



OUR FLAG

MONDAY MORNING, DEC. 28, 1864.

It is said that Attorney General Meredith has fled his opinion with the Governor adverse to the legality of both the returns from this Congressional district, and that neither Gen. Coffroth or Mr. Koonz will be proclaimed elected by the Governor. The effect of this will be to charge the Clerk of the House, under the instructions of the House, with the case primarily; and if the law be lived up to and justice done, Gen. Coffroth will be declared elected. We must await the assembling of the new Congress for a decision of the matter.

The U. S. Senate, on Wednesday, passed the bill from the House amending the internal revenue law so as to make the tax of two dollars per gallon on whiskey take effect on the first of January ensuing instead of the first of February. In the House, a bill was introduced to levy duty on tobacco and its manufactures. The committee of Ways and Means were requested to inquire into the expediency of reducing or suspending the import duty on printing paper; and the military committee were instructed to inquire as to the propriety of amending the enrollment act so to allow any drafted person to put in a substitute at any place where a military office is stationed, and be credited to any part of a Congressional district in which the person resides at the time the substitute is accepted.

On Thursday, both Houses adjourned over to the 6th of January. Important Order and its Revocation.—On the 14th, Gen. Dix, at New York, issued an order directing military commanders to shoot down rebel marauders from Canada, "if possible while in the commission of their crimes, and, if necessary, with a view to their capture, to cross the boundary between the United States and Canada." On the 17th, Gen. Dix "backed down," and revoked that part of the order in regard to pursuit into Canada, the President not approving of it.

An order will be issued directing that, except immigrant passengers directly entering an American port by sea, no traveler shall hereafter be allowed to enter the United States from a foreign country without a passport. This regulation is intended to apply especially to persons proposing to come to the United States from the neighboring British provinces.

Just before the election the Abolition press would bristle up and denounce the Democratic press as being guilty of lying or inventing some new electioneering scheme whenever they speak of another draft to be made. What do those who were so grossly deceived by these Abolition editors, think of them now? Is President Lincoln's call for "300,000 more" a "copperhead lie," too?

In his communication to the House on Monday in reply to a resolution requiring the correspondence in relation to the troubles on the Northern border, Secretary Seward says these difficulties are not merely local, but have arisen out of the attitude of Great Britain towards us at the beginning of this civil war. This is very ominous.

Some of the Administration journals, through editorials and in communications, do not exactly like Secretary Seward's report. They imagine that he does not support the question of taxation with sufficient courage and nerve. We are told that the people want more vigorous taxation. Of course, that's what they voted for. The taxer's eye is light now, and besides it is such a luxury to pay taxes, that the people may become discontented if they are not largely increased.

Applications for Offices.—It seems that the mass of the Abolition party do not consider Lincoln's reelection as assuring to the present officeholders re-appointments to their positions; and, consequently, applicants are becoming quite numerous throughout the country for the paying Post Offices and other desirable situations.

The removal of Senator Hale from the chairmanship of the Naval Committee, and the substitution of Senator Graves, are said to have been owing to the charges made and reiterated by the former against the Navy department. It is not intended that any of the Administration shall be exposed by either friend or foe.

The Newark Journal says.—The Middle States treated Mr. Lincoln rather coolly at the late election. The extreme East and West gave him the largest majorities. Columbus affects him; New Jersey rejects him; Pennsylvania deifies elect him; New York merely selects him, and Delaware does its best to vex him.

A CHANGE.

A contemporary, with much truth, remarks that a great change has come over the Abolitionists, since the election. They have quit calling Democrats hard names. The "liberal boys, who for months had been picked on the street corners insulting respectable people, have been withdrawn, probably to receive training for a similar sphere of usefulness, when the occasion requires it. Men, too, who have shown themselves but very small "boys of a larger growth," have exhibited the gratifying fact that their abolition insanity has lucid intervals. We even heard several political harangues, since the election, in which, to the best of our recollection, the word "Copperhead" did not once occur, but which abounded with fulsome flattery of the Democrats. During the campaign this was not the case. Democrats were denounced as "Copperheads," "Traitors," "Rebel Sympathizers," &c., and were looked upon as scarcely fit subjects for the leniency of Abraham Lincoln. But a wonderful change has come over the spirit of their dreams. The "Corporal's guard" of nearly two millions of Democratic votes in the North has no doubt opened their eyes and softened their wrath amazingly. They have quit denouncing and have taken to cajoling and flattery, thinking that Democrats are ready to lick the hand that smote them. They will find themselves mistaken.

