

The Alleghanian.

A. A. BARKER, Editor and Proprietor.
J. TODD HUTCHINSON, Publisher.

I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN PRESIDENT.—HENRY CLAY.

TERMS: \$2.00 PER ANNUM.
\$2.50 IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME 6.

EBENSBURG, PA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1865.

NUMBER 19.

DIRECTORY.

LIST OF POST OFFICES.

Post Office.	Post Masters.	Districts.
Carrolltown.	Steven L. Evans, Carroll.	Chest.
Chess Springs.	Henry Nutter, Carroll.	Chest.
Conemaugh.	A. G. Crooks, Taylor.	Taylor.
Cresson.	J. Houston, Washint'n.	Washint'n.
Ebensburg.	John Thompson, Ebensburg.	Ebensburg.
Fallen Timber.	Asa H. Fisko, White.	White.
Gallitzin.	J. M. Chry, Gallitzin.	Gallitzin.
Hemlock.	Wm. Tiley, Jr., Wash'tn.	Wash'tn.
Johnstown.	L. E. Chandler, Johnst'n.	Johnst'n.
Loretto.	M. Adlesberger, Loretto.	Loretto.
Munster.	A. Durbin, Munster.	Munster.
Platysville.	Andrew J. Ferral, Sus'han.	Sus'han.
Roseland.	G. W. Bowman, White.	White.
St. Augustine.	Stan. Wharton, Clearfield.	Clearfield.
Scalp Level.	George Berkey, Richland.	Richland.
Sonman.	B. M'Colgan, Washt'n.	Washt'n.
Summerhill.	George B. Wike, Croyle.	Croyle.
Summit.	Wm. M'Connell, Wash'tn.	Wash'tn.
Wilmore.	J. K. Shryock, S'merhill.	S'merhill.

CHURCHES, MINISTERS, &c.

Presbyterian—Rev. D. HARRISON, Pastor.—Preaching every Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock, and in the evening at 6 o'clock. Sabbath School at 9 o'clock. A. M. Prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 6 o'clock.
Methodist Episcopal Church—Rev. J. S. LEWIS, Preacher in charge. Rev. W. H. M'BRIDE, Assistant. Preaching every alternate Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock. Sabbath School at 9 o'clock. A. M. Prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 7 o'clock.
Wesleyan—Rev. L. R. POWELL, Pastor.—Preaching every Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock, and in the evening at 6 o'clock. Sabbath School at 1 o'clock. P. M. Prayer meeting on the first Monday evening of each month; and on every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evening, excepting the first week in each month.
Calvinistic Methodist—Rev. MORGAN ELLIOTT, Pastor.—Preaching every Sabbath evening at 2 and 6 o'clock. Sabbath School at 1 o'clock. A. M. Prayer meeting every Friday evening at 7 o'clock. Society every Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock.
Disciples—Rev. W. LLOYD, Pastor.—Preaching every Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock.
Particular Baptists—Rev. DAVID EVANS, Pastor.—Preaching every Sabbath evening at 8 o'clock. Sabbath School at 1 o'clock. P. M. Services every Sabbath morning at 10 o'clock and Vespers at 4 o'clock in the evening.

EBENSBURG MAILS.

MAILS ARRIVE.
Eastern, daily, at 12 o'clock, P. M.
Western, " " 12 o'clock, P. M.
MAILS CLOSE.
Eastern, daily, at 8 o'clock, P. M.
Western, " " 8 o'clock, P. M.
The mails from Butler, Indiana, Strongtown, &c., arrive on Thursday of each week, at 7 o'clock, P. M.
Leave Ebensburg on Friday of each week, at 5 A. M.
The mails from Newman's Mills, Carrolltown, &c., arrive on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week, at 3 o'clock, P. M. Leave Ebensburg on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, at 7 o'clock, A. M.

RAILROAD SCHEDULE.

