



J. S. TODD, Editor & Publisher.

WEDNESDAY DEC 3, 1862

A Good Chance.

We propose to take Beef, Corn, Pork or Cord Wood from such of our patrons as wish to pay their subscriptions in that way; provided they do so before the first of January. Call in and see us on Court Week.

Political Imprisonments.

Free government in the United States, once the boast and pride of the American citizen, is fast drifting into anarchy and despotism, unequalled anywhere in the known world. The most wanton despotism that ever swayed the sceptre of arbitrary power in the old world would be put to blush at the lawless atrocities of the present Administration, whose ruthless officers have, not only set at defiance the sacred injunctions of the Constitution but have sanctioned and blackened our history with crimes, from which devils would shrink with horror; and to pass by these sanctioned outrages which cannot be named without a blush, we have the more direct acts of the damnable tyranny of those masters of the people, which have desolated innocent homes and brought sorrow and bereavement to the firesides of countless unoffending families. It would appear, from a recent order of the Secretary of War, says the Philadelphia Evening Journal, that all the victims of his outrageous abuse of power are to be liberated from the different Bastilles in which, for months past, they have been confined. Imprisoned without a hearing, and without "due process of law," they are liberated without trial. Mr. Stanton, by liberating these victims of his tyranny and of his treason to the Constitution without a trial, confesses to the world that they were imprisoned without cause, and that he was ashamed or afraid to have their cases legally investigated.

Among these prisoners are some who have been incarcerated for more than a year; in some instances, their health is impaired for life, their business at home ruined, and their families overwhelmed with grief. In some instances, deaths have been caused in families from which these prisoners have been dragged; in others, their wives and daughters have been driven to insanity. In two or three cases, we are told, the victims, themselves, have been rendered insane in consequence of their arrest and imprisonment. After all this, the Secretary of War graciously issues the mandate, liberating his victims without trial; thus saying to the world: "I did this thing; I can undo it. I am master of this people!"

Whether, as in the case of the recently liberated political prisoners from Illinois and Iowa, Mr. Stanton requires these long suffering victims of his damnable tyranny to take an oath that they will not hereafter prosecute him, we do not know. But however this may be, he and his co-workers in this sort of iniquity and infamy may rest assured that, as surely as there is a God in Heaven, the people of this country will hold them to a strict account for these outrages upon Liberty and the Constitution, and that retribution will as surely follow as pain follows the touch of fire.

Those of this class of traitors to the sacred provisions of the Constitution, who think to escape the "wrath to come" in this life, will find themselves sadly mistaken. Their "brief hour" on the stage of authority is slowly but surely drawing to a close. Dethroned justice will, ere long, be reinstated, and the due vengeance of outraged law will overtake its violators. Jeffries did not escape this vengeance; Stanton need not hope to escape it.

On last Tuesday the Mail Train eastward near Kittanning Point, struck Samuel Noel, throwing him over a steep embankment. He miraculously escaped with his life, but was badly injured in the head. The unfortunate man is still living but fears are entertained of his death. The gentlemanly Conductor of the train, appeared much grieved at the sad occurrence and lent his utmost assistance to the wounded man.

As We Predicted.

The same hinderances which more than once thwarted the plans of Gen. McClellan, are to be thrown in the way of his immediate successor. It appears to be the intention and secret wish of the Abolition party to defeat Gen. Burnside if they can, and then by the same fanatical "pressure" and the same jargon, persuade vacillating Lincoln to also "relieve" Burnside of the present command, that they may make way for the great "path-finder," the only idol that would seem to satiate the demands of the New England Radicals. While watchful interest and deep anxiety prevail within the breast of every honest man concerning the result of the every-day anticipated attack, we find the merry and jocular officials in and about Washington laughing, according to promises, to forward those necessary supplies for soldier and quadruped, without which the army cannot advance; while it is well known that every day of neglect and delay increases the chances against us and makes our success more uncertain. It is thus that these impotent pretenders would sacrifice the lives of their fellow countrymen in order to glut their own desires and to gratify party animosities. It is well understood and generally believed, that the removal of Gen. McClellan, was promised long before the election, but that it was thought to be Abolition policy to retain the young General in his command until after the 4th of November, lest his removal should affect the result of the elections in New York and other States; and we fear the same ordeal through which Gen. McClellan was forced to pass, yet awaits his successor.

Retaliation.

