

### Terms of Reconstruction.

Quite an animated controversy has sprung up on the question whether the faith of the Republican party is pledged to restore the Southern States to their former privileges, in case they adopt the constitutional amendment. The question was hardly thought worth arguing by the so-called Conservative press until very recently; but it now bids fair to become the most important question of the day. There is no longer any doubt that the terms of reconstruction will be dictated by the Republican party, and that Mr. Johnson is henceforth a mere cipher, if, indeed, his value to his allies is not better represented by a negative quantity—not merely adding nothing, but actually diminishing their strength. The rats who were tempted by the prospect of office to desert what they supposed to be a sinking ship are rushing back in droves with ludicrous panic. No politician doubts the result outside of the State of New York, and scarcely any sensible Johnson man pretends to believe that this State will resist the general current.

Under these circumstances it is a matter of the highest importance to know what is the policy of the triumphant party, for if it is pledged to admit the Southern States upon their adoption of the new amendment, it is quite possible, not to say probable, that those States will yield. Indeed, if Mr. Johnson should advise them to do so, there can be little doubt that they would promptly comply; and thus reconstructing would be close at hand. Mr. Johnson's notorious obstinacy may prevent this result from taking place; but he will have had a terrible lesson before Congress meets again, and may be wiser than he is now.

On the one hand the New York State Convention and the National Committee have pledged the party to receive any State adopting the amendment. On the other hand, several distinguished Congressmen have declared their intention to insist upon more stringent terms. The Reconstruction Committee reported a bill guaranteeing admission to the rebel States upon the final adoption of the amendment; but this bill was lost in the House, every Democratic member voting against it, together with all the very conservative and very radical Republicans.

It thus appears that there is no authoritative pledge for the admission of any State upon the adoption of the constitutional amendment; yet it is not difficult to see that the Republican party is substantially committed to a certain policy in respect to this matter, and that the South has now, as it has often had before, an opportunity to choose its own destiny. If enough Southern States ratify the amendment before next January to make its final passage secure, and do this in a spirit manifesting good faith, we believe that they will certainly be restored to their places in Congress. We believe that the same result would probably attend such a ratification at any time before next February; but if the South should remain obstinate up to that time, we judge that its subsequent submission would not avail it. Certainly we should hold Congress to be abundantly justified in refusing to wait after the month of January for the action of the South.

Our reasons for this belief are easily stated. The Republican party is generally fighting its battles upon the basis of the amendment, and on the assumption that it contains the terms of reconstruction. Certainly no State convention and no national committee have authority to bind the whole party to any particular course of action; but as a matter of fact a sufficient number of candidates for Congress are committing themselves to this policy to make it certain that it will be carried out, if the South is shrewd enough to present the question in a practical form. We do not see how the majority of Congress can well refuse to admit any of Mr. Johnson's States upon the adoption of the amendment by the requisite number of States, including, of course, the particular State asking for admission.

But when it is broadly asserted, as it is by some journals which affect a peculiar knowledge of the popular will (though they have shown in the past an ignorance of it almost ludicrous, considering their pretensions), that the party is pledged unconditionally to the admission of every State ratifying the amendment, we deny it. Congress is under no obligation whatever to admit any rebel State until the ratification of the amendment is secure. It may waive this condition, as it did in favor of Tennessee, but it is in no way bound to do so in favor of South Carolina, this, however, is unlikely to be a practical question. The amendment will probably be ratified either by all the rebel States or by none, except possibly North Carolina.

The more important question is, How long is bound to keep the offer of admission open upon these terms? In order to determine this, it is necessary to consider all the circumstances. Clearly there is no sort of obligation resting upon Congress to keep its offer open for an indefinite period. It has the same right to retract its propositions before their acceptance upon the other side which any private person has in an ordinary business transaction. We suppose that the offer of Congress ought to be left open until the Southern legislatures (as those "illegal and unlawful assemblies" are by courtesy termed) have had an opportunity to accept it. South Carolina and Texas have had this opportunity, but have thrown it away. Most of the other Southern legislatures will not meet until January. It seems, therefore, fair that Congress should allow them until the middle of that month to decide upon their course. It cannot well allow a longer time without consenting to a full year's delay, since the term of Congress itself expires on the 4th of March next, and it will have only six weeks from the middle of January in which to frame and carry out a new policy. The South will have had six months in which to make up its mind, and may justly be held to its decision.