CRENSON STATION.	
West—Balt. Express leaves at	9.18 A. M.
" Phila. Express " "	10.08 A. M.
" East Line " "	9.59 P. M.
" Mail Train " "	8.38 P. M.
" Pitts. & Alle. Ex. " "	8.13 A. M.
" Emigrant Train " "	4.30 P. M.
East—Phila. Express " "	7.36 P. M.
" East Line " "	1.46 P. M.
" Fast Mail " "	7.03 A. M.
" Pitts. & Alle. Ex. " "	6.32 P. M.
" Harriab. Accom. " "	11.27 A. M.

*Don't stop.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

Judges of the Courts—President, Hon. Geo. Taylor, Huntingdon; Associates, George W. Esley, Henry C. Irvine.
Prothonotary—Joseph M'Donald.
Register and Recorder—James Griffin.
Sheriff—James Myers.
District Attorney—Phillip S. Noon.
County Commissioners—John Campbell, Edward Glass, E. H. Dunnegan.
Treasurer—Isak Wilke.
Poor House Directors—George M'Cullough, George Delany, Erin Rutledge.
Poor House Treasurers—George C. K. Zahn, Auditors—William J. Williams, Francis P. Tierney, John A. Kennedy.
County Surveyor—Henry Scanlan.
Coroner—William Flattery.
Mercantile Appraiser—John Cox.
Supt. of Common Schools—J. F. Condon.

EBENSBURG BOR. OFFICERS.

AT LARGE.
Justices of the Peace—David H. Roberts, Harrison Kinkaid.
Burgess—A. A. Barker.
School Director—Abel Lloyd, Phil S. Noon, Joshua D. Parrish, Hugh Jones, E. J. Mills, David J. Jones.
EAST WARD.
Constable—Thomas J. Davis.
Town Council—Alexander Moore, Daniel O. Evans, Richard R. Tibbott, Evan E. Evans, William Clemen.
Inspectors—Alexander Jones, D. O. Evans.
Judge of Elections—Richard Jones, Jr.
Assessors—Thomas M. Jones.
Assistant Assessors—David E. Evans, Wm. D. Davis.
WEST WARD.
Constable—William Mills, Jr.
Town Council—John Dougherty, George C. Zahn, Isaac Sawford, Francis A. Shoemaker, James S. Todd.
Inspectors—G. J. Oatman, Roberts Evans.
Judge of Elections—Michael Hasson.
Assessors—James Murray.
Assistant Assessors—William Barnes, Daniel C. Zahn.

The Conscription Laws—Letter from Governor Curtin to President Lincoln.

The following is Governor Curtin's letter to the President, complaining of the injustice done Pennsylvania in the matter of the quota assigned her under the draft. As a State paper, involving a discussion of the law, the examination of a practical question, and a plain statement of facts, it is unrivalled:—

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, January 26, 1865.

To the President:—SIR:—The act of the 3d of March, 1863, commonly called the Enrollment Act, provided (section 4) that for the purposes of the act, each Congressional district of the respective States should form a district, and (section 11) that all persons enrolled should be subject to be called into the military service of the United States, and to continue in service during the present rebellion, not, however, exceeding the term of three years, and further, (section 12,) that in assigning to the districts the number of men to be furnished therefrom, the President should take into consideration the number of volunteers and militia by and from the several States in which said districts were situated, and the period of their service since the commencement of the rebellion, and should so make said assignments as to equalize the numbers among the districts of the several States, considering and allowing for the numbers already furnished as aforesaid, and the time of their service.

The time of actual service which by this act you were directed to consider and allow for could not, without impracticable labor, (or indeed at all,) be fixed with exactitude for each district, but it could have easily been so approximated by averages that little, if any, practical injustice would have been done. The commencement of the third year of the war was close at hand at the passage of the act. It would not have been difficult to ascertain, of one thousand men enlisted for three years, what was the average number that remained actually in the service at the end of the first and second years respectively, and thus the act could have been substantially complied with. For instance, suppose it to have been found that of one thousand men enlisted for three years, there remained in the service an average of forty per cent. at the close of the first year, and twenty per cent. at the close of the second year. The result would have been, under the provisions of the act, that sixteen hundred one-year's men would have been taken as the equivalent of one thousand three-year's men.

