

M'KEAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

VOL. 5.

SMETHPORT, M'KEAN COUNTY, PA., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1865.

NO. 38.

THE SUFFRAGE QUESTION. HOW IT IS CONTROLLED BY THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE FREE STATES.

We recently, says the Harrisburg Telegraph, in an editorial, referred to the history of the franchise question in the late slave States, showing how it was exercised in such States, and how, in the course of time it was restricted until the black man was entirely disfranchised. We present for comparison, a statement of the provisions in the Constitutions in the free States regulating the same privilege:

MAINE.

By her Constitution, adopted October 20th, 1819, gives the ballot to every male citizen of the United States of the age of 21 years and upwards, excepting paupers, persons under guardianship, and Indians not taxed having resided in the State three months. But persons in the military naval or marine service, quartered in the State, and students attending a seminary of learning, do not acquire a residence thereby. (Includes negroes.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

By her Constitution adopted 1792, still in force, gives the ballot to every male inhabitant of twenty-one years, except paupers and persons excused from paying tax at their own request. Freehold property qualifications were formerly required for office holders, but these are abolished. New Hampshire never excluded colored men from voting or holding office.

VERMONT.

which abolished Slavery by her Constitution, adopted July 4th, 1793, declared in her Bill of Rights that "all free men having sufficient evidence of the common interest with an attachment to the community, have a right to elect officers and be elected into office." By article 21st, "every man twenty-one years of age, who has resided one year in the State, who believes himself quietly and peaceably, and who will take an oath to vote so as in your conscience you shall judge what will most conduce to the best good of the State, may vote. In Vermont, therefore, a white man is as good as a negro, if he behaves as well—not otherwise.

MASSACHUSETTS.

By her original Constitution, adopted in 1780, gave the ballot to every male person twenty-one years of age, resident in the Commonwealth, having an annual income of three pounds from a freehold, or any estate worth £20.

By the amendment now in force the ballot belongs to every male citizen, twenty-one years of age (except paupers and persons under guardianship) who shall have paid any tax assessed within two years, or who shall be exempted from taxation. But by Art. 20 of the Amendment, "No person shall have the right to vote, or be eligible to office under the Constitution of this Commonwealth, who shall not be able to read the Constitution in the English language, and write his name: Provided, however, that the provisions of this amendment shall not apply to any person prevented by physical disability from complying with its requisitions, nor to any person who now has the right to vote, nor to any persons who shall be sixty years of age or upwards at the time this amendment shall take effect." Massachusetts, therefore, never excluded any man from voting on account of his color.

RHODE ISLAND.

By her constitution of 1842, gives the right of suffrage:

1. To every male citizen of full age, one year in the State, six months in the town, owning real estate worth \$134, or renting for \$7 per annum.

2. To every native male citizen of full age—two years in the State, six months in the town, who is duly registered, who has paid \$1 tax, or done militia service within the year. Hence in Rhode Island a native negro votes without a property qualification, while a foreign born white citizen cannot.

CONNECTICUT.

gives the ballot to all persons, whether white or black, who were freedmen at the adoption of her Constitution, (1818), and subsequently to every white male citizen of the United States, of full age, resident six months in the town, and owning a freehold of yearly value of \$7, or who shall have performed military duty, paid a State tax, and sustained a good moral character within the year. This was amended in 1845, by striking out the property and tax paying qualification, and fixing the residence

at one year in the State and six months in the town in Connecticut who were admitted freedmen prior to 1818.

NEW YORK.

admits to the suffrage "every male citizen" of full age who shall have been ten years a citizen, one year in the State, four months in the county, and thirty days in the district. But no man of color shall vote unless he has been three years a citizen of the State, and for one year the owner of a freehold worth \$250, over incumbrances, on which he shall have paid a tax, and he is to be subject to no direct tax unless he owns such freehold. Laws are authorized and have been passed, excluding from the suffrage, persons convicted of bribery, larceny, or any infamous crime, also persons betting on the election. No person gains or loses a residence by reason of presence or absence in the service of the United States—nor in navigation, nor as a student in a seminary—or in any asylum or prison.—A registry law also exists.