The President, in his Message, seems to be possessed with the notion that the war has added to the population and wealth of the nation. He says we are "not in progress of exhaustion," but "are gaining in strength, and may, if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely." The Comptroller of the Treasury, Mr. McCulloch, seems to think differently, and we believe he is right. He says: "When money is plenty, and fortunes are being rapidly acquired, the country is always in a feverish and unhealthy state. This is especially true at the present time. The enormous expenditures of the government, and the great advance in prices since the commencement of the war, have made many persons suddenly rich, and upon fortunes suddenly acquired, have followed reckless expenditures, extravagance, and speculation has taken the place of sober and persevering industry, and thousands are deluded with the notion that the wealth of the nation is being increased by the increase of its indebtedness."

Money is cheap and abundant. A paper dollar is depreciated to forty-four cents gold value. Currency is plenty, and growing plentier. Come easy, go easy, is the prevailing feeling. But sooner, or later, the present abnormal condition of things will terminate—perhaps gradually, perhaps suddenly. The values of all commodities, including money, are fearfully "watered," but when a crash comes the water will be boiled out, leaving only what is represented by the gold standard. Men are walking on high stilts, and are making long, but insecure strides. But all must dismount, one of these days, and come down until their feet touch the earth. Many will be precipitated head-long who now tower aloft. Wise and prudent men will prepare in time for the inevitable change.

It is not true that Slavery was in any proper sense of the word, the cause of the rebellion, as is alleged. On the contrary, it was caused by the impertinent meddling and sectional agitation of the Abolition party, and their fanatical cadavers in the North. This same Abolition party, in their Chicago platform, now only four years old, described the prosperity of the Union in these words: "That to the Union of the States this nation owes its unprecedented increase in population; its surprising development of material resources; its happiness at home, and its honor abroad." Yet all this while slavery existed in many of the States of the Union. No rebellion, no treason, or other national crime or calamity resulted from it.

The Richmond papers print President Lincoln's message in full, and with perfect prudence. There is not a line in that document but tends to unite the South in deadly hostility to the North. Had it been the message of a Democratic President, piercing the joints of the southern armor as the southern journals have dreaded that they would be pierced, then the journals published under Mr. Davis's eaves would not have printed Mr. Lincoln's message in full.—World.

Mr. Lincoln.—Vice President Stephens, in a late letter to Senator Semmes, of the Confederate States, says: "I know there are many persons among us whose opinions are entitled to high consideration, who do not agree with me on the question of McClellan's election. They prefer Lincoln to McClellan. Perhaps the President belongs to that class. Judging from his acts, I should think that he did."

Washington gossip has it that the Comptroller of the Currency gives notice that no more new national banks will be authorized, but that old State banks can still be converted into national banks. The Secretary of the Treasury will not be satisfied until everything having connection with State rights—either financial or political—is swallowed up in either federalism or despotism.

We now find it recorded that a clergyman of Middletown, Ct., at a recent forth-right display, exhibited a transparency over his door, with a quotation from Genesis, xlii, 15: "The angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven a second time." Truly was it remarked by a Republican (1) the other day: "Our politics have killed our religion."

It is said that Andy Curtin is already beginning to arrange the wires to elect himself to the United States Senate on the expiration of Hon. Edgar Cowan's term, which will be in 1866. Andy feels that he could bear a few more "blinking honors" than he has, without sinking under the load. But what a successor would he be to Mr. Cowan.—Johnston's Democrat.

Speaking of political reverends, an exchange says "a clerical waton is the most reckless of all castaways."

Interesting Reminiscences.—The antislavery declarations of shoddy organs that if Mr. Lincoln should be elected there would be no draft—the rebels would at once lay down their arms, etc., etc.

The Secretary of the Sanitary Commission, Frederick Law Olmsted, receives a salary of five thousand dollars a year.

THE WAR NEWS.

From the various official despatches sent by Secretary Stanton, and from other sources, a correct account of the operations of the Army of the Potomac, since the late battle of Fredericksburg, can be given. As soon as Hood closely invested the city, orders were sent to General Thomas by Gen. Grant, and also by General Sherman, to attack the Confederates. General Thomas replied that his army was not strong enough. At once permission was given to draw every available man from the entire West, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois furnished many regiments which had previously been on home duty. From the Mississippi river, the garrisons at Memphis and Vicksburg sent forward men from Missouri as fast as they could be moved. Steele, in Arkansas, was deposited for a similar reason. By all these means, General Thomas' army was increased to 120,000 men.