Gen. Lee has addressed a letter to Gen. Halleck concerning President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation in which he argues that it is unwarrantable, that it has never been recommended or endorsed by any military authority and that Gen. Halleck's own work never touches upon such a measure of war; and he also urges, that if the proclamation be not withdrawn that they, the confederates, will be compelled to retaliate upon the Union prisoners; that if any women or children shall suffer or be put to death by the insurrectionists, that an equal number of Union prisoners shall be murdered; thereby representing the instigation of a servile insurrection in the barbarous destruction of human life. Yet we understand the "old rail splitter" asserts his determination to adhere to his favorite scheme, and that his message, (which we have not yet seen) is replete with arguments in favor of this notorious proclamation.

Free Government.

Solon the great Law-giver of Greece, says: "That alone is a free government where the oppression of an individual or an injury to the lowliest citizen is felt as a shock to the Constitution of the State; and they alone are worthy of freedom who are as ready to rescue the oppressed and to recompense the injured as the immediate sufferer himself." How does that noble sentiment contrast with the tyranny and degraded state of our Government which has, without alleged offence or even without the slightest pretext, kidnapped and incarcerated innocent men in old Forts and Bastilles, remote from home, either to wear out a miserable life of solitary confinement or to undergo a hasty trial and be sentenced to death by the dictates of an arbitrary military authority?

James McClure, a brakeman on one of the freight trains of the Penn. Railroad, while the train was running between Petersburg and Huntingdon, attempted to pass from the front to the rear car, and it is supposed missed his footing and fell on the track, the cars passing over him killing him instantly.

In looking over the proceedings of Court in Washington county, we find the "culled" brethren predominate in the criminal calendar. Three or four cases of larceny, one of malicious mischief, one of assault and battery, one of rape and two of murder, in all of which the parties have been convicted. These are the fruits of Abolitionism.

We will endeavor to lay before our readers, next week, the President's message to Congress.

Eli Sheets, the murderer of Angely, has been sentenced for the second time, in the Courts of Beaver county, to be hung till he is dead!

We publish on our outside, a remarkable and statesmanlike letter from the pen of Ex-Senator Bigler, on the unfortunate affairs of our country's crisis. It is characterized by that fearless and outspoken tone which has always marked the course of that distinguished Senator; and although it will be sneered at by the Abolition party, it will, nevertheless, be hailed with a hearty response from thousands of honest patriots, throughout the Union. It will be seen that it was written in reply to an interrogatory from one of Mr. Bigler's personal friends as to his (Bigler's) position in regard to the United States Senatorship of this State. The Ex-Governor will not be a candidate for the United States Senate.

J. Kratzer intends to go to Toronto next week, where he will remain some time to take the pictures of those who wish to "secure the shadow ere the substance fade." John is a good artist, gentlemanly in his deportment and moderate in his charges; and we have no doubt but that he will be well patronized in that vicinity. Give him a call ladies.

Joseph Shoemaker, of Johnstown, who, was lately convicted at the United States Court, in Pittsburgh, for making and passing counterfeit coin, was sentenced on last Saturday, to pay a fine of \$100, and undergo an imprisonment in the Western Penitentiary, for the term of five years. The old man still asserts his innocence; and while the Judge passed sentence upon him he wept like a child. Attempts to procure a new trial were made, but it was not granted. It is said that many persons who believe him to be innocent, will petition the President to pardon him.

The country everywhere, is becoming infested with these cowardly, lazy miscreants who, to indolent to work, gain a miserable subsistence by pilfering and robbing. One cannot pick up a paper these days which is not replete with this species of crime. The Store of Messrs. Waterson & Sons, in Blairsville was broken open a few nights ago and robbed of costly goods to the amount of several hundred dollars. We sympathize with Messrs. Waterson, that the reward of their industry and frugality should be thus appropriated to the luxury and idleness of such wretches, who revel in covetousness and subsist upon ill-gotten goods—Hope they may be brought to justice.

A woman named Catharine Jackson, was arrested in Philadelphia, the other day for passing counterfeit money. She had in her possession, \$153, in counterfeit "threes" on the Citizens Bank of Pittsburg.

When you go to Johnstown, stop at the "Foster House," where you will be most welcome received by that model landlord, W. Richter.

Maj. J. S. Miller has been appointed Representative Delegate from Huntingdon county to the next Democratic State Convention. Maj. R. Bruce Petriken is the Senatorial Delegate from that district.

A. H. ECKER, one of the editors and proprietors of the Washington Examiner, has been appointed Revenue Commissioner for the Washington Judicial district.

The drafted militia of this State have been ordered to Washington. The regiments are to be immediately armed and put in route by their local commanders without further orders. Drafted men and substitutes who have left camp without authority are considered deserters, and if arrested will be tried and punished as such.

