

The Alleghenian.



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

EBENSBURG:
THURSDAY, JANUARY 28.

FOR PRESIDENT:
ABRAHAM LINCOLN, of Illinois.

Journal from Washington.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 21, 1864.
To the Editor of the Alleghenian:

An incident occurred at Columbian College Hospital, this city, on Monday of last week, which will possess unusual interest for the readers of *The Alleghenian* and for all Cambrians who have had the pleasure of an acquaintance in years gone by with that estimable gentleman and accomplished physician, Dr. Wm. A. Smith, formerly of Ebsenburg, afterwards of Philadelphia, but since the breaking out of the Rebellion a Surgeon in the U. S. Army. The Dr. has been for many months one of the Surgeons in Columbian College Hospital, and the incident to which we have referred grew out of his connection with that institution. Your readers, I know, will not think the space in your paper misappropriated which shall give the particulars of that incident. Here they are:—The patients and attendants in the 3d Division of the Hospital, desirous of manifesting their esteem and regard for their ward Surgeon, had procured a very handsome American silver lever watch, with large gold key and guard, when, forming in line, they marched to his quarters and tendered the present. The visit was entirely unexpected, and the recipient, Dr. Wm. A. Smith, was completely taken by surprise at this sudden turn out of the men in his ward. Oliver Knapp, Co. B, 126th Ohio volunteers, then stepped from the ranks and spoke as follows:

"We have come together, Dr. W. A. Smith, in behalf of Division No. 3, Columbian College Hospital, for the purpose of pressing upon your acceptance this present, as a slight testimonial of our sincere respect and esteem. Our connection with you has been of but short duration, yet, on your part, has been most intimate, friendly and cordial. We have noted with pleasure and satisfaction your uniform kindness to us, and your watchful care in the performance of your official duty. Your patriotism and integrity as a man, your fidelity and efficiency as an officer, are too well known to call for repetition here; yet they are traits worthy of our imitation, and have won our confidence, respect and esteem. With this slight memento of our appreciation, take with you our best wishes for your happiness and future success, hoping that the gates of plenty may be always open to you, and when length of years has made you tired of this earthly existence, may the angels of heaven attend your bed and take care that the expiring lamp of life shall not receive one rude blast to hasten its extinction."

Dr. Smith responded in a brief and eloquent manner, and exhibited much emotion at this manifestation of feeling so unexpectedly evinced towards him.

He said that, surprised as he was, he hardly knew how to find words to express his feelings, but from the bottom of his heart he thanked them for their kindness—for their expression of good will towards him, and for the handsome present just made, which he regarded as worth more to him than its intrinsic value. He would endeavor to wear it through life, and as time rolled on he should cherish the recollection of the events of this day, for daily and hourly he would be reminded by this "memento" of the gratitude of the sick and wounded soldiers who had been under his care. To his children he hoped to transmit this "time piece," and felt assured they would look upon it as a legacy from those whose lives had been exposed whilst upholding the flag of the Union, and defending the Constitution under which we have all heretofore lived so happily, and whose names would never be forgotten. He spoke of the cause in which they were all engaged—the patriotism of the soldier—his sacrifices, diseases, wounds and suffering endured—much of which he had witnessed during the rebellion—and of the devotion of the American soldier to the institutions of his country. Towards those who had so kindly expressed their good wishes to-day, he could only say that he cheerfully reciprocated their sentiments, and wished them a speedy restoration to health, and hoped ere long they might enjoy the blessing of peace amidst their families and friends under the flag of the whole Union.

He again thanked them for their kindness and liberality towards him, and knew not what he had done to merit it; he had only endeavored to do his duty, and felt gratified that his exertions had given satisfaction. The list of donors, which had also been handed to him, he should keep as well as the watch; and, in conclusion, remarked that every time he counted the pulse of a sick or wounded soldier, he would be reminded of those with whom he had been so pleasantly connected in Columbian Hospital.

Upon the conclusion of the remarks, Dr. Smith was loudly cheered, and three cheers were given for the Union, when the men were marched back to their quarters.