We have thus gone through with all details of the policy to which we believe Congress to be committed. It remains to be asked what Congress ought to do in certain contingencies as to which it is not committed. It has contracted no undertaking, express or implied, with any State which refuses to accept the amendment. And we think that it will be the imperative duty of Congress to reorganize every rebel State which thus holds out after the 15th or 20th of January, by means of a State Convention to be elected by all the loyal people of each State, without the slightest regard to the unconstitutional usurpations set up by Mr. Johnson. It is at best a highly dangerous precedent to recognize governments set up and maintained by military power and executive dictation. That which Mr. Johnson has done to please the white people of the South, may at some future date be imitated by another President to please black people, or without regard to the wishes of any part of the people. But if from considerations of temporary expediency it is thought necessary to sanction the usurpations of the President, it is certain that such a sanction should not be given in so vague a form as to imply that his action was inherently right and lawful. And such an inference might fairly be drawn from any action of Congress which should leave the Southern States free to come in at any time with the form of government adopted by them under Mr. Johnson's dictation, and by voters of his selection.

Moreover, it is perfectly true, as Mr. Beecher urges, that the work of reconstruction ought to be completed at an early day, and that the nation as a whole suffers by delay. This does not prove, as he imagines, that the work had better be completed anyhow than that any delay should be suffered. A certain measure of time is indispensable in every great achievement; and excessive haste would be ruinous in so great a task as this. But an indefinite postponement of reconstruction is full of danger. Congress has given the rebels of the South an option to assume the responsibility of government if they will; but it has no right to keep the whole nation waiting for them. If the rebels will not act with Congress, the latter is not merely at liberty, but is morally bound, to appeal to the loyalists of the South, and to give them the power to institute and carry on republican forms of government in harmony with the Federal authority.—*The Nation.*

—The Congressional election presents an issue between the People and Andrew Johnson, not between Congress and the President. And the issue which the People have with their traitorous, usurping servant in the White House is the simplest ever presented in a national canvass. It is: "Shall the country be governed by those who fought to destroy it, or by those who fought to save it? Shall it be governed by its friends or its enemies?" That's all there is of it. Andrew Johnson's purpose is to put the law-making and executive powers of the Government into the hands of unchastened, unrepentant, malignant Rebels. The People, though their loyal Congress, oppose this crime; and on this issue, presented singly, they can elect their candidates in every Congressional District from the Atlantic to the Pacific, beyond the shadow of a doubt; yes, and carry every office, from Governor to Postmaster, in every Northern and Western State.

The World says that we affect to consider Federal office-holders "the most contemptible creatures in existence." On the contrary, we had a great respect for most of those whom Mr. Lincoln appointed and rejoiced to see them justified our good opinion. A Federal office-holder who obtains or retains his place by apostasy, hypocrisy and baseness, is contemptible—who doubts it?—but a majority of those left in office by Mr. Lincoln have honored manhood by their fidelity to their principles and their conviction. The Bread-and-Butter renegades are a very decided as well as detested minority.

—A recent lecturer on mormon law says that, according to that code, "a woman when she married lost her identity, her distinctive character, and was like a dew-drop swallowed by a subseant."

### The American Citizen.



The Largest Circulation of any Paper in the County.

THOMAS ROBINSON, - - Editor.

BUTLER PA. WEDNESDAY, OCT. 10, 1866.

"Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable."—D. Webster.

As the Penn township delegation was coming down the Plank Road, south of Butler, on Friday last, they discovered that the roof of the dwelling house of Mr. Edwards, who lives a short distance South of this place, was on fire. A portion of them on horseback, at once, made their way to the place, crossed fences and other obstacles, and soon succeeded in putting out the flames, which, had it not been for them, would soon have reduced the tenement to ashes. An old lady and gentleman compose the family, who could have offered very little opposition to the destroying elements. Mr. Edwards requests us to express his heartfelt thanks for this timely aid.

About twenty-five of our Republican friends in the borough saw fit to cast their votes against Messrs. Cummins and Garvey, our candidates for Associate Judges, and in favor of their opponents, Marshall and Moyer. The latter gentlemen are mainly indebted for their large vote here, to Mr. Jacob Zimmerman and Mr. Wm. Vogeley, both of whom seemed to have quite a feeling in the matter. For ourself we consider this most unjust. We had no letter men on our ticket than our candidates for Associate Judges. And there was no good reason why they should not run as large a vote as Gen. Geary. Thank God, they are safe.

