Erie Observer.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22d, 1865.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE BY THE PEOPLE IS THE PRICE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.—*Andrew Jackson.*

Interesting Reading Matter on every Page of this week's Issue.

Hon. Wm. Bigler and lady started for California a few days since, to visit ex-Gov. John Bigler of that State. They expect to return in October.

THE *Tribune* announces in a tone of distress, which enlists our liveliest sympathy, that "all the provisional officers thus far appointed" by President Johnson in the Southern States, "are opposed to negro suffrage."

THE Pittsburg *Post* came to us on Monday enlarged to the extent of four additional columns, filled to the brim with interesting *editorials, locals, telegraphic* items and general reading, and looking in every respect much improved. The *Post* is one of our most highly prized exchanges, and we do not see how it would be possible to "keep house" without it. It is the only Democratic daily in Western Pennsylvania, and all the friends of conservative principles must rejoice at its apparent prosperity.

THE *Gazette* increases in its ardor for negro suffrage, in apparent ignorance of the fact that President Johnson has decided that it is a question for the people of the Southern States to settle for themselves, and therefore, according to its own past theory of our institutions, the height of "disloyalty" to differ with him. In its last issue it contains two leading articles on the subject; one in answer to an editorial of the *Dispatch* opposing the proposed extension of suffrage, and the other in reply to a short paragraph in the OBSERVER, ridiculing the assertion that the negro is entitled to vote simply because he has borne arms in the war, and arguing that if such an opinion was carried to its legitimate conclusion, the boy of 18 who had been a soldier has as strong claims to the right of suffrage as the negro. In the first we have no interest, aside from its general bearing; to the second our limited time at present permits us only to make this brief response:

The white boy and the negro, in the sight of the law, stood precisely on the same footing with regard to citizenship, when they entered the army. Neither were regarded as citizens, nor capable of voting, although the negro had the advantage that in case he was free, he could acquire, hold and dispose of property. Assuming that both enlisted from motives of patriotism solely,—which was much more likely on the part of the white boy than the negro,—by what rule of justice should the black man be immediately conceded the privilege of citizenship and the white boy held back from the same for three years longer? Certainly not on the ground of superior intelligence, for in nine cases out of ten the white boy of eighteen would be vastly the superior of the negro at the age of thirty. Neither can it be urged on the score of bravery, for no one will allege, with all the exaggerated laudation of the negro's services, that he exceeded in courage the thousands of young white boys in the ranks of the Federal army.

The *Gazette's* loose assertion that the negro "never had a country; never a single right accorded to a citizen," is very pathetic, but unfortunately for the cause of truth, widely incorrect. He not only "had a country," but, in addition thereto, all the rights belonging to its most favored citizens, except those inseparate from his condition of slavery. With few exceptional cases, his treatment has been of the kindest description, and he must have been blunt in his mental senses indeed, if he could not perceive that the prosperity of the country was as much a matter for pride and congratulation on his part as on that of his white neighbors. If we are mistaken on this point, we should like to be cited to the instance of any reasonably intelligent negro, North or South, born and raised on American soil, who did not before the war regard this country as the black man's paradise, in spite of the exclusion of his race from the ballot-box.

The *Gazette* also errs in its statement that "the Supreme Court of the nation pronounced" the negro "destitute of all rights which white men are bound to respect." The expression is one of a character with those which the Republicans are so prolific in inventing to promote their purposes, and, like most of them, destitute of basis of any sort. If our cotemporary is in doubt upon the point, he will be readily satisfied by turning to the decision and consulting it for himself.

Leaving out of consideration for the present the question of the negro's fitness for voting, and the other theories which have been urged, arising out of the distinctions of race, we will state briefly, for our neighbor's benefit, the views we entertain on this question:

1st. The acts of secession did not take any of the States out of the Union, and they still possess, as States, the same rights they did before the war.

2d. The Constitution concedes to each State the right to fix the qualifications of its own voters.

3d. As the Southern States alone can fix the qualifications of their citizens, the subject is not one in which the people of the North can legally or justly interfere, nor has the President or Congress the power to do so, without a change in the Constitution.