Writing of Dr. Smith and his watch reminds me that Dr. M'Kee, formerly a physician of Hollidaysburg, and who

entered the army as an assistant surgeon some ten years ago, and who was subsequently taken prisoner by the Rebels at the time of Twigg's defection in Texas, is now the surgeon-in-charge of Lincoln hospital, one of the largest hospitals in the District of Columbia, and which receives a large proportion of the important surgical cases which come up from the front. The position is one of great responsibility and of much honor, and the Dr., I am pleased to say, is popular with the Government and his army of patients. The hospital is one of the best regulated in the District. The Dr. is still unmarried.

As a humble member of the political party which did not help to elect Archibald M'Allister a Member of Congress from the Congressional district of which Cambria forms a part, I take pleasure in bearing my testimony to his unswerving loyalty, his sterling patriotism, and his zeal in the service of his constituents—for many are the claims upon the services of a Congressman which are made by his constituents during this war for the Union. Mr. M'Allister is kind and obliging to all who seek his assistance, and to a degree too which might put to the blush the selfish conduct of a few members of this and the last Congress who have injured the Administration party, to which they profess to belong, by their disregard of the obligations due from a Representative to his constituents, or by their cupidity in stuffing their own pockets at the expense of a bleeding country. But his *manhood* shows itself most in his love of country above party, and in his earnest, hearty support of the Administration in its effort to subdue the Rebellion. He is a member of the important Committee on Military Affairs, of which Gen. Schenck is chairman and Gen. Garfield a member. He is popular with all who know him, and promises to become one of the influential, as he is one of the best looking Members of the House.

I have a letter from Col. Campbell, of the 54th regiment of Pa. Vols., dated at Cumberland, Maryland, on the 18th inst. The Col., among other matters, speaks of the present situation of his regiment. He says that, on the night of the 4th inst., he was ordered to Cumberland, by General Kelly, with the 54th and a battery of artillery, an attack on that town being expected. No attack however was made. Four companies of the 54th have again been stationed on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad—A, B, F, and K. The other six are still at Cumberland, and the Col. thinks they will remain there for the winter unless something extraordinary turns up. The boys are all well and in excellent health. J. M. S.

"Come in Out of the Draft!"

Major-Gen. Hancock has issued the following circular, which will doubtless receive a hearty response from the hardy yeomanry of the State:—

HEAD-QUARTERS RECRUITING SERVICE SECOND CORPS, HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 15, 1864.—Authority having been given me to recruit the 2d Corps to fifty thousand (50,000) men for such special service, under my command, as may be designated by the War Department, I appeal to the citizens of Pennsylvania to aid me in filling up the regiments and batteries of my command, which owe their origin to the State.

They are as follows:—81st, 140th, 116th, (battalion), 148th, 53d, 145th, 71st, 72d, 69th and 106th regiments of infantry, and batteries F and G, 1st Penna. Artillery, and C and F, Independent Penna. Artillery.

Until the 1st of March next, the following bounties will be paid by the General Government. For veterans \$402; for others \$302. All volunteers enlisted for this organization will be accredited to the city, county, town, township or ward which they may elect as the place to which they desire the credit given.

When no such election is made the enlisting officer will give credit to the place of enlistment. Each locality is therefore interested in increasing the number of enlistments to the extent of its quota in the draft, and any stimulus given by local bounties or other efforts will have the effect of preventing those who desire to volunteer, from leaving the places of their residence and enlisting elsewhere, where the inducements offered may be greater.

The same regulations that have hitherto governed enlistments in this State, as to the persons empowered to enlist, the rules for mustering and for furnishing transportation and supplies, will apply in this case.

Any one desiring to enlist in either of these organizations may do so in any part of the State by making application to the District Provost Marshal, or any recruiting officer from the 2d Corps, no matter to which regiment said officers may belong.

I have come among you as a Pennsylvanian, for the purpose of endeavoring to aid you in stimulating enlistments.

As this is a matter of interest to all

citizens of this State—its quota being still nearly 30,000 deficient, I earnestly call upon you all to assist by exerting the influence in your power in this important matter. To adequately reinforce our armies in the field is to insure that the war will not reach your homes, and will be the means of bringing it to a speedy and happy conclusion, and of saving the lives of many of our brave soldiers who would otherwise be lost by the prolongation of the war and indecisive battles.