### Our Convention.

The Republican Convention which convened in this place on last Friday, was altogether the greatest success ever attained by any party in this county. The fact that such a grand result was not looked for by any body, made this affair a grand surprise to all. From quite an early period in the canvass an effort had been made to secure the presence of some distinguished gentlemen, whose name would secure a large attendance. But all efforts failed. Under these circumstances there was a difference of opinion as to whether we could bring out sufficient numbers to secure success. The experiment was finally determined upon, and the State Central Committee notified of the fact, who at once promised to send us Gen. E. M. Lee, of Connecticut, at least, and perhaps others. Upon him, therefore, we relied, but, even this reliance failed us.

We know that it is the custom, and duty, too, of the Executive Committee to concentrate their efforts, mainly in the close, or what are called doubtful districts. In this view of the case we had no special claims upon it. Our Assembly ticket had a majority in the district of about 2,500 votes, and our Congressional district, say, 3,500. On the other hand, our neighboring county of Armstrong, was supposed to be close for Assembly, while the Franklin, Luzerne, Westmoreland and Crawford Congressional districts were all considered close. These districts were, therefore, the battleground of the campaign. Thus abandoned to our fate we had to take care of ourselves. It is most gratifying to know that under all these discouragements, our Convention was such a grand success.—We could hardly mention any one delegation with special favor without doing injustice to some others—unless it might be the delegation from Jackson township, which came with a brass band and accompanied by a vehicle drawn by eight horses, which contained thirty-six young ladies dressed in white, representing the thirty-six States of the Union. Having sent a large delegation to Harmony in '64, we knew something of the effort it takes to get up such a delegation, as also, to make the trip. Our Jackson friends have nobly reciprocated the compliment, for which we are under everlasting obligations. Many other townships done most nobly—all done better than was expected.

The turnout being so much greater than was anticipated, we fear many were unable to receive that attention which, under other circumstances, would gladly have been paid them. This was unavoidable under the circumstances. The demonstration was made, too, in the interest of a great principle for which "the boys in blue" had sustained much great privations than could possibly have been endured by any on this occasion. Our Convention adjourned about four o'clock, without a single accident having occurred to mar the pleasure of the occasion which will be remembered by many as one of the most pleasant days of their lives.

### Election Returns.

Butler County stands firm! Not on ly so, but has made a fine advance. The returns are still incomplete, but sufficiently definite to give a pretty good guess as to the result. Gen. Geary will have about 500 majority in the county; and all the ticket is elected. Marshall may not be beaten more than 200. But "an inch is as good as a mile." We congratulate our friends on the result. All the districts have done nobly.

The following is the vote on Governor:

	Geary.	Clymer.
Clinton,	158	36
Middlesex,	143	69
Adams,	103	61
Cranberry,	88	93
Jefferson,	66	127
Penn,	120	57
Summit,	34	143
Butler,	104	124
Connoquenessing,	125	69
Oakland,	82	93
Concord,	132	34
Slipperyrock,	100	86
Mercer,	96	82
Bor. Butler,	119	192

Borough Centreville had seven majority for Geary.

### Rebellion in Texas.

The Capt. Geo. W. Smith, who, as will be seen, is besieged by the Rebels in Brenham, Texas, is known to many of our readers. He was born and brought up in this town; his father, George W. Smith, Esq., being, formerly, one of the leading lawyers of the place. Captain Smith entered the service at the beginning of the rebellion, and distinguished himself by many feats of gallantry in the Western Army.

We see by the *Commercial* of Saturday, that Gen. Sheridan sustains Captain Smith, and warns Gov. Throckmorton that discharged Rebel soldiers will not be permitted to place U. S. soldiers in a state of siege.

[Correspondence to the Chronicle.] GALVESTON, September 15, 1866.