NEW JERSEY.

the first of those enumerated which absolutely makes color the test of voting, and in which slavery existed up to a very recent period, gives the ballot, by its constitution of 1844, to every white male citizen of the United States, of full age, residing one year in the State and five months in the county, except that no soldier or marine quartered therein shall acquire the right, and no pauper, idiot, insane person, or person convicted of a crime which excludes him from being a witness.

PENNSYLVANIA.

gives a vote to every "white freeman" of full age, who has resided one year in the State and six months in the election district, and has within two years paid a tax, except that a once qualified voter returning into the State after an absence which disqualified him from voting, regains his vote by a six months' residence, and except that white, free citizens under twenty two and over twenty-one vote without paying taxes.

By her Constitution, of 1851, limits the elective franchise to every "white male citizen" of the United States, of full age, resident one year in the State, excluding persons in the military and naval service and idiots and insane persons. But the courts of Ohio having held that every person of one-half white blood is a "white male citizen" within the Constitution, and that the burden of proof is with the challenging party, to show that the person is more than half black, which is impracticable, we believe that in practice, negroes in Ohio vote without restriction.

INDIANA.

gives the right of suffrage to "every white male citizen of the United States" of full age and six months' residence in the State, and every white male of foreign birth and full age, who has resided one year in the United States, and six months preceding the election in the State, and who has declared his intention to become a citizen. No soldier or marine shall acquire a vote being quartered in the State, nor shall any person lose his vote by absence in the service of the State or United States. "No negro or mulatto shall have the right of suffrage."

ILLINOIS.

By her Constitution of 1847, gives the vote to "every white male citizen" of full age, residing one year in the State, and every white male inhabitant who was a resident of the State at the adoption of this Constitution. Like provisions to those of Indiana exist here, relative to soldiers, seamen, marines and persons in the service of the United States.

MISSOURI.

By her recent Free State Constitution, excludes the blacks from voting.

MICHIGAN.

By her Constitution adopted 1850, gives the ballot to every white male citizen, to every white male inhabitant residing in the State June 24th, 1850, and to every white male inhabitant residing in the State Jan. 1st, 1850, who has declared his intentions, and to every civilized male Indian inhabitant not a member of any tribe.—But no person shall vote unless full of age and an adult three months in the State and a day in the town. The provisions as to persons in the military and naval service students, etc.

IOWA.

Every "white male citizen" of the Uni-

ted States, of full age, resident six months in the State, sixty days in the county, (with the exceptions of persons in the military or naval service, idiots, insane persons and criminals.)

WISCONSIN.

Every male person of full age, resident one year in the State, and being either—1, a white citizen of the United States, 2, a white alien who has declared his intentions, 3, a person of Indian blood who has been declared a citizen by an act of Congress 4, civilized persons of Indian decent not members of any tribe. (With like exceptions of felons, insane persons and soldiers &c., stationed in the State.)

CALIFORNIA.

Every white male citizen of the United States (or of Mexico who shall have elected to become a citizen of the United States under treaty Querearo) of full age, resident six months in the State, and thirty days in the district. The Legislature has power to extend the right to Indians and their descendants. [Like sundry provisions as above.]

MINNESOTA.

Every male person of full age, resident one year in the United States and four months in the State, and being either—1, a white citizen of the U. S., 2, a white alien, who has declared his intentions, 3, civilized persons of mixed white and Indian blood, 4, civilized Indians certified by a district court to be fit for citizenship. Like sundry provisions as above.

OREGON.

Every white male citizen of full age, six months a resident of the State, and every white male alien, of full age, resident in the United States one year, who has declared his intentions, may vote, but "no negro, Chinaman or mulatto."

KANSAS.

gives the ballot to every white male adult resident six months in the State and thirty days in the town, who is either a citizen or has declared his intentions.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Every white male citizen (except minors, lunatics and felons) resident one year in the State and thirty days in the county.

The following are the constitutions of the free States enumerated, regarding the negro suffrage to a greater or less extent. These are the New England States, New York and Ohio. Of these, the latter, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, are strongly "Democratic" and the rest favored their constitutions and applied for admission at a time when slavery ruled Congress and the nation. Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas and Illinois [seven] admit as voters those not yet citizens; and Michigan, Wisconsin, California and Minnesota, provide for voting by Indians. One (Massachusetts) excludes the ignorant, and one (Oregon) excludes Chinamen.