It is only necessary to destroy the rebel armies now in the field to insure a speedy and permanent peace; let us all act with that fact in view; let it not be said that Pennsylvania which has already given so many of her citizens, to this righteous cause, should now, at the eleventh hour, be behind her sister States in furnishing her quota of the men deemed necessary to end the rebellion. Some States have filled their quotas; others will do so; a little exertion on our part will soon fill all the decimated regiments of the State and obviate the necessity of a draft.

Let it not be that those organizations which have won for themselves and their State so much honor, shall pass out of existence for the want of patriotism in the people. Unless these regiments are filled to the minimum strength they will soon cease to exist. It will be necessary to act quickly to insure success. Other States by having used greater exertions, and by the inducements of local bounties draw away your young men. By giving bounties at home, and stimulating the State pride you will secure to your regiments that portion of the male population whose circumstances readily permit them to take the field.

WINDY S. HANCOCK.
Maj. Gen. U. S. Vols.

Removing the Seat of Government.

The Eastern newspapers inform us that a short time ago, Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, in speaking on the floor of Congress about a railroad which it was proposed to build from New York to Washington, said that it would be entirely unnecessary to build such a road, because he intended soon to bring in a bill to remove the seat of Government from the starving wilderness where it now is, to some place where people could get something to eat. The same newspapers inform us also that a majority of the members of both Houses of Congress are in favor of removing the seat of Government from Washington to some place in the North, and that they intend to go to work in earnest before long to do it. Beside this information, we know nothing of the temper of Congress in reference to this matter, but assuming that the members are of like spirit with other people, we can not but think that their temper is as the newspapers represent it.

To any one who is unacquainted with the controlling influence which slavery has always exercised upon our national affairs, it must be a mystery how the seat of Government ever found its way to its present locality. In the whole country there could scarcely have been found a place more unsuitable for it. At the time the seat of government was taken to Washington, it was not a city or a town or even a village, except upon paper. It was a reeking swamp, at the edge of a short, muddy, sluggish river; and as for inhabitants, excepting frogs and musquitos, it may be fairly said to have had none. The country around it was a wilderness, with a soil so poor that it still continues a wilderness, and is likely to be so for all time to come. Instead of being near the centre of the country, it was at its very edge; and it was entirely out of the way of travel, of trade, and of commerce. It is now in the neighborhood of three quarters of a century since it was made the seat of government, and it still remains the same unwholesome swamp; it continues yet almost as much out of the line of travel and commerce as ever, and except that immediately connected with Government, it has scarcely any business or population. To this day nobody goes there but those who are drawn to it by the fact of its being the national capital; and while there one is forced to breathe foul air, to drink bad, unwholesome water, to put up with uncomfortable lodgings and pauper fare, and to be content to pay from two to five prices for everything he gets.

But Washington is in slave territory, its population was altogether pro-slavery, and so even its influences and surroundings. Nothing anti-slavery could be found there or could live there. It was only at the risk of his life that an anti-slavery man could venture to go there.—If a person was suspected of not being actually favorable to slavery, no matter how learned, how talented, how refined, how virtuous, how exalted he might be, he was at once put under the ban of society; slights, indignities, insults, abuse ever heaped upon him, and if these did not drive him away, the bludgeon, or bowie knife, or pistol was sure to be brought to his aid. This was enough. No matter how unsuited Washington might be, in other respects, to be the seat of Government, this made up for all, and cured all its defects. This brought the Government under the direct immediate influence of pro-slavery opinions, pro-slavery manners, pro-slavery laws a pro-slavery gospel, and a pro-slavery civilization, and consequently, rendered slavery as secure against assaults as such a barbarism could be anywhere in this enlightened age. It was for this purpose that the seat of Government was taken to Washington at first, and it was for this purpose, and this purpose alone, that it was so long kept there. But, with all

these advantages, slavery would not sustain itself. The force of modern civilization became too great for it to withstand. It began to feel its weakness, and became fretful; it perceived that its time must be short, and it was filled with wrath; it saw its doom approaching and became desperate. In its madness it aimed a death blow at the Government; it missed its aim; the blow fell upon itself, and laid it low in the dust.