On the night of the 5th instant, Captain George W. Smith, 17th U. S. Infantry, commanding the post of Brenham was asked by a Mr. Duke, a dancing master of that place, for a guard of two men to protect him in having a ball in that town. Captain Smith informed him that he must look to the civil authorities for protection; that he could not allow his soldiers to interfere between citizens, as it caused unnecessary irritation, and was calculated to produce bad results. Mr. Duke replied that he only feared interference from freedmen, and said that the local police did not like to interfere with freedmen when the service of the military would secure the result. Captain Smith then gave Duke two men as guard but sent them unarmed, knowing that if they had only to guard against freedmen, there was no necessity of sending armed men, as the freedmen uniformly respect a blue coat and brass buttons, and are the only persons in this State who do. The soldiers went to the ball, and had only been there a few moments when they were set upon by a party of F. F. 's, led by a man named Wyatt, (a professional gambler, but vouched for by the Houston and Galveston papers as a high-toned gentleman and good citizen,) and knocked down with slung shots and beatings. The soldiers retreating to the street were fired upon and shot down, one killed and the other mortally wounded.—About an hour afterward a party of the young men of the town went to and broke up a negro ball, beating and dispersing the darkies. Two hours afterward the town of Brenham was set on fire, and the business portion burned. It is supposed by the military that some of the negroes set fire to the town in revenge for the breaking up of their ball. The citizens, in order to cover up and take away attention from the murder of the soldiers, charged this act upon the soldiers. The day after the fire a few of them came forward and made affidavits that they saw soldiers setting fire to one of the stores—the one in which it originated. A day or two afterward it struck the worthy denizens that it would be a good plan to secure the removal of the troops by implicating them all in the burning; so now they have secured witnesses who say that they saw Captain Smith setting fire to the store with his own hands, and they have indicted him and four of his men for arson. They have called in, armed, and organized the young men of the surrounding counties, and have besieged Captain Smith in his camp. Sixty men stand picket between camp and town, with orders to shoot down any officer or soldier attempting to pass from camp to town. They have notified Captain Smith that he will not be allowed to receive any more supplies of any kind, and have actually captured a parcel of ammunition which was being sent to him from Houston. The sheriff has notified Captain Smith that if he does not surrender himself and men by Monday next he will take him by force.—Captain Smith has built himself a fort and rifle-pit, and does not propose to surrender. Governor Throckmorton and others, "my policy" men, do not like this open rebellion, not on account of love for the Government, but for fear of the result North. The Legislature are not easily controlled, and they demand that the President shall dismiss Captain Smith, and turn him over to the civil authorities, to be tried and convicted by prejudiced witnesses.

Scarcely a citizen in Texas thinks it any haru to swear against a "Yank" when he is on trial, and for a comrade if being tried by the Government. At the request of Governor Throckmorton, Lieut. Col. Mason, commanding this district, went to Brenham and made a thorough investigation. About 10 or 15 citizens swear that the soldiers fired the town; 2 or 3 that they saw Captain Smith and four of his men do it; some claim to have recognized him by a horse he rode, others by his voice, although the most

positive witness says the moon was not shining, and that the nearest he was to Captain Smith was eighty yards. On the other hand, Captain Smith is by positive testimony, and to the entire satisfaction of Colonel Mason, cleared from any complicity in the burning. It is shown that when he heard of the murder of his soldiers, he got a guard and patrolled the town, picked up all his men in town, and returned to camp about 11 o'clock, and gave strict orders to his sentries not to allow a man out of camp under any circumstances. It is shown that he was notified by the agent of the Freedmen's Bureau of the attack on the colored people, and that in accordance with the agent's request his troops were kept under arms. It is shown that when the fire broke out in the town, which was 3 o'clock in the morning, he called the roll and found every man present. That he stayed up all night with his men, and was not absent from camp after 11 o'clock that night.—This was proven by the whole company, (45 men,) his servants and hostler, his sister and her husband, and Capt. Craig, Veteran Reserve corps, agent of the bureau. This is proven conclusively. In the face of all this, men deliberately perjure themselves to secure political ends, and if possible secure the removal of the United States troops from their midst.—I ask you and every candid reader if this conduct is not the very reverse of peace and good will, and the desire to do right on the part of the South? It is not, on the other hand, a high-handed, open rebellion? Here are two United States soldiers murdered in cold blood, and far no other reason than the intense hatred borne them by the Southern people.—Here is a captain of the regular army besieged in his camp, his ammunition captured, and his supplies cut off, and not only he but also a superior officer, sent to investigate the matter, was told that the citizen guard was instructed to shoot down as a day any U. S. Army soldier coming from Captain Smith's camp. The guard of sixty young men stand regular picket between camp and town. These people do not wait for an investigation of Captain Smith's course, but act in this defiant manner at once, and not only this, but openly boast that as soon as they can communicate with the President their proposed testimony will be received over that of the officer who investigated Captain Smith's conduct, and over the testimony produced before him; that Captain Smith will be dismissed without any trial, and turned over to them for trial.