The Government has gone into the negro business to its extreme limit. It forces idle negroes at the South to work, and these negroes don't yet understand the difference between this sort of slavery and the other; except that the other supported them when old and sick, and the new system does not.

The freedmen's bureau is now finding homes for Southern negroes at the North. On Wednesday of this week a party of thirty negroes from the South passed through New York for Rhode Island. Their expenses were paid by the Government; and this the second supply sent to Rhode Island by the Government.

The old fashioned plan was to confine the Government, to its legitimate duties, designated by the Constitution and the laws. But the new order of things makes the Government the master of pretty much everything. It is furnishing cooks, house servants and laborers to individuals, when a healthier and better state of things would leave individuals to procure their own laborers. The Government takes negroes from the South, where their labor is needed, and transports them at the public expense to the North, where these negroes are not needed.

The New York Evening Post says "whole families of men, women and children" are transported by the government. Another party of fifty, sent on by the government a few days ago, are already in Rhode Island; and more are to be sent.

It is the intention of the government, with its new bureau, to drive off the laborers of the North, by forcing in the negroes of the South. What right has any public servant in this government to use the public money to transport laborers from one part of the country to another, for private employment? The people had better manage their own affairs—prosper most then. And the government had better confine itself to society.—Harvard Times.

The Cincinnati Commercial's Washington correspondent says that a man was arrested and sent to the slave pen the other day at Alexandria for saying that Mosby was a gentleman. What would have been the consequence had he said the devil was a good fellow?

THE MILITARY RECORD.

OF
LIEUT. COL. JOHN P. LINTON.
Democratic Candidate for Surgeor General.

We are indebted to Adjutant William H. Ross, of the 54th regiment, P. V., for the following succinct and graphic history of Col. Linton's military services:

HIS START IN LIFE.
Col. Linton comes of good Democratic stock, being the eldest son of Robert P. Linton, who has been a life-long Democrat, and who has served three terms as sheriff of Cambria county and has all along been a working partisan. He was born in Johnston, Cambria county in the year 1833, and is thirty-two years of age. He was a student at Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, but his eyesight failing, he was compelled to leave college. He did not, however, entirely give up his studies, but continued to store his mind with a vast fund of useful knowledge, gathered under such adverse circumstances, which have utterly deterred a man of less energy and determination. In 1853 his eye sight was sufficiently restored to enable him to study, and he at once entered the law office of Hon. C. L. Pershing, of Johnston, where for three years he was an indefatigable student. In 1855 he was admitted to the practice of law. Immediately thereafter he was taken into partnership with his preceptor, Hon. C. L. Pershing, in which he continued until 1858.

HIS SERVICES IN THE 3-MONTHS CAMPAIGN.
While in the midst of a successful career, the war of the great rebellion broke out, and the call was made for troops. Col. Linton was First Lieutenant of a volunteer organization, composed almost, if not exclusively of Democrats. The company at once elected him Captain, and he marched it to Camp Corinth, where it was designated as Company C, Third Pennsylvania Infantry.

HE GOES IN FOR THREE YEARS.
Immediately after the termination of three months campaign, under Major Gen. Patterson, Col. Linton, in conjunction with his present competitor, Col. Jacob M. Campbell, set about raising a regiment for the three years' service. This was accomplished, and Linton by the unanimous voice of his companions as the best man's service, was selected as Major. The regiment was designated the Fifty-fourth Pennsylvania.

WHERE THE REGIMENT WAS STATIONED.
The regiment was stationed for a long period along the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, guarding it as well as protecting the lower tier of counties in Pennsylvania. We may here say that, although for a long time unknown to fame, this regiment occupied and protected fifty-six miles of that important artery of supply for Washington and the Army of the Potomac. Its duty was the most arduous and trying, requiring the utmost diligence and watchfulness of both officers and men, but a single company at a ford, and these were miles apart, and each exposed to very imminent danger of being cut off and captured.