While the slaveholders had the control of the Government, as they always had until the 4th of March, 1861, it was vain to think of removing the Capital from slave Territory into free. Anything like a serious attempt to do that, would at all times have been to the slaveholders a sufficient cause for secession. The Capital, one hundred miles distant from the nearest free State, and in the heart of slave territory, was the surest prop that slavery could get or desire. It was a continual bond upon the non-slaveholders to keep the peace towards slavery. The present war has proved this so clearly that it is impossible to doubt it. When it broke out the Capital was in the midst of the rebels; they encompassed it on all sides; they howled around it like a pack of ravenous wolves; and they were only prevented from breaking into it, and drinking the blood of the loyal officers of State, by the Northern people cutting their way through to it with the sword, and driving them away. No one can look at the events of the war without being satisfied that the fact of the Capital being in slave territory has been all along of more value to the rebels than the biggest and best army they have ever had. At the beginning of the war Washington was literally a nest of traitors. Every place, from the President's mansion down through the whole chain of departments and offices, to the watch-boxes at the corners of the streets, fairly swarmed with them. The Government could form no plan, issue no order, take no step without these traitors being aware of it, and giving the rebel leaders immediate notice of it. At the same time their position enabled them to prevent the Government from learning anything about the rebels' plans. The same to a great extent, still continues to be the case, and will continue to be the case as long as the capital remains in rebel territory. Besides, from September 1861 until the present time, it has taken an army of from 150,000 to 250,000 to guard Washington and prevent it falling into the hands of the rebels, and becoming their capital. Then why not remove it into loyal territory, when by doing so, we can free it from all these pernicious influences, and save to the country the vast expenditure of blood and treasure which they occasion?

But it will be asked where can it be taken? For ourselves we answer, Anywhere west of the Alleghenies and north of the Ohio; anywhere in the great, free, the glorious Northwest. Bring it to Pittsburg, or if that is not far enough west, take it to Cincinnati. Both of these places are healthy; both of them are on the great lines of travel and of commerce, and each of them, besides having unlimited river navigation, are the centre of an extensive system of railroads. They are both easy of approach on all sides and in all seasons; are both surrounded by a fertile, rich farming country; they both have numerous first class hotels, and immense manufacturing and commercial business, an abundance of fuel, markets overflowing with everything that the most fastidious appetite can desire; and, to crown all, an intelligent, thrifty, hospitable, moral, religious, and most intensely loyal population. In our view, one or the other of these cities is the place for the National capital, and as we are entirely unselfish, we will be satisfied with either; but we insist, in the name of all sensible, that it be removed from the wretched place where it is now situated.—Com.

The following bill, having passed both Houses, now only awaits the President's signature to become a law: "Articles of clothing, being manufactured of wool, cotton, or linen, and comprised in a package not exceeding two pounds in weight, addressed to any non-commissioned officer or private serving in the armies of the United States may be transmitted in the mails of the United States at the rate of eight cents, to be in all cases prepaid, for every four ounces, or any fraction thereof, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe."

The Philadelphia *North American* of Saturday says that the Speaker of the State Senate having acquired positive knowledge that Senator White of Indiana county has resigned his seat in the Senate, and that the resignation is in the hands of his father, Judge White, has determined to put an end to the legislative dead lock at Harrisburg, by issuing a writ, pursuant to the requirements of the law, calling for a special election in the Indiana Senatorial District to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation.

The conscription act reported by the House Military Committee, contains but few amendments to the Senate bill.—The most important is that it reduces the commutation clause to the old sum of three hundred dollars, and provides that persons who are physically exempt, but who have an income of twelve hundred dollars, shall pay the three hundred dollars commutation, so that if physically unfit for service, they shall nevertheless contribute the commutation price of a substitute.

Peter Smith, of Altoona, was seriously if not fatally stabbed on Monday last by a man named Christ Feeny.

Horrible Catastrophe.

From the Valparaiso Mercury, Dec. 17.

A catastrophe, gigantic, horrible, unexampled in the annals of our country, and perhaps of the world, has absorbed every one's mind for many days past.

We will use the utmost brevity in relating the calamity to our foreign readers.