Unfortunately, the heads of bureaus, to whom the matter seems to have been entrusted, began by falling into a strange misconception of the act. They did, in effect, strike from the twelfth section the phrases "period of their service" and "time of their service," and insert in lieu thereof the phrase "term of their enlistment," and then proceeded to apportion credits by multiplying the number of men furnished from a district by the number of years for which they were enlisted.—Calculations made on this basis were, of course, most extravagant, and the people everywhere felt that somehow injustice was being done. In the attempt to soften this, numerous and contradictory orders have been issued from the Provost Marshal General's office, and long essays by himself and others have been in vain published to explain and justify their action.

In fact, as soon as they get beyond the morally-certain limit of the actual service of the man, their calculation has no longer a practical basis. Its principle, carried to a legitimate extreme, would justify the enlistment of one man for fifty thousand years, and crediting him as the whole quota of the State, with a small excess. Surely every reasonable man can say for himself whether he has found that getting one pair of boots for three years is practically equivalent to getting three pair of boots for one year.

The visionary character of the system on which they have proceeded cannot be better illustrated than by the result at which they have arrived on the present occasion. The quota of Pennsylvania on the last call was announced to be sixty-one thousand seven hundred; her quota to make up deficiencies under that call was announced to be sixty-six thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine. On the 24th instant, it was announced that the quota of the Western Division had, on revision, been fixed at twenty-two thousand five hundred and forty-three, which would make that of the whole State about forty-four thousand; and late on the same day it was further announced that the quota of the Western Division was twenty-five thousand five hundred and twelve, and

that of the whole State forty-nine thousand five hundred and eighty-three. All these changes being caused by no intervening circumstances that I am aware of. In fact, our quota on the last call was filled, and there can be no deficiency to be now supplied.

Their plan is unjust to the districts and to the Government. It wholly ignores the losses of men by desertion, sickness, death and casualties. The losses from most of these causes are greater during the first year than afterwards. A town which has furnished three thousand men for one year has probably lost three-fifths of them from these causes before the expiration of the term. Another equal town which has furnished one thousand men for three years may before the expiration of that term have lost seventeen-twentieths of them. The first town will have thus given sixteen hundred men to the country—the second but eight hundred and fifty. There is no equality in this.

The exhaustion of the industrial population of the two towns is in very unequal proportions. As to the Government—the Government has in the first case the actual service during the whole year of fourteen hundred men; in the second case, the actual service of say four hundred men during the whole first year, of probably not more than two hundred men during the whole second year, and say one hundred and fifty men at most during the whole third year. Besides, the amount of service that may be required promptly is to be considered, and not merely the agreed term of service. At the late storm of Fort Fisher, one at least of the Pennsylvania one-year regiments was engaged, and behaved most gallantly—who will say that if one-third of their number had been enlisted for three years, it would on that account have been able to perform as much service as the whole number did in that unsurpassed exploit?

But there is even more serious error than has been above exposed. The clause of the act of 3d March, 1863, under which your officers profess to be acting, has not been in force since the 24th February, 1864.

Whether induced thereto by the strangeness of the system which had been adopted under it, or for whatever reasons, Congress thought fit to pass the act of 24th February, 1864, (entitled An act to amend the act of 3d March, 1863,) which provides (section 2) that the quota of each ward of a city, town, &c., shall be, as nearly as possible, in proportion to the number of men resident therein liable to render military service, taking into account, as far as practicable, the number which had been previously furnished therefrom.

Thus the former act was amended by giving credits, not to districts, but to smaller localities, and by omitting the provision for considering and allowing for the time of service in estimating credits; they were directed in future to be given, as far as practicable, on the basis of the number of men previously furnished, without reference to the time of service.

And this was followed up by the act of 4th July, 1864, (passed at the same session,) which provides (section 1) that the President may, at his discretion, call for any number of volunteers for the respective terms of one, two and three years, with bounties regulated according to their term of enlistment, and (section 2) that in case the quota of any town, &c., shall not be filled within the space of sixty days after such call, then the President shall immediately order a draft for one year to fill such quota.