A SCOUT AND SKIRMISH.
Major Linton was stationed at South Branch, Maryland, the extreme western post, until Lee invaded part of Col. D. S. Miles' command. When Major Linton fell, the 54th was the only regiment of the command that escaped the slaughter. Back Creek Bridge, the extreme eastern post, being threatened by the rebels, Major Linton was transferred from the west and assigned to the command of the same. Whilst the rear guard of Jackson's army, marching to invest Harper's Ferry, was passing within one mile of Major Linton's post, Col. Campbell and Major Linton with thirty men pushed out from Linton's camp and suddenly attacking, threw the rebels into confusion, who, thinking themselves attacked by a large force, fled in every direction. Returning to his post, Major Linton continued to hold it in the very face of the enemy, being constantly in sight of their lines, and liable at any moment to attack.

HE GUARDS A BRIDGE WITH "GRENADE GUNS."
After the battle of Antietam, the whole rebel army was concentrated at Martinsburg, engaged in destroying the railroad. Major Linton, with a single company of infantry held a post guarding an important bridge, but twelve miles from the main body of the rebel army, and in constant sight of their scouting parties. By constantly scouting, by repeated skirmishes, by erecting log breast-works, and mounting "Quaker guns," by blowing up stumps, mounds and evenings to imitate the discharge of artillery, he deceived the rebels effectually as to his strength. In this he was of course sustained by Col. Campbell, who assisted in the deception by bringing his companies from other posts by rail to Back Creek, which were ordered and counter-marched in and out of the breast-works and in face of the enemy, with a great show of strength, when they were then quickly moved off to their proper posts, leaving Linton alone to keep the work. By these devices the rebels were deceived and held in check for two weeks, but early one morning they marched with a large force of cavalry, infantry and artillery to attack, and by their superior numbers compelled the Major to fall back slowly three miles to Cherry Run, where he was met by Col. Campbell with reinforcements. An effort was made to dislodge the rebels, but it failed, and Major Linton was left with two companies of infantry at Cherry Run, to watch the movements, and defend the best he could the road. By constant diligence and activity, suddenly appearing at unexpected points, he succeeded in his perilous duty. At Maynard's Mill he came unexpectedly on a large rebel cavalry force, three or four times his numbers, and completely routed them. Not content with hearing how affairs stood, Major Linton always accompanied his scouting parties and personally directed their movements, after penetrating the rebel lines, and once barely escaping them.

PROMOTED TO MAJOR-COLONEL.
At length the regiment was, in December, 1862, concentrated and relieved of its duties of railroad guarding. Lieut. Col. McDermott having been compelled to resign on account of ill health, Major Linton was, February 1, 1863, promoted to fill the vacancy. In March, 1863, we find the 54th at Romney, Va., Colonel Campbell having been assigned to the command of a brigade, Colonel Linton took command of the regiment. Here Colonel Linton assiduously labored to perfect his regiment in drill, and by his untiring energy and knowledge of tactics, made it, what we believe it was, among the best

drilled regiments in service, and certainly second to none in the Department of West Virginia.

HE COMMANDS THE REGIMENT.

Gen. Lee having again crossed the Potomac, Gen. Kelley concentrated his troops near Martinsburg; the 54th formed a part of the second brigade, of which Colonel Campbell was the commander. Gen. Kelley's force, after a heavy skirmish, being likely to be surrounded and captured, were withdrawn to the north side of the Potomac, leaving Colonel Linton with the 54th regiment alone, on the south side, with a swollen river in their rear and the rebel forces in front. But the rebels contented themselves with throwing a couple of shells into the regiment, and then withdrew. Thence the second brigade marched through the country to its old camp at Romney, Va.

HE REBELS AN ATTACK.
In September, 1863, Colonel Mulligan was lying in an exposed position at Petersburg, Va., and Colonel Linton marched to his relief. Whilst pushing rapidly along, he was suddenly attacked by the rebels, but they were promptly put to flight. Subsequently the regiment was stationed at Springfield, Va., from which place Colonel Linton made two efforts to capture the notorious McNeill, but infantry could not march as rapidly as cavalry, and McNeill escaped.