Ever since the newly invented mystery of the Immaculate Conception of Mary was declared at Rome, in 1857, the church of the company, formerly belonging to the Jesuits, had become the focus of devotion of a vast Sisterhood called the Daughters of Mary, in which, on payment of so much a year, almost all the women of our capital were enrolled.

Every year from the 8th of November to the 8th of December, the day of the Immaculate Conception, lasted a splendid festival, in which orchestral music, singing, and astonishing prodigality of incense, of lights of oil, liquid gas, wax, and every luminous combustible in the world glittered and flared in every part, in the cornices, in the ceiling, and particularly on the high altar. Every night the church blazed with a sea of flame, and fluttered with clouds of muslin and gauze draperies. It could only be lighted up in time by beginning in the middle of the afternoon, and the work of extinguishing was only ended when the night was far advanced. In 1858 they thought of adopting hydrogen gas, but the engineer's plan, though convenient and safe, was rejected.

A priest named Ugarte, whose mind Mariolatry had marked for its own, headed that Sisterhood from the beginning, and worked his way down to such a depth of superstition, that one of his least extravagances was the invention of a Celestial post-office trick, by which the Daughters of Mary might correspond with the Virgin in writing. At the entrance of the temple the Virgin's letter box was constantly open, and there persons of a robust faith deposited in sealed letters their wishes and their prayers. Every Wednesday that letter-box for eternity was placed before the high altar, and Ugarte, who acted as postman between the Mother of God and her daughters, exhibited to the divinity those offerings—of course keeping that singular correspondence to himself.

This same mountebank got up a religious raffle for the favor of the Virgin—in a recent instance two prizes being drawn by a skeptical Minister of State and a woman whose character was not lustrous. The old times of pagan idolatry had resuscitated in the center of exaggerated Catholicism.

The church of "the company," built in the latter half of the seventeenth century, possessed a spacious nave, but a roof that dated only from fifteen years ago of painted timber. The only door of easy access to the congregation was the principal one in the center, the small doors leading into the aisles, being opened only half way and obstructed by screens. Near the high altar there was a little door communicating with the sacristy.

A few minutes before 7 in the evening of Tuesday, the 8th of December, more than 3,000 women and a few hundred men knelt in that church crammed to overflowing. However that did not prevent a compact mass of fanatics from attempting to fight their way in from the steps, because it was the last night of the Month of Mary, and no one could bear to lose the closing sermons of the priest, Ugarte, who always succeeded by his exciting declamations in drawing in tears that place so soon to be a sea of fire. Then Eizaguirre, the Apostolic Nuncio and favorite of Pius IX. the founder of the American college at Rome, was to preach also. It is said that Ugarte, wounded in his feelings as chaplain of the "Daughters of Mercy," because Eizaguirre had told him that the illuminations of his church could not be compared with what he had seen in Rome, exclaimed with enthusiasm: "I will give him, when he comes to preach, such an illumination as the world has never seen." Nobody can deny that Ugarte has kept his word!

Indeed, the lighting of all the lamps and candles had hardly finished when the liquid gas in a transparency on the high altar, set on fire its woodwork and wrapped in flame a kind of tabernacle wholly composed of canvas, pasteboard and wool. In less than two minutes the altar, about 23 yards high and 10 broad, was an inextinguishable bonfire.

The advance of the fire was perhaps even more rapid than the panic of the audience. When the fire had flown from the altar to the roof, the whole flock of devotees rushed to the principal door. Those near the lateral doors, were able to escape at the first alarm; others, and particularly the men, gained the little door of the sacristy, and lastly, those near the chief outlet forced their way through the throng, even still struggling to get in, and indeed part of which did get in, even in the face of the fire, stimulated by the desire of getting a good place, which on this occasion meant a good place to die in. Then, the flames having crept along the whole roof, and consequently released the lamps of oil and liquid gas from the cornices to which they were strung, a rain of liquid, blue fire poured down upon the entangled throngs below.

A new and more horrible conflagration broke out then in that dense living mass, appalling the afflicted gaze with pictures tenfold more awful than those wherein the Catholic imagination has labored to give an idea of the tortures of the damned. In less than a quarter of an hour two thousand human beings had perished—including many children, but very few men.