4th. Whenever the Southern people, by a fair vote, shall decide to give negroes the privilege of suffrage we shall acquiesce in their decision, feeling sure we do that the right belongs to them exclusively, and that they are the best judges of the qualifications of their own citizens.

The last battle of the war, of which we have information, was fought in Texas, on May 13. We have had no account of any fighting since then. The surrender of Johnston left no regularly organized Confederate forces, except those of Kirby Smith. The latter officer surrendered his army, through commissioners, to Gen. Canby, at New Orleans, on May 25. There has been no formal proclamation of peace, but it is generally understood that peace came with the capitulation of the last organized force of the rebellion.

We announce with feelings of indescribable pain, the recent disloyalty of a number of heretofore very "loyal" presses and politicians. It is well known to be an established creed of the self-styled Republican party that infidelity to the existing Administration is treason to the government, and it is equally well known that the President has committed himself fully to the idea that the question of suffrage in Southern States shall be entirely left to the loyal white people residing therein. Now, in spite of this plainly understood fact, we find the papers and persons alluded to, strongly clamoring for the Federal authorities to give the negro the ballot, and not a few of them openly hint that unless the President changes his views they will make bitter war upon him. It is sad indeed to contemplate the unfortunate situation of the parties who have taken this position. Only a few months ago, each and all of them were loudly argueing that the Administration is the government, and now to find themselves so suddenly placed in a "disloyal" attitude by their own professions, must be distressing beyond measure. We tender our friends our sincerest condolence. To find themselves defeated in their long cherished schemes for personal and party benefit by the very man they assisted to elect, is bad enough, but, as if to make the situation still more heart-rending, and cut off all chance for criticism, comes up those campaign doctrines of the last four years, which befooled so many well-intentioned people. The Republican leaders begin probably to surmise by this time that other things besides chickens and curses come home to roost.

Very Sarcastic.

The Harrisburg *Patriot*, of June 13th, published a letter from an imaginary loyal office-holder, to a clerical friend, which is one of the best specimens of political satire we have read in a long period. It is too lengthy for our columns, but we cannot resist the temptation to publish the following "pungent and vigorous" paragraph. Alluding to the common and insulting intimation of so-called "loyal" lecturers, that Democrats will be so ashamed of their course that they will want to change their names and those of their children, the writer facetiously says:

"What shall I change it to? If I call myself Greeley they might think that I wrote that poetry about the 'flaunting lie' and the 'starry rag.' If I call myself Garrison they will swear that I was the chap that denounced the Constitution of the United States as a covenant with Death and an agreement with Hell. If I call myself Sumner I might be mobbed for saying that the man who obeyed the Constitution was a dog. If I took the name of Wright, who knows but that I should be followed up as the howling infidel who said that if God Almighty did not abolish slavery, *He was a very great scoundrel.* And I certainly shan't call myself Phillips, for fear excited bondholders should lynch me for proposing to repudiate the national debt. * * If I have to drop my old name and take a new one, *you have a d—n'd poor assortment in the Abolition vocabulary to choose from!*"

President Johnson has put his foot down decidedly and firmly upon the question of negro suffrage. In the proclamation defining the powers of the Mississippi State Convention he says:

"And the said convention, when convened, or the Legislature that may thereafter be assembled, will prescribe the qualification of electors, and the elegibility of persons to hold office under the Constitution and laws of the State—*a power the people of the several States comprising the Federal Union, have rightfully exercised from the origin of the Government to the present time.*"

The lines in italics do not appear in the North Carolina proclamation. That was regarded with distaste by the extreme radicals. What will they say to this stronger and more emphatic announcement of the right of each State to decide who shall be entitled to the exercise of the elective franchise within its limits? We expect to hear them howl most dismally; but we rejoice in the assurance that they cannot move the President from the wise course of action which he has so decidedly adopted.