These are the clauses which now regulate the subject. It is not for me or you, sir, to discuss the question of their propriety. They are to be obeyed.

It would be easy to show that they form a reasonable and intelligible system. Formerly when calls were made of men for military service, they were made by requisitions on the Governors of the respective States, who then proceeded to draft the required number to fill the quota of the State. In this draft, men from any State or locality who had voluntarily entered the service of the United States, by enlisting in the army or otherwise, were not taken into account. No credits were given for them on the quota, any more than for men who had of their own accord engaged themselves in any other lawful employment. The system, however, of raising very large bodies of men as volunteers, under the act of Congress of 1861, had drawn upon the military population of the respective States and localities very heavily, and not quite equally, and therefore when the enrollment act of 1863 was passed, it was thought best to provide for equalizing the exhaustion, by allowing credits to localities for the volunteers furnished by them. But the Government had accepted volunteers for various terms of service, and hence the effort to render the equalization more perfect by consider-

ing and allowing for the time of their service as well as the number of men. The acts of 1861, above recited, have modified this system by fixing a definite term (one year) for which men are to be drafted.—Volunteers for not less than that term are to be credited to their localities on the quota and receive a certain bounty from the Government. Such of them as choose to enlist for longer terms receive further bounties from the Government, but so far as regards the increased term beyond one year, are not to be credited on the quota, but are to be left on the same footing that all volunteers were on before the act of 1863. That is to say, the Government announces that it will take by its authority a certain number of men from a locality for military service for one year. That is the lawful demand which it will enforce. It pays bounties in case of localities to facilitate them in complying with this demand without a compulsory draft. But it has made no demand for men to serve for two or three years. The Government receives and pays additional bounties to volunteers for these terms, but in that it deals with men only, and, as the increased term of service beyond one year is not agreed to be rendered in compliance with any demand of the Government, it gives the locality no credit on the quota for it. The Government requires one hundred thousand men for one year, not a less number of men for a longer term. For a deficiency in the number of volunteers for that term, it makes a draft for one year. This is to fill the quota—not more nor less—when the draft has been effected the quota is full—there is neither excess nor deficiency.

You see that the system thus established by law is not without foundation in reason, and can be readily understood.

Sir, you may not have been heretofore apprised of the fact that your subordinates are wholly disregarding the act of 24th February, 1864. They are proceeding in open and direct violation of it, and are thus creating, naturally, great confusion and uncertainty among the people. They announce on the one hand that although a three-year's man counts only as a one-year man towards the quota on which he volunteers, yet that he shall be counted as three one-year men towards the quota on a future call. This is directly in the teeth of the law. On the other hand, they are expiring out a deficiency on the last call by counting three one-year's men as only equivalent to one three-year's man, which is equally against law.

Thus, the quota of Pennsylvania, under the call of 18th July last, was filled in accordance with the law by men to serve for not less than one year. The term of service of these men is not yet half expired, and yet your subordinates are threatening a draft to fill an alleged deficiency on that very call, the existence of which they attempt to make out by persisting in their unlawful and unsubstantial theories and calculations.

Our people know that the Government requires more men. They are willing to furnish them—heavy as the burden has become on the industrial population. Let the requirement be made in the clear and definite shape which the law provides for, and it will be cheerfully complied with.—But it is hardly to be tolerated that your subordinates should be permitted longer to pursue the system of substituting for the law, an eccentric plan of their own.

Sir, on behalf of the freemen of this Commonwealth, who have always given a cheerful and hearty support to your Government in the prosecution of this war, it is my duty to insist—and I do insist—that you enforce upon your subordinates that obedience to the law which you owe, as well as they and all of us. It is of evil example—it tends to enfeeble—nay, to destroy—the just power of the Government—that you should suffer your officers to treat with open contempt any acts of Congress, and especially those which you have yourself approved, and which regulate a matter of such deep and delicate moment as the enforcing of a draft for the military service.