On Thursday morning he began his attack. The gunboats on the river drove the Confederate western flank back to the bank, thus allowing the land forces to get between the river and the enemy. The bank was then crossed, and the army, borne back about five miles, the Confederate center was then attacked; and the defeat of the flank having exposed it, the attack was but feebly resisted, and the Confederates retreated to a new position two miles in the rear, where they rested for the night. During the night they withdrew their eastern flank from the Cumberland river, above Nashville, to a position on a line with their center.

On Friday morning the attack was renewed. The three main masses of the army succeeded in driving the Confederates from the new position, they had taken on Tuesday night. They retreated to a range of hills, one of which, on the Franklin turnpike, is called the Brentwood Hill. Various attempts were made to drive them from this position, but they were successful, and on Friday night the Confederates still held Brentwood Hill. Brentwood Hill is six miles south of Nashville. General Thomas reports having lost three thousand men in the battle. The number of guns captured from the Confederates is stated at not more than the number of prisoners, forty-six hundred. Three Confederate generals were captured. Thomas' center was five miles south of Nashville, and as the lines of the opposing forces ran diagonally from northeast to southwest, Thomas' center was three miles south of Nashville, and his western flank eight miles southwest.

On Saturday morning General Thomas had everything prepared to attack the Confederate position on Brentwood Hill. During the night, however, the enemy had retreated, and on Sunday morning the morning found only a weak picket guard, which easily gave way before it. The Federal troops once took up the line of march in pursuit of the Confederates, and the cavalry were sent ahead. Numerous skirmishes were had with their rear guard, and in the afternoon they passed through Franklin and made the Harpers river their line of defense. They held this but a short time and again retreated. Just before dark a severe skirmish was fought six miles south of Franklin, and the army retreated there for the night. Thomas' center was three miles south of Nashville, and his western flank eight miles southwest.

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ARMY LETTER.

CAMP 18th P. V., NEAR THE WOODS, R. E. VA., DEC. 19th, 1864. Friend Steve.—As we have got into winter quarters, I have had the opportunity of writing you a few lines, through the good hands of the Compiler, through which your Pennsylvania Regiment can be found, as Co. K is composed altogether of Adams county boys. We lie about 14 miles southwest of Washington, on the Yellow House, on the Weldon R. R. We left the front of Petersburg two weeks since, and came to this neighborhood; had orders to put up winter quarters; had severely completed them when we were roused out of a very comfortable sleep, with orders to pack up and be ready to march at a moment's notice. As the sun rose we were filing out of camp—marched about one mile, to the front, and relieved a part of the 5th Corps, whilst it went on another raid to Hatchers run—lay in the front a few days, in very good quarters. But unfortunately the quarters were built too near to the breastworks, had to be taken down one night, as there was a prospect of an attack in that locality, and the artillery had no room to play; all passed off without an engagement, but we had a good sleep on the 12th morning. We were relieved in a few days by a part of the 6th Army Corps, and returned to the rear, but not to our old camp. We have our quarters fixed up very comfortably, and are prepared to accommodate any of our friends who may chance to call this way, and we are prepared also to receive any donations our friends may see fit to send us, in the way of good things, from home. I mean, eatables, the substantial, something that won't spoil if it should be delayed a few days on the way. A little flour or corn meal, corn, very nice once in a while, with other fluffs. Any box sent per express, marked well, C. K. 18th P. V., Lt. Brigade, 2d Div., 2d Corps, care of Capt. Adams, via City Point, Va., will undoubtedly be received by the party to whom it is addressed. Co. K musters 66 men for 13 absent, sick. Our friend Lieut. Jno. N. Boyer has returned to the company, quite recovered from his wound—all glad to see him. Very respectfully yours, Wm. C. Lane, Surgeon.