One of the most sensible, and certainly one of the ablest of the opposition leaders in Pennsylvania is Col. A. K. McClure, of the Chambersburg *Repository*. We have had occasion repeatedly heretofore to commend the soundness of his views on important points at issue. Here is a paragraph from the last number of his paper, which contrasts very widely in its tone from the language of many Republican organs:

We joyfully hear and believe that the President will speedily issue a proclamation restoring the privilege of habeas corpus and ordering a very general clearance of the military prisons. The paroling of prisoners of war on their taking the oath of allegiance is going on rapidly, and we trust will not cease while any willing to take the oath and not accused of violating the rules of civilized warfare, remain in durance. The country is swiftly returning to the ways of peace, order, thrift, and law-guarded liberty. Let us hope that the approaching 4th of July will see all mere prisoners of war liberated, and the civil law everywhere bearing unrivaled sway.

ACCORDING to the New York *Times* both Gen. Lee and Alex. H. Stephens have applied to the President for pardon, and reinstatement in their rights as citizens. Mr. Stephens' application covers some seventy pages of manuscript. He enters at length into an apology or vindication of the action he has taken. Among the reasons which caused him to espouse the cause of the rebellion, he refers to the fact that the New York *Tribune*, known to be a powerful and influential supporter of the Republican Administration, openly advocated the right of the Southern people to independence. Mr. Stephens inferred from this that independence would be conceded to the South without war. He acknowledges that the question has been decided forever, and he desires hereafter to be, and to be considered a good and loyal citizen of the United States.

We have at length semi-official assurances from Washington, that no new demand has been made upon England with preference to the Alabama claim. The claim for damages has been made from time to time during the past three years, but no more emphasis has been recently given it than when first preferred.

One thing is very certain: the people of the United States and their government have made up their minds to stop fighting for the present. War has no longer any attractions for us. Whatever we may say about the Monroe doctrine, or the Alabama depredations, we do not propose to go to war with either England or France if we can decently escape a conflict.

Greeley on Shoddy.

[From the N. Y. Tribune of June 19.]

In our judgment, of all the men who have sinned against the Republic in her recent day of trial, those who have swindled her with exorbitant charges, rotten transports, poor iron, and any other of the kindred resorts of rascality, should be the last forgiven. The natural, genuine rebel is a bad egg: there was scarcely a blackleg, libertine, rowdy or profligate in the South who was not one of them, or in the North who did not wish them success: but the reveler in Shoddy was a more hypocritical, detestable scoundrel, in that he oftener affected patriotism if not piety also, and, while Rebel was sawing at the throat of Uncle Sam, Shoddy was picking his pocket—often with his eyes turned up to heaven and with protestations of loyalty on his lips—the incorrigible villain! Several have been cashiered from high official trusts for swindling their country when she was on the very brink of ruin; others have just escaped a similar fate by hiring Senators and other "big bugs" to engineer for them—as "counsel," of course. One, if we mistake not, was Surgeon-General, and bought millions' worth of medicines for our armies at rates twenty-five per cent. higher than he need have paid; one, we hear, bought $6,000,000 worth of coffee for the Government just when our currency was most depreciated and coffee consequently highest—and so on. Probably, some hundreds of millions have by such means been added to our national debt; and Mr. Cooke must excuse us for not regarding those who thus lined their own and their friends' pockets as public benefactors. As building monuments seem now in vogue, we suggest the erection of a pyramid on which the names of all these gentry shall be chiseled deep in everlasting stone, with the amount of each man's stealings debited opposite his title. A good portion of our moneyed aristocracy might be thus favored; while our "first families" of following ages might trace back their pedigree to one or more ancestors here emblazoned, being thus enabled to establish a strong presumption of hereditary talent for finance.

KING'S MALT HOUSE DESTROYED.—The extensive wooden building, owned by Hon. A. King, situated on the canal, between 7th and 8th streets, and used for malting purposes, was destroyed by fire on Sunday night last. About ten thousand bushels of grain were in the building, and the loss is estimated at from $30,000 to $35,000, on which there is an insurance of $21,000. The barley warehouse adjoining was saved by the exertions of the citizens. The origin of the fire is not known. Mr. King intends erecting substantial brick buildings on a larger scale than before.

The oration at the commencement exercises of Adrian College, Mich., on the 15th inst., was delivered by D. C. Thomas, Esq., of Mill Creek township, in this county, a member of the class of 1862 in that institution. The *Watchtower*, published in Adrian, says "the oration was written in a terse, vigorous style, and, notwithstanding its metaphysical nature and the fatigue a long day's exercises already entailed upon the audience, it was listened to with marked attention."