I have simply written you a plain, unexaggerated statement of this case, and leave your readers to judge for themselves whether they intend to trust such men with national power. Colonel Mason leaves to-morrow to represent to General Sheridan the status at Brenham, when it is believed and hoped that that officer will take measures at once to relieve Captain Smith from his state of siege, and punish as it deserves the conduct of these arrogant and violent people. UNION.

### The Convention in Butler!

The 5th of October, 1866, was a gala day in Butler. Notwithstanding the fair on the previous day, and a good "black-wheat day" on the 5th, there was such an outpouring of the people as was ever witnessed in the town of Butler before. Republicans were wide awake to the importance of the issues before the people, and their Convention on last Friday was a complete eclipse to the poor efforts of the Johnson-Cowan-Davis party on the day before. About 8 o'clock, A. M., some of the members of the Union Geary Club of Butler, on horseback, carrying banners, and led by the Brass band of Saxenburg, commenced parading through the town and reconnoitering the different roads.—Major George W. Reed was chosen Chief Marshal of the day. George W. McCandless was chosen as Marshal of the Geary Club. Under the judicious management of these two officers and their aids, the affair was admirably conducted throughout the whole proceedings. For a time the procession seemed very small in the eyes of the "Dimmycrats," and a visible pleasure could be traced in their brazen features. About 11 o'clock the peals of the Court House bell awakened the Republicans on the hills around and very soon their banners were seen coming, beautiful and numerous, towards the town. First came the Butler township delegation; then Penn and adjoining townships, led by the veritable Simeon Nixon; Summit came; Connoquenessing and adjoining townships soon came; and the best of all was Jackson and Zelienople. This latter delegation was preceded by a wagon drawn by eight horses, and containing thirty-six ladies dressed in white. The people of Jackson township and Zelienople borough, may be proud of their delegation, and although their numbers did not quite take the flag, their taste and appearance took a nice banner—which was presented to the ladies—and merited and received the praises of all sensible people present. Most if not all the townships in the county were represented in the procession, and although, but a meagre effort was made to bring out a "full force," yet the oldest men of Butler say that they had not seen the like here before. After the procession marched and counter-marched through the various streets, they dispersed for dinner. About two o'clock, P. M., the Convention was organized on the "Commons," in front of the Court House, to hear the speeches of the day. The speakers from abroad did not come, for some reason, and we were treated to good sound addresses by our home talent—which by the way, is equal to any in the State. The following officers were chosen, viz: President—Thomas Robinson, Esq.

Vice Presidents—Robert Scott, Wm. Bigham, David Shannon, Sr., J. W. Bowman, John Negley, Sr., and Johnson White. Secretaries—William C. Campbell, M. N. Groer, and George A. Black. Addresses were given by Messrs. Robinson, Parviance, Thompson, McCandless and Nixon. After the addresses, the flag was awarded to Penn township, and received by Simeon Nixon, who proposed to give it to the township that will increase its republican vote the most at the coming election. After the flag presentation, the Convention adjourned to meet in their several election districts on the 9th inst., to give the "peeps" and "rebs" another "drubbing."

### Communications.

#### Sabbath School Celebration.

MR. EDITOR:—Upon an invitation from the U. P. Sabbath School (through its estimable Superintendent, Williamson Christy,) to the New Hope Sabbath School, the latter joined the former at the U. P. Church, on Thursday morning the 20th ult., for the purpose of participating in the pleasant exercises attendant upon a celebration. A procession was immediately formed, preceded by a band of music, and marched to an adjoining grove where a magnificent dinner (prepared by the good people of Sunbury and vicinity,) was spread, to which both scholars and spectators did ample justice. Dinner over all retired to the church, and on motion, Rev. Father Coulter was called to the chair; and Washington Boward and John A. Bailey chosen Secretaries. After a prayer by Father Coulter, and vocal music by the choir, a beautiful piece suitable to the occasion was read by Dr. D. Christy. Reports of each school being made, by Messrs. Boward and Pryor, an able and interesting address to parents and teachers was delivered by Rev. Thos. M. Scaton. Appropriate remarks were then made by Rev. Wm. Black and Wm. M. Graham, Esq. Concluding remarks and benediction by Father Coulter, after which all wended their way homeward, well pleased with the day's proceedings. Rev. J. NO. COULTER, Prest. W. BOWARD, } Secrs. J. A. BAILEY, }