Although many heroic men performed prodigies of daring and strength in tearing some from the death grasp of the phalanx of death that choked the door—in some cases literally tearing off their arms, without being able to extricate them—the number of the saved by this means falls short of fifty. More than five hundred persons of our highest society have perished—the greater part young girls of fifteen to twenty years. One mother has perished with her five daughters. Two-thirds of the victims were servants, and there are many houses in which not one has escaped. Several houses have been noted by the police as empty, because all their inhabitants have perished.

The people think of nothing but the victims and their obsequies. All with one voice demand the demolition of the ruinous walls of the fatal temple and the offering of a monument to the dear memory of the martyrs. The municipal body solicited this by the medium of a commission on the 12th, and Government is resolved on compliance. Resistance is threatened on the part of the clergy; but such exasperating and indecorous folly would infallibly call forth a general rising of the people.

"Peace Democrats."

A "Peace Democrat," when our country is fighting for existence, is rather a novelty. Usually, a Democrat, when he sees war made on the Stars and Stripes, "comes in" for the old flag, without much inquiry as to why and wherefore. To be "agin" the chieftain and in favor of the next war, used to be a test of Democracy. But in these days certain oracles of Democracy tell us that they are "Peace Democrats."

Let us test their profession:

Within the last two or three weeks we have had news from various quarters strongly indicating an early return of Peace. The movement in Arkansas for the reorganization of that State as a loyal liberty-loving member of the good old Union, is the most important. Its leader, Edgard W. Gautt, was chosen to Congress as an independent Democrat in August, 1860, beating Mitchell, the regular Democratic candidate, in the 11d (Southern) District, by 3,562 majority. The secession of his State prevented his taking his seat, and he became a rebel General. Sick of the rebellion, he is now in Washington, at the head of a strong delegation, to arrange for the resurrection of Arkansas as a loyal Free State. And it is plain that a very large majority of the people of that State are with him in heart and aim.

So Louisiana is preparing to resume her place in the Union as a Free and therefore immovably loyal State. No one imagines that, being Free, she can evermore be other than loyal. A very large proportion of her white freeman are actively enlisted in the movement, and they expect to poll a majority vote of the resident electors when their first election takes place. Extensive planters are ardently engaged in the work—satisfied that slavery, whatever it may or might have been, has ceased to be useful, or even possible, in their State. One of the planters most active in the movement was worth Three Millions of Dollars when the State seceded, and was in the Rebel army at Shiloh; he thinks he is worth One Million still, if we can have an early peace on the basis of Free Labor, for which he is working. He is astonished by the fact that he can actually make Cotton and Sugar cheaper by free Labor than he ever could by Slave. Tennessee is likewise preparing to reorganize under the President's Proclamation. She will be fully represented in Congress as a Free State, we trust, before the end of the present Session.

As to old North Carolina, we presume no one doubts that she would to-day vote herself back into the Union under the President's Proclamation of Amnesty if she only had a chance. She never really seceded; yet her Unionists have been conscripted by tens of thousands to fight for the Rebellion and been placed in the hottest fore-front of the battle! More North Carolinians have died for the Rebel cause than ever were heartily in favor of it. And now her people are calling for Peace in tones that must make the rickety usurpation at Richmond totter to its very foundations.

These are but samples of the universal drift. Thousands of the bitterest secessionists of '62 frankly admit in '64 that the Rebellion is "gone up." The very men who were crying in our streets, one little year ago, that the Rebel army could never be "put down by force," now assert that it is down and should be let up. They declared that the Proclamation of Freedom had ruined the Union cause; and now they assert that the President has but to say so and the revolted States will all come back and resume their old places in the Union! Did they pretend any thing like this before that Proclamation was issued? Could they?

What sort of "Peace" men are they who suppress where they can and belittle everywhere else the evidences pouring in from every side of the swift approach of a true and lasting Peace? Is Peace the real object of their desire? Are they not, on the contrary, signaling the Rebels to hold out, and run for luck in the next Presidential Election?

The engineers on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, on a strike for higher wages several days last week, have returned to work, the increase demanded having been granted by the Company.

We print on our outside to-day a full account of the re-inauguration of Gov. Curtin, with his Inaugural Address.