DRAFTED MEN TO COME HOME.—A special order from the War Department has been issued, discharging the men from this district forced into the military service by the late draft. We may therefore confidently rely on seeing them home in a short time. This will not only be cheering news to the conscripts and their families, but to the entire community.

Neighboring Localities.

A short time ago a citizen of Meadville visited Franklin on business, and put up at the United States hotel. At 9 p. m. he was put into a room to lodge, in which were two beds. The gentleman referred to occupied one of the beds, and about half past ten o'clock the clerk of the house conducted two strangers to the other bed. In the morning the guest from Meadville found his clothes scattered promiscuously around the apartment, his watch and $108 gone, as well as the aforesaid occupants of the other bed. The rascals had even stripped his pockets of the last five cent scrip.——It is rumored that the wire-workers of the Republican party in Crawford county have some difficulty in dissuading returned soldiers from becoming candidates for office. So far, however, they have succeeded excepting in the matter of Treasurer. It is well enough for the "boys" to go to war and do the fighting, provided capital is made for the stay-at-home politicians. Now, why don't the old hacks stand back, and let soldiers be nominated for all the offices? That would manifest real friendship.——Rush Thompson, aged 18 years, of Meadville, was drowned while bathing in French creek, just above the latter place, on Tuesday evening of last week. A number of other boys were in or near the water at the time, but were either afraid to make the attempt or unable to rescue the deceased.

A correspondent of the New York *Petroleum Recorder* gives the following graphic sketch of the thriving young city of Titusville. He says: Titusville consists, as nearly as I can make it out, of eighteen inches of mud, ground up into paste, (which is rather a fluid than a solid,) 1,000 houses, 150 derricks, half a dozen churches, fifty or sixty steam engines, one theater, two banks, four or five schools, two miles of wooden side-walks, 100 oil cisterns, 7,500 people, including 3,000 speculators and traders, yclept transient population; 2,500 barrels of oil, several hotels, which have "struck" more oil than any well-digger in this quarter, a weekly newspaper, (to be issued as a daily before long,) several thousand pigs, (which are excessively excited over the "surface indications" this spring,) 3,000 pair of long-legged boots (which were once shiny black, and still retain some appearance of the original ebony for two inches below the knees,) a railroad depot (which was evidently constructed under the apprehension of an early fire.) Let your imagination fill up the picture after reading this hasty sketch.——The oil well of Pete Young, a short distance from town, the Corry *Telegraph* says, is now producing oil of a very fine quality. How much, neighbor?——Hon. Wm. A. Wallace is announced as a candidate for re-election to the State Senate. The district is composed of Elk, Forrest, Cameron, Clarion and Clearfield counties. He is an able and thoroughly honest man, and were we a resident of the district, we should labor zealously to have him returned to the Senate.——The other day a poor woman of Warren, the *Mail* says, made complaint of her boy, aged a dozen years or so, for abusing her, and he was lodged in jail. Some of the boys in justification of his disorderly conduct declared that he served her right—that she *insulted* him! There's Young America for you, in the rough!——Oil wells are going down in every direction about Corry. Some of the people there have great confidence that oil will be found in paying quantities.——Mr. E. C. Gibson has resigned his place as Master Mechanic on the Oil Creek R. R. Difficulties between him and the Superintendent are given as the cause.

The editor of the Green Bay (Wis.) *Advocate* has recently been on a tour of investigation through the oil country, and writes back to his paper a series of humorous letters descriptive thereof. His sketch of our thriving little neighbor, Corry, is capital, and we are sure will be read with interest:

Corry is in Erie county, Pa., on the line of the Atlantic & Great Western railway, and some other railway whose name we have forgotten, and at the junction of the Oil City railway. It is 33 miles east of Erie. So much for geography. Corry is the gateway of the oil regions of Pennsylvania. It is a town about three years old, larger than Green Bay, and smarter than Chicago. There all comparison stops. Nothing on the earth, nor in the waters under the earth, is like it. Possibly, if you could imagine a rough and tumble fight between a city and a forest, to see which should prevail, you might have some perception of it. But Corry whipped. That fails to give the idea, however. If you can imagine a city "breaking out" upon the face of the earth, as the marks of small pox break out, it will be nearer the idea.