#### CHALLENGE.

##### Match Hunt.

BUTLER, Oct. 8, 1866.

CHAS. DUFFY, Capt. Dan. Boones:—

CAPTAIN:—In behalf of the Davy Crocketts I hereby challenge you to a trial of skill in a Match Hunt, to be had within the limits of Butler county, on such a day as you may select. Three years ago, you will remember, on the 25th of November, the DAN BOONES and DAVY CROCKETTS met in friendly strife. It was a war of blood, but it brought no sorrow to any human household; it made neither widows nor orphans; it even carried comfort and encouragement to those of our dear ones, who, in that real, gigantic struggle for national life were shedding precious blood. They triumphed, thank God, as the Right must always triumph,—and returning Peace brings us healthful seasons and fruitful harvests. Let us make this anniversary of "im-mie strife" an interesting reunion, to pledge the return of lasting Peace,—the cessation of violent passions, and to welcome the new era of *good will and prosperity*. I need not say that the Davy Crocketts confidently expect to retrieve the lost laurels of the 20th of Nov. 1863. I have the honor to be Very Respectfully, Your obt. servant, EDWIN LYON, Captain Davy Crocketts.

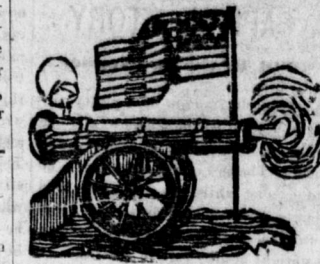
BUTLER, 8th Oct. 1866.

EDWIN LYON, Capt. Davy Crocketts.

CAPTAIN:—I have the honor to pick up the gauntlet which, in behalf of the "Crocketts," you have bravely thrown down. In doing so, I have the assurance that the "Boones" will cheerfully ratify my promptness and eagerly enter upon the trial which is to reassert their supremacy and to maintain the title of victors which is rightfully theirs. I do remember, Captain, the friendly strife of three years ago, and more especially, do I remember the sequel—I mean the festivities. My comrades remember them, too. And let me warn you that the memory of those things, with all their important surroundings, will require the "Davy's" to measure themselves severely with the "Dan's" to avoid a repetition of them. In a word, the Dan Boones accept the challenge of the "Davy Crocketts," and I would name the 30th day of this month, it being *Choose-day*. I also designate that the hunt is to be confined to Butler county, and that there are to be observed the same rules, game list, civilities, and festivities as governed that Big-hunt of which this is a supplement. With assurance of my consideration I am, Captain, Yours, truly, CHARLES DUFFY, Captain of the Dan Boones.

## VICTORY!

## VICTORY!



## ELECTION

## O. K.

## GLORIOUS NEWS!



## BUTLER COUNTY

## ALL RIGHT!!

## GEARY

## AND THE UNION!

## PENNSYLVANIA,

## OHIO,

## INDIANA

## AND IOWA,

Have all gone Republican.

All honor to the loyal men of Butler County! They have nobly discharged their whole duty. Vindicated their power to maintain their well-earned supremacy.

We would now advise our Democratic friends to call in their negro pictures, and save them for some future emergency, when free schools and free churches too, shall have ceased to be controlling institutions in our country. FIVE HUNDRED MAJORITY is a nice little compliment for the "Negroes" candidate.

We have no further time for details, and would therefore say to our readers that the cause of the UNION has suffered nothing at the hands of its friends at the election yesterday. The influence of the "Bread and butter brigade" was scarcely noticeable,—indeed was quite overbalanced by the accessions which came from other quarters. Rebels have been once more defeated, Copperheads repulsed, and "My Policy" played out, and a new Radical Congress elected. Glory enough in one day!