Relying heartily on your wisdom and justice to set right what has thus been going wrong, and to compel henceforth on the part of all a proper respect for and obedience to the laws of the land, I am, sir, very respectfully,

A. G. CURTIN.

Thackeray, when in the United States, met with a western man who had been in England, and asked him how he liked that country. "Oh, very well, in the daytime," was the reply. "What is the matter with it in the night?" asked Thackeray. "Why, I never dared go out in England after night, for fear I should step off the edge!"

If only souls were counted, instead of bodies, the census returns might be rather beggarly.

The Snow at Fredericksburg.

Drift over the slopes of the sunrise land,
O wonderful, wonderful snow!
Oh, pure as the breast of a virgin saint!
Drit tenderly, soft, and slow—
Over the slopes of the sunrise land,
And into the haunted dell
Of the forests of pine, where the sobbing
winds
Are tuning their memory bells;—
Into the forests of sighing pines,
And over those yellow slopes
That seem but the work of the cleaving plow,
But cover so many hopes!
They are many indeed, and straightly made,
Not slanting with loving care,
But the souls let out and the broken blades
May never be counted there!
Fall over those lonely hero-graves,
O delicate dropping snow,
Like the blessing of God's unflinching love
On the warrior heads below;
Like the tender sigh of a mother's soul,
As she waiteth and watcheth for one
Who will never come back from the sunrise
land
When the terrible war is done.
And here, where lieth the high of heart,
Drift, white as the bridal veil
That will never be worn by the drooping girl
Who sitteth afar, so pale.
Fall, fast as the tears of the suffering wife,
Who stretcheth despairing hands
Out to the blood-rich battle-fields
That crimson the eastern sands.
Fall in thy virgin tenderness,
O delicate snow, and cover
The graves of our heroes, sanctified—
Husband, and son, and lover.
Drift tenderly over those yellow slopes,
And mellow our deep distress,
And put us in mind of the striven souls,
In their mantles of righteousness.

Terrible Adventure with a Boa Constrictor.

At the earliest possible moment after our camp had been pitched, a hunt was set afoot, and Capt. Grant, myself, and some attendants were soon making our way to "the path." There were no animals there when we arrived, except a few hippopotami, and we were therefore obliged to wait the coming of some more palatable game. Our patience, however, was severely taxed, and after a long delay, we were about to "bag" a hippopotamus, when one of our attendants, perched in a tree about half a mile distant, commenced waving his blanket. This was a signal that game was approaching. We immediately drew in to cover, and awaited the coming up of the latter.

We were not delayed long, for presently a column of animals, from the elephant to the hoo-doo, appeared in view, trotting in a good pace to the river. Their flanks were soon presented to us, and each selecting his object, fired. M'Call shot a fine young buffalo cow, whilst Capt. Grant was equally successful with a hoo-doo, and several spears, cast by our attendants, also stopped the career of one or two different animals of the herd.

At this juncture, however, occurred an unexpected adventure, that finished our sport for that day. I had sprung forward immediately after firing, in order to obtain a fair shot at a huge elephant that I wanted to bring down on account of his immense tusks. I got the desired aim, and pulled the trigger of my second barrel. At the moment of my doing so, a wild cry uttered by one of the blacks called my attention. Glancing round, my eye chanced to range up into the foliage of the tree beneath which Capt. Grant and myself had lain for several hours previous.

My feelings may possibly be imagined, as I beheld an enormous boa constrictor, whose hideous head and neck, projected some distance into view, showed that he was about to make a fatal spring. His direction was certainly toward me; and as he flashed from his position like a thunder bolt, I gave myself up, for ere aid could have reached me, I was in the jaws of the monster. I fell after fold of the strong frame into a quivering pulp. I fell, seemingly caught in a whirlwind of dust, and a strange, indescribable scuffle ensued. In the midst of this terrible strife, I suddenly became conscious of the presence of a second victim, and even after the time that has elapsed since then, I still recollect with what vividness the thought shot across my mind, that this second victim was Capt. Grant, my noble companion.—At last, after being thus whirled about for several seconds, each second seeming to be inevitable death, I opened my eyes, expecting to look upon those unexplored landscapes which are only seen in the country beyond the tomb. Instead of that, I saw Capt. Grant leveling his rifle toward me, while, standing behind and beside him, were the blacks, in every conceivable attitude of the most intense suspense.