THE PHILADELPHIA SHERIFFALTY.—When the action of the Supreme Court in the Philadelphia Sheriffalty case became known to Mr. Ewing, he notified Mr. Thompson that he was ready to vacate the office and the latter was expected to take possession yesterday.

Nothing of importance having transpired, up to this date, in the proceedings of Court, we omit all till next week.

FORTRESS MONROE, Nov. 27.—On Saturday night last an expedition left Yorktown, consisting of three gunboats and a force of 600 of the 11th Maine regiment. They returned yesterday after having scouted ten miles beyond Mobjack Bay. They destroyed an extensive and valuable salt works.

Last Tuesday our pickets near Williamsburg captured eight rebels which were sent to Fortress Monroe. A flag-of-truce leaves here early tomorrow morning for City Point to bring down Union prisoners in charge of Capt. Joe E. Mulford, 3d New York.

Letters of a Traveller.

To the Democrat & Sentinel.

No. 7.

Having agreed with the landlord and paid him something in advance, and registered my name McCarty, (a name by the way that I knew the landlord and his family always hated,) I took a stroll through the town to see how it looked. The same stone or brick houses, with that or slated roof were still there, looking fresh and young, though some of them for aught I know may be one thousand years old. Lime is very plenty there, and they rough cast their houses with it, and whitewash them, or make them some other color, which gives them always a fresh and youthful appearance. The houses and the neighboring hills bore a different aspect to me from what I had anticipated, the houses were smaller and the hills less distant, the rivulets and streams contracted and the roads narrower. I knew however that they had not changed for hundreds of years, but myself had changed. As was said by one of the wisest and best of ancient poets in comparing Mantua to Rome,

"Sic caudus catulos similes, sic matribus hœdus  
"Noram; sic parvis componere magna solentam."

In the United States the streams do grow less, and sometimes dry up altogether, as the country is cleared out, by evaporation; but here undiminished by that cause, they murmur along unchanged for centuries. In returning to the Hotel the mail carrier had brought me some papers from the United States, which destroyed my inco, and compelled me to acknowledge the corn. After dinner the landlord drove me to see our relations; thirty years had made great changes on their personal appearance, but they had changed very little in other respects. The same misanthropic feeling that pervades the Irish character, still abounds among them in every walk of life, and many things that the people of other nations would lament as a calamity, these people religiously submit to, or else turn it into ridicule and jest.

In riding around the country I was utterly astonished to see the improvement in agriculture, land is forced to its highest yield by scientific farming and artificial manures. Guano, Gypsum, Bone-dust, &c., are to be had in all the little stores of the country. Like,

"A time there was, ere England's griefs began,  
"When every rood of ground maintained its man."

I attended a sale of land and stock in the neighborhood, and was astonished to see how high land rated. The farm consisted of sixty-five acres of good land, rented at \$5 per acre, the vendor was going to try his fortune in Australia, he had no lease of the land was nothing but a tenant at will, but it is understood that the landlord never ejects a man except for non-payment of rent, or for some gross misbehavior, if he would do otherwise his life would be in danger. The people there seem satisfied to purchase the tenant right, and take the landlords implied promise for their undisturbed possession, and even pay more for that than they would in the United States for the fee simple. This farm of 65 acres, with not very good buildings, sold very readily for three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, which would be, as I was informed, an average price for good land in the province of Ulster. There are other Mountaneous regions in this province where the land is not so good, and the farms are small. These the landlords are putting into larger farms, and giving them to the Scotch and English, sometimes giving a small pittance to the ancient inhabitants to assist them to emigrate, and sometimes turning them out of doors without any compensation whatever. These inhabitants are the descendants of the ancient Milesians who had been driven there by their frequent persecutions. It seems to be the settled policy of these landlords to eradicate this race completely from that Island. Tired with looking around, and afraid of the pressure on my appetite doing me bodily injury, the landlord and myself thought we would visit some of the fashionable watering places for a few days. Mounted on the everlasting low backed car we soon arrived at Newtownemivady, an antiquated town in the heart of a splendid farming country. Here as in other towns I thought the houses had grown "small and beautifully less" by age, but still they had a vigorous appearance. Here a branch rail road three miles long connects with the Derry and Belfast road. We got tickets for Port Stewart rather a famous watering place of that country. We stopped for some time at Coleraine a handsome town built on both sides of the river Ban, seeming to me to be the best business place of the size in the north of Ireland. We arrived at Port Stewart in good order, and located at Mooney's where the entertainment was good, and the landlady clever and landlady gentlemanly. In this watering place the houses are rather stylish and present a fine appearance, but what the people live by, is certainly a mystery to me. A great many of them, I am aware live by fishing, but there must be some landmen among them whose support does not depend on the ocean. There