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION. Mr. Stewart: I presume you would not mind sending "our friends" some making their neighbor," and therefore, I ask your attention to a paragraph quoted from the N. Y. Herald, in your issue, in which, speaking of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, the Herald says, "it is said" the managers of the Sanitary Commission are "good things" out of them, and that "the larger proportion of the money contributed to aid these objects is also in expenses." Now, so far as these remarks apply to the Christian Commission, they are grossly and unbecomingly unjust. In all the vast operations of that Commission, there are no hospitals, and with the various armies in the field, employing several hundreds of delegates, there are but some half dozen who receive any compensation. Its officers, managers and delegates, give their time, and labor, and some have given their lives, for the purpose of relieving suffering and doing good, without any pecuniary recompense whatever; and in addition to this, they have contributed liberally, some of them thousands of dollars, of their private funds, in support of its operations. The accounts of the Commission are published annually, and are open to all who choose to look at them, and they exhibit this remarkable fact, that the whole expense of its operations, including freight, traveling expenses, storage, transportation, rent, and the pay of the few permanent agents who receive pay, do not amount to two and a half per cent. of every dollar contributed in actually received by the soldiers, a degree of economy which, I think, it may be said, was never attained by any similar organization.

It is shown by the testimony of medical and other officers of the army, that thousands of lives have been saved by the efforts of this Commission; and besides this, an amount of good has been accomplished by the labors of its delegates in hospitals and in the field, which cannot be estimated. These facts, which none will attempt to controvert, and which ought to be familiar to every conductor of a public journal in this country, furnish an antidote to the malevolent sneers of what has not inappropriately been termed the "Sanitary" Press; and should secure for the Commission the hearty commendation and support of those whose influence is so great in the formation and direction of public sentiment.

I have referred only to the Christian Commission, because having been engaged in the work of the Sanitary Commission, I prefer to leave its vindication to those better acquainted with its operations. R. G. McCREARY, Chairman of the local committee of the U. S. Christian Commission, Dec. 20, 1864.

GOODY FOR THE NEW YEAR.—Goody's Lady's Book, for January, 1865, is a Premium Number—arrived and unapproachable. It is embellished with two splendid Steel Plates, a superior colored Fashion Plate, and Fourteen Full Page Engravings. The literary department is no less varied and inviting to the magazine reader. Now is the time to begin with the volume of the Book. Terms for 1865:—One copy, one year, \$3.00; two copies, one year, \$5.00; one copy, one year, \$1.00. Address L. A. Goody, No. 514 and Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

PINE GROVE.—The Pine Grove Iron Works, situated in Penn township, Cumberland county, have been sold to the "South Mountain Iron Company," for a million and a half of dollars. The same property was sold less than a year ago to Jay, Cooke & Co., for \$225,000. It is an extensive and valuable estate, well wooded, watered, and contains inexhaustible supplies of the purest iron ore.

WE learn that it is the intention of the firm to make extensive improvements at the Works, and to construct a railroad from Pine Grove to the Cumberland Valley railroad. This will give employment to a large number of laborers, and be the means of putting in circulation a great deal of money.

Mr. Nicholas Pearce, an old and much esteemed citizen of Chambersburg, died on Sunday morning week, at the advanced age of 83 years. Mr. P. held the position of Post Master of Chambersburg under the Administrations of Presidents Taylor and Fillmore. Mr. P. was the contractor for the Theological Seminary in this place.

RESERVATION.—We learn that the Rev. John G. Frisby, pastor of the German Reformed Church, Charge town, has resigned his charge to take effect first of April, 1865. He resides from the ministry, and moves to Lancaster, Pa., taking with him the respect and good wishes of those among whom he labored so long and so faithfully.

From January 1st to January 8th is the week appointed by the Evangelical Alliance, as a week of special and united prayer. To MAKE SAUSAGE.—Net 40 lbs., salt 1 lb., pepper 3 oz., sage 1 pint—pulverized, and mixed is topsalful.

The Hanover Chimes say Jim East, an "American citizen of African descent," was arrested, a few days ago, for stealing Jacob Yost's chickens, and lodged in York jail.

ANOTHER DRAFT.

A Call for Three Hundred Thousand Men. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20th, 1864.—By the President of the United States. A PROCLAMATION. WHEREAS, by the act approved July 4th, 1864, entitled "An act further to regulate and provide for the enrolling and calling out of the national forces, and for other purposes," it is provided that the President of the United States may, at his discretion, at any time hereafter, call for any number of men as volunteers for the respective terms of one, two and three years, for military service, and that in case the quota of a city, town, or village, or any other subdivision of a county not subdivided, shall not be filled within the space of fifty days after such call, then the President shall immediately order a draft for one year to fill such quota, or any part thereof, of a city, town, or village, or any other subdivision of a county, or of a city, precinct, or election district, or of a county not subdivided, shall not be filled within the space of fifty days after such call, then the President shall immediately order a draft for one year to fill such quota, or any part thereof, of a 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