sale at the Court House, in Ebensburg, on Friday, Jan. 15, A. D., 1864, the following tracts of unseated and seated lands, which tracts were legally purchased by the Commissioners at different Treasurers' sales, and have been held the time required by law, and have not been redeemed by former owners within such legal limitation, viz:

Table with columns: Acres, Pa. Warrantee's name, Township, and other details. Includes entries for Jacob Burns, Jacob Harris, Jas. Ross, Wm. Jones, etc.

Attest: WM. H. SECHLER, Clerk. Ebensburg, Dec. 17, 1863.

U. S. 5-20'S.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY has not yet given notice of any intention to withdraw this popular Loan from Sale at Par, and until ten days notice is given, the undersigned, as "General Subscription Agent," will continue to supply the public. The whole amount of the Loan authorized is Five Hundred Millions of Dollars. Nearly Four Hundred Millions have been already subscribed for and paid into the Treasury, mostly within the last seven months. The large demand from abroad, and the rapidly increasing home demand for use as the basis for circulation by National Banking Associations now organizing in all parts of the country will, in a very short period, absorb the balance. Sales have lately ranged from ten to fifteen millions weekly, frequently exceeding three millions daily, and it is well known that the Secretary of the Treasury has ample and unfauling resources in the Duties on Imports and Internal Revenues, and in the issue of the Interest-bearing Legal Tender Treasury Notes, it is almost a certainty that he will not find it necessary, for a long time to come, to seek a market for any other long or permanent Loans. THE INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL OF WHICH ARE PAYABLE IN GOLD.

Prudence and self interest must force the minds of those contemplating the formation of National Banking Associations, as well as the minds of all who have idle money on their hands, to the prompt conclusion that they should lose no time in subscribing to this most popular Loan. It will soon be beyond their reach, and advance to a handsome premium, as was the result with the "Seven Thirty" Loan, when it was all sold and could no longer be subscribed for at par. It is a Six per Cent Loan, the Interest and Principal payable in Coin, thus yielding over Nine per Cent per annum at the present rate of premium on coin.

The Government requires all duties on imports to be paid in Coin; these duties last for a long time past amounted to over a Quarter of a Million of Dollars daily, a sum nearly three times greater than that required in the payment of the interest on all the 5-20's and other permanent Loans. So that it is hoped that the surplus Coin in the Treasury, at no distant day, will enable the United States to resume specie payments upon all liabilities. The loan is called 5-20 from the fact that whilst the Bonds may run for 20 years yet the Government has a right to pay them off in Gold at par, at any time after 5 years. The interest is paid half-yearly, viz: On the first days of November and May. Subscribers can have Coupon Bonds, which are payable to bearer, and are \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1,000; or Registered Bonds of same denominations, and in addition, \$5,000 and \$10,000. For banking purposes and for investments of Trust-moneys the Registered Bonds are preferable. These 5-20's cannot be taxed by States, cities, towns, or counties, and the Government tax on them is only one and a half per cent. on the amount of income, when the income of the holder exceeds Six Hundred dollars per annum; all other investments, such as income from Mortgages, Railroad Stock and Bonds, etc., must pay from three to five per cent tax on the income. Banks and Bankers throughout the country will continue to dispose of the Bonds; and all orders by mail or otherwise promptly attended to. The inconvenience of a few days' delay in the delivery of the Bonds is unavoidable, the demand being so great; but as interest commences from the day of subscription, no loss is occasioned, and every effort is being made to diminish the delay.

Jay Cooke, SUBSCRIPTION AGENT, 114 S. THIRD ST., PHILADELPHIA. Philadelphia, December 10, 1863.

FOR SALE.—A Foker Engine, 8 inch cylinder, 26 inch stroke, nearly new, in complete order. 2 pumps, one cistern holding 30 bbls water, all boiler 26 inches, 20 feet long, fire front, all complete. Price \$650. Will take Lumber at cash prices in payment of same. H. F. LUDWICK, Manor Station, Pa. RR. 2 1/2 miles east Pittsburg, Dec. 8, 1863.