HE IS ASSIGNED TO THE TROOPS.
When Sigel started on his expedition up the Valley, the 54th was assigned to the Second brigade of the First division, and Col. Campbell took command of the regiment. On the 15th of May, 1864, the disastrous battle of New Market was fought. The 54th was on the extreme left, and although it bore the brunt of the battle was the last to leave the field. Almost surrounded—the enemy in front and on both flanks—the gallant fellows were at last compelled to doggedly yield. Whilst doing his utmost to rally his men and continue the fight, Col. Linton received a wound in the left thigh from a musket ball. He succeeded, however, in getting safely back with the regiment. Being now unfit for duty he received a leave of absence and went home. While he was absent the regiment marched up the Valley with Hunter.

HE COMMANDS A BATTALION IN BATTLE.
Promptly after the expiration of his time, his wound still unhealed, he reported to Gen. Sigel at Martinsburg. As he could not then reach his regiment, he was assigned to the command of a battalion in Col. Mulligan's brigade, which started to join Gen. Hunter, but was met by a large force of the enemy and compelled to fall back on Sigel. On the 3rd of July, 1864, the rebel Gen. Ransom attacked Mulligan and a brisk battle ensued. Col. Linton doing his full share with his battalion, a number of his men being killed, wounded and captured. The rebels were held in check. Sigel withdrew his forces to Maryland Heights, where he was besieged. In the meantime Col. Campbell had been assigned to the command of a brigade by Gen. Hunter, and Col. Linton took command of the regiment, which was now a part of Gen. Crook's command.

HE COMMANDS A BRIGADE AT SNICKER'S FERRY.
Gen. Crook's march to Snicker's Ferry, in the month of August, a battle was fought in which the 54th was commanded by Col. Linton. He was killed, when the command of the brigade devolved on Col. Linton, and he led the officer present. Soon after taking command of the brigade, and whilst personally superintending a movement of the troops, extricating them from the dangerous position in which they were, Col. Linton received a wound from a musket ball in the right shoulder. Yet he gallantly kept the field. Gen. Crook withdrew and subsequently marched to Winchester. Col. Linton, though suffering from his wound, still continued in the field.

ANOTHER BATTLE—A TALL AND ANOTHER WOUND.
On the 23rd of July the rebels attacked Crook's but were, after a good deal of fighting, repulsed. July 24th they renewed the attack. The brunt of the battle for a long time was borne by Mulligan's division, in which was Linton's brigade, and which he still ably commanded and nobly fought. Here fell Col. Mulligan. The fighting was desperate. Crook's fight his men with the courage of a lion, but the force of numbers compelled the stubborn old "war horse" to yield. The retreat began—not first, but it almost ended in a rout. The night was extremely dark. Linton, still suffering from his wound, kept together his small brigade, waded by hand fighting to but little more than a regiment. Slowly he fell back, keeping his men from stampeding. Rolling off the side of the road to ascertain what force was nearest, he stumbled over a stone pile and fell, throwing the Colonel violently to the ground. In the fall his wounded shoulder came in contact with the bill of his saber, which broke the collar bone. Although suffering the most excruciating pain, he did not yield until the danger was over. He was then sent to hospital, and obtaining a leave of absence, went home, but promptly returned to duty when his leave expired, although his wounds were still unhealed and painful.

HE COMMANDS A BRIGADE IN THE BATTLE OF BERRYVILLE.
One of the companies of the regiment having been mustered out, and the regiment thus reduced to less than a maximum, Col. Campbell, whose term of service had expired, resigned orders to proceed to Harper's Ferry for muster out. He was mustered out Sept. 3, 1864, when the command of the brigade devolved on Col. Harris—Linton being still in command of the regiment. Col. Harris having been injured by a fall, Col. Linton took command of the brigade and with it fought through the battle of Berryville, where the rebels were repulsed, Sept. 30.

HE LEADS THE 54TH IN THE BATTLE OF WINCHESTER AND IS SHOT THROUGH THE SHOULDER.
At the last great battle of Winchester, Col. Linton was destined to receive his last and most severe of his many wounds. Gallantly leading his regiment to the charge, amid a perfect storm of bullets, grape and canister, he received in his seemingly fatal right arm and shoulder, a canister shot, which deprives him of the free use of that good right hand which dealt so many blows to the enemy. For some time it was feared that he would lose his life while in the hospital, but thanks to a merciful Providence and a robust constitution, he recovered. His wound, however, continued to suppurate, and was not entirely healed until

after his discharge. On the 6th of February 1866, Col. Linton was honorably discharged, having been in active service from 1861.