In a moment I comprehended all. The huge serpent had struck a young buffalo cow, between which and him I unluckily had placed myself at the moment of firing upon the elephant. A most singular good fortune had attended me, however, for, instead of being crushed into a mangled mass with the unfortunate cow, my left fore-arm had only been caught in between the buffalo's body and a single fold of the constrictor. The limb lay just in front of the shoulder, at the root of the neck, and thus had a soft bed of flesh, into which it was jammed, as it were, by the immense pressure of the serpent's body, that was iron-like in hardness.

As I saw Grant about to shoot, a terror took possession of me, for if he refrained, I might possibly escape after the boa released his hold from the dead cow. But should he fire and strike the reptile, in its convulsions it would crush me to pieces. Even as the idea occurred to me, I beheld Grant pause. He appeared to fully comprehend all. He could see how I was situated—that I was still living, and that my delivery depended on the will of the constrictor. We could see every line on each other's face, so close were we, and I would have shouted or spoken, or even whispered to him, if I dared. But the boa's head was raised within a few inches of mine, and the wink of an eyelid would perhaps settle my fate; so I stared like a dead man at Grant and the blacks.

Presently the serpent began gradually to relax his folds, and after re-tightening them several times, when the buffalo quivered, he unwound one fold entirely. Then he paused. The next iron-like band was the one that held me prisoner; and as I felt it little by little unclasp, my heart stood still with hope and fear. Perhaps upon being freed, the benumbed arm uncontrolled by will might fall into the cushion-like bed in which it lay. And such a mishap might bring the spare fold around my neck and chest, and then—farewell to the sources of the Nile. Oh, how hard, how desperately I struggled to command myself. I glanced at Grant, and saw him handling his rifle anxiously. I glanced at the negroes, and saw them gazing as though petrified with horror. I glanced at the serpent's loathsome head, and saw its bright, deadly eyes watching for the least sign of life in its prey.

Now, then, the reptile loosened its fold on my arm a hair's breadth, and now a little more, until half an inch of space separated my arm from its mottled skin. I could have whipped out my hand, but dared not take the risk. Atoms of time dragged themselves into ages, and a minute seemed eternity itself! The second fold was removed entirely, and the next one was easing. Should I dash away now, or wait a more favorable moment? I decided upon the former; and with lightning speed I bounded away toward Grant, the crack of whose piece I heard at the same instant. For the first time in my life, I fell into a state of semi-consciousness, and remained therein for several minutes.

When I recovered, Grant and the overjoyed negroes held me up and pointed to the boa, who was still writhing in his death agonies. I shuddered as I looked upon the effects of his tremendous dying strength. For yards around where he lay, grass and saplings, and in fact everything except the more fully grown trees, were cut clean off, as though they had been trimmed with an immense scythe.

This monster, when measured, proved fifty-one feet two inches and a half in extreme length, while round the thickest portion of his body the girth was nearly three feet—the largest serpent, I believe, that has ever authentically been heard of.—Captain Speke.

The seal of the Rebel States of America is described by the English newspapers. It is designed by Foley, the celebrated Irish sculptor, and contains in the centre a representation of Crawford's statue of Washington. This is surrounded by a wreath, composed of the most valuable vegetable products of the Southern soil—tobacco, rice, Indian corn, cotton, wheat, and sugar-cane. The rim bears the legend, "The Confederate States of America, 22d of February, 1862, Deo vindice." The seal is of silver, and its diameter is four inches.

The latest "oil story" is that of an old lady in West Virginia, who took the advice of a visitor, and poured some petroleum along the streams which watered her farm. The report spread abroad of surface indications on the land, and a brigade of oil hunters came, who bought the land at a fabulous price, the owners agreeing to give the old lady one-eighth of the oil. The purchasers set up their derrick and in a short time struck a well which yields one hundred barrels per day.

An immense cave, nearly as large as the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky, has recently been discovered about 100 miles from Fort Ruby, California.

The life-preservers most frequently used in the battle field are long legs.