If you have never been to Corry, it will pay to go there. There is no trouble in finding the place. After leaving Chicago, in going from the West, or after leaving New York, in going from the East, just follow the crowd, and it will take you to Corry. The first sensation you experience on arriving, is one of suffocation—that is, if you are there on a hot afternoon, as we were. The air is filled with smoke from the burning stumps and fallen timber; with the overpowering smell of petroleum everywhere, on laden trains, in hosts of barrels on platforms, and drizzling over all things; and with the odor of all possible articles of trade which crowd the little depot platform. A depot so ridiculously ill adapted to the demand that you think of the camel going through the eye of the needle. Twenty-eight trains a day arrive at and leave Corry. With that facility for getting away from the place, it is no wonder that the landlord politely invites you to pay in advance. There are seven or eight hotels, and yet we saw numbers wandering around at night for a place to lay their heads. Houses are a secondary thought in Corry. They open stocks of goods beside the street, and then build a house over them. We saw a church in course of erection; the basement and main floor were placed, and service was to be held next Sabbath, roof or no roof. There are two national banks, several churches, an immense oil refinery, some as handsome residences as we know of in the West, a full complement of saloons and billiard rooms, express offices, news stores, a piano and music store, a newspaper office, and, most wonderful, only one lawyer! How he manages, we have no idea. Possibly, with agility commensurate with the spirit of the place, he argues both sides of the case. We were told that in every house in Corry there was a baby. A baby in every house is a well-spring of pleasure. And if that well spring be an oil well also, there is indeed felicity. The sum of earthly happiness must be, striking oil, a baby in every house, and only one lawyer.

The following candidates are announced for Republican support in Crawford county, subject to the decision of the primary elections of the party: Treasurer, Capt. D. P. Jones, Titusville; Sergt. A. J. McQuiston, West Fallowfield; Commissioner, B. G. David, Sagerstown; Darius Shreve, Bloomfield; W. W. Sterling, Sparta; Assembly, "Col." Geo. Bemus, Meadville; J. C. Sturtevant, Spring; District Attorney, Harvey Henderson, Meadville; Auditor, Jas. Irvin, Meadville: County Surveyor, T. W. White, Riceville. Mr. Jas. Brown, of Harmonsburg, has declined as a candidate for Treasurer, in favor of the two soldiers whose names are given.——Captain John B. Hays, of Meadville, has been promoted to the rank of Brevet Major in the regular army.——Among the speakers invited to address the people of Meadville, at the approaching celebration of the Fourth, and who, the *Republican* says, have signified their acceptance, are Hon. Wm. D. Kelley, of Philadelphia; Hon. G. A. Grow, ex-Speaker of the House, and Thomas M. Marshall, Esq., of Pittsburg. It will be seen from this list, that in Meadville, as in almost every other town in this part of the State, the Abolitionists have determined that the Fourth shall be celebrated in no spirit of unity, but in such a way as will minister to their miserable party ends.——Tavern licenses to sell liquor were last week granted to the following persons in Warren county: S. & W. Green, Kenzua; Perkins & Hollenbeck, Horton & Berrian, W. P. Shaw, G. P. White, Tidioute; G. W. Annis, Warren; Wm. McNair, Sheffield; J. W. Bump, Pittsfield; W. S. Cohell & Son, Brokenstraw; Solomon Carman, South West; Chapin E. Siggins, Henry Brayton, Youngsville; P. B. Henry and H. P. Stevens, Columbus borough. The following eating-house and mercantile liquor licenses were also granted: Philip Leonhart, eating-house, Warren; A. Morrison, mercantile license, Warren; John Honhart, mercantile license, Warren; Fry & Crosby, mercantile license, Columbus.——The Republicans of Oil City are very anxious to secure the member of Legislature for Venango county this year, and no less than five candidates are in the field from that place.——The New Castle *Gazette* complains that they have no public market place in that town. If our cotemporary were to visit the market in this city for half an hour, and see the exhorbitant charges made for articles, he would be ready to thank Providence that New Castle has no market place.——Previous to being mustered out of the service, Col. A. B. M'Calmont, of Franklin, received a Brigadier General's commission.——The Connecautville *Record* contains the following:

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A lamentable accident, resulting in the death of Mr. Silas Stewart, living about three miles east of Wellsburg, in Elk Creek township, Erie county, occurred on the 8th inst. It seems Mr. S. had been called by a neighbor for the purpose of shooting a *beef*, and while waiting for the animal to be brought, a neighbor had taken the piece, a double-barreled shot gun, and discharged one load at a mark, and had placed the gun on the ground, the muzzle resting on the dash of a buggy with the butt between the thills. The deceased in attempting to raise the piece, accidentally caught the hammer upon the shafts, and the gun was discharged, the contents entering his right eye, causing instant death. The deceased was a highly respected citizen, and leaves a wife and six children, and a large circle of friends, to mourn his untimely end.

At the Universalist convention in Connecautville, last week, "four associations were represented, the Lake Erie, the Philadelphia, the Pittsburg, and the Susquehanna. Nine clergymen were in attendance. Eight sermons were preached. The business of the convention was transacted in harmony. The reports from the various associations show a good degree of interest and denominational prosperity. The convention adjourned to meet in Girard, Pa., on the first Wednesday in June, 1866."

BABY WAKER.—The "Lafayette Gun," presented to the State by the distinguished friend of American freedom, and taken from Meadville, for what purpose not exactly stated, at the beginning of the war, will probably be returned to that out-of-the-way place.—*Pitts. Post.*

Come, come, Mr. *Post*, none of your cruel jokes at the expense of our neighbors. Meadville is not an "out-of-the-way place," but a right smart, enterprising and growing town, and if you were ever to visit it, you would be surprised at the improvements that have sprung up within a few years.——The annual examination of the graduating class of the Northwestern State Normal school at Edinboro, will commence on Tuesday of next week, and continue three days. The class numbers eight candidates, a larger one than has ever graduated at any one time before.——The appropriation of five thousand dollars to the Edinboro Normal school, made by the Legislature last winter, is being judiciously expended. A new fence around the grounds, setting of more shade trees, and various other improvements, are still in progress.——About three weeks ago, says the Conneaut (Ohio) *Reporter*, a dog belonging to Sylvester Tinker of this township, suddenly disappeared and nothing more was thought of it until about a week ago, when one of his ponies became sick and died, after enduring great agony for two or three days. Every symptom of the animal shows strongly that it has come in contact with some rabid dog and was bit on its nose. As yet the dog has not been heard from since its departure.——On Thursday afternoon, the 1st inst., as three little boys, sons of Joel B. Clark, Capts. A. Lent and C. W. Howard, were riding in a small boat in Conneaut creek, below the railroad bridge, the boat by some means was upset and all three were thrown into the water, some six or eight feet in depth. A brother of young Clark, being in the neighborhood, plunged in and brought him ashore almost lifeless, but the other boys, it is supposed, caught each other as they went down and were drowned, and their bodies were not recovered until about two hours afterwards. Freddy J. was an only child of Andrew and B. C. Lent, and nearly thirteen years old; Willie, son of C. W. Howard, was about ten years; and both were interesting boys, dutiful, courteous, little men. Both were buried in one grave the Monday following. Captain Lent, at the time of the sad affair, was at Bay City, Saginaw; the news reached him by telegraph and he immediately hastened home.——Mr. C. C. Griffey, late of the Girard *Union* and Corry *News*, has gone into the grocery and crockery ware business at Conneaut, Ohio.——The Jefferson (Ohio) *Sentinel* is "sorry to say that there are some wanton boys in that place who are guilty of throwing stones against and otherwise injuring the monuments in the burying ground." Those bad boys deserve a severe spanking, and if no one else will do it, we suggest the *Sentinel* editor as a committee of one to apply the dose.——A switchman, named Johnson, was killed at the railroad depot in Meadville a few days ago. Upon searching his pockets