HIS PRIVATE CHARACTER.

In private life there is not a man of purer character in the State than Colonel Linton—his fair fame not a breath of slander can be raised. Here, where he is known, neither friend nor foe can say a word against him. His credit and good will, as well as his patriotic and moral worth. Strictly temperate, sternly honest, truly honorable—these are his admitted characteristics. Socially, he is more gentle, affable and obliging than he. Fearless in the discharge of every duty, he cannot be swayed from his performance either by threat or entreaty. He will to do right, and does it, regardless of friends or foes. Colonel Linton is among the foremost of the lawyers of his district, although but a young man. He is a fluent speaker, a ready debater, a sound and logical thinker; a man of liberal education, thoroughly well versed in all the great questions of the day; a Democrat from the heart and honest conviction; a man well qualified for the championship of the great party to which he belongs, and entirely worthy of the hearty support of the people at the coming election. In him, should he be elected, the people will find an honest, capable and worthy officer.

ATTENTION, SOLDIERS!

We advise the Pennsylvania soldiers in the late war to read the report of the proceedings of the "Republican State Convention," held at Harrisburg on the 17th inst. General Lemuel Todd, of Cumberland county, a member of the convention, offered the following resolution: "Resolved, That this Convention, representing the loyal people of Pennsylvania, recognize the claims of our citizen soldiers on its gratitude and gratitude of its support to all others, and that in token of the sincerity of this declaration, it will nominate as candidates for office except those who have proven their loyalty and patriotism by service in the field against the enemies of the Republic."

This, after a protracted and heated discussion, was voted down by 111 to 171.

In the course of the debate on the question, General Todd said: "We have been professing our admiration and regard for the brave soldiers of Pennsylvania. Our lips have constantly uttered praises, and now consistency demands that we should sustain our declaration. Let us be honest and sincere."

"The position of the party and of the country demand that there should not be a dissenting voice in this Convention upon the claims of those who have saved our liberties and rights. Their heroic labors should be rewarded. Gentlemen, you must face the music. There must be a square up and down vote on this question. Let us see who are honest and sincere, and who are the hypocrites."

"I demand that this question should be decided, for upon it hangs the destiny of the Republic. If you ignore the soldiers, disaster and defeat, the most crushing, will result to the party."

To all of this Thaddeus Stinson and others were strong evidence in the Convention of the fact that they were strong evidence of the loyalty of the soldier in a body of over one hundred delegates.

The brave boys who proved their loyalty by going into the field to fight and conquer the rebellion, should note, also, the reason that Mr. Stevens and those who voted with him on the resolution, gave for their action in the premises. He said:

"There are worthy civilians, also, and I believe that those persons who gave their means to prosecute the war are entitled to our gratitude, and have claims as well as those who fought upon the battle-field."

This was putting money against blood, declaring him who gave a few dollars to prosecute the war, while he remained at home making thousands out of it, equal to those who, in patriotism, and equal in honor, to the men who abandoning home, family, friends, and business, gave up everything but life, and perilled even that, to save the country. Is not this enough to prove how shallow and hypocritical is the pretended love of the "Republican" party for the soldiers? Does it not show, that when the professions of that party respecting the heroic and self-sacrificing men who fought the battles of the Union are brought to the test, their hollowness is discovered, and that—

"L. K. Dead Sea Fruit;
They turn to ashes on the lip."
The truth is, and has always been, that the "Republican party," in spite of all their professions of sympathy and respect for the soldiers, regard them only as they regard the steel weapons in this city. The accounts are ample proof of it, equal to facts, equal in patriotism, and equal in honor, to the men who abandoning home, family, friends, and business, gave up everything but life, and perilled even that, to save the country. Is not this enough to prove how shallow and hypocritical is the pretended love of the "Republican" party for the soldiers? Does it not show, that when the professions of that party respecting the heroic and self-sacrificing men who fought the battles of the Union are brought to the test, their hollowness is discovered, and that—

A strong force of New York politicians are down here, whose business it is to save that State from the conservative masses. They are fighting at the prospect before them, and are all the middle. They get no countenance politically at the White House. They will return to their homes, like little boys' shoes.