were few people there for sea bathing, a few withered old maids, and gouty old gentlemen were the bulk of the visitors of that place. Why they ever made a bathing place there I cannot imagine, as it is rough and rocky, the salt water however is very strong there, more so than at Castle rock or Port rush. The Giants Causeway has been often so well described that I will not attempt it, suffice it to say, that as the legends have it, the Giants at an early day commenced to build a bridge from Ireland to Scotland. They commenced as if about to build a bridge rather than a causeway, as they have it arched along so far as they have progressed. Every stone is well fitted in, and is as large as a one story house, the arches are well turned, and sufficiently large for small boats to pass under them. When they finished about a mile, they found the water getting too deep, and they abandoned the work. Certainly what they have done is a stupendous piece of workmanship, and would do credit to the Architect of the Royal Victoria bridge of Montreal, or Robbing of the United States. We returned in due time to Dungiven, and as it might likely be the last time host and I would spend together, we were determined to take as much out of it as possible. He, myself and a few chosen friends, made the night a good deal like Burns' description of Rob and Allen, when they came to Willie's brewing,

"The first shall rise to gang a w.a.  
A second, coward, loon is he,  
The first beside his chair shall fa,  
Let him be king among us three."

Who was king or who was loon, I know not, but one thing I do know, that I got up the next morning just like a person that had been drinking the night before. At the proper time I bade farewell to host, servants and friends, to some I gave a small donation of money where I could offer it, to others more sensitive, a piece of American tobacco, a walking cane or some other memento. They concluded that America was the best place in the world to make perfect gentlemen out of those that were not born such.

Adieu, VIATOR.

The Entire Rebel Army Concentrating at Fredericksburg.

A FIERCE AND BANGORARY CONFLICT EXPECTED.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC, November 27, 1862.

There is no news of importance or special interest to communicate to-day. As yet our advance is delayed from circumstances beyond the control of General Burnside, but these are being overcome as rapidly as possible.

Avaling themselves of the opportunity so unexpectedly afforded them by our delay, the rebels are exerting themselves to the utmost in the erection of earthworks and batteries, new ones appearing almost daily. They already have a formidable chain of earthworks extending along the ridges beyond Fredericksburg, and they can be distinctly seen throwing up others. In addition to these they have rifle pits arranged in convenient positions, evidently designed for the use of their sharpshooters.

A British flag is displayed on one of the houses in the city. Many of the citizens hereabouts claim to be British subjects, and urge that as a safeguard against the seizure of forage and the occupation of their premises by the military authorities. They are, however, all bitter secessionists, and aid the enemy in every possible manner, many of them having sons in the rebel army.

Our cavalry have recently captured numbers of rebels scattered through the woods between us and the Potomac, who were probably cut off from the rebels by the unexpected approach of our forces at that place. They are in a terrible state of destitution, many of them being hatless, without shoes, blankets, or decent clothing. There are still a number remaining lurking about in the woods, and the enemy's pickets remain along the river banks; but picket firing has entirely ceased, and the officers of both armies may be seen at any time along the shores scanning each other.

All remains quiet along the lines. The upper forts are quietly held by our forces, the rebels having made no demonstrations at those points for some time.

In Fredericksburg the stores and houses remain apparently closed up and the city deserted, except by a few of its male residents and the secessh patrol.

CAIRO, Nov. 27.—The Galveston News, of the 7th, says that Sam Houston made a secession speech in Branham lately.

Advices from Holly Springs to Saturday state that nearly the entire population had emigrated. All the stores and most of the private residences were closed. A small Confederate force was there, but not quartered permanently. The Federals occupy Hudsonville, seven miles North.

The Georgia Legislature passed a law recently for obstructing all navigable streams in the State. It appropriated \$500,000 for that purpose.

The First General Council of the Episcopal church, of the Confederate States, met at Augusta, Ga., on the 19th.

WHAT WILL HE DO.—We are often asked, observes a contemporary, in view of the late elections, "What will old Abe do?" We don't know what he will do; but we are free to say what he ought to do. He ought to hire a substitute!

The McDowell Court of Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27, 1862. The McDowell court of inquiry went into session at a quarter to twelve o'clock yesterday, General Martindale having been detained by important business in his department of Military Governor of Washington. After a closed session of three hours the following decision on the plan proposed by General McDowell at yesterday's session was announced.

The Court, having considered carefully the proposition of Major General McDowell, decide to proceed to the investigation in accordance with the following, making hereafter such modifications or amplifications as may be suggested by the course of the proceedings and may be deemed necessary:

To examine and inquire into any and all accusations or imputations of treachery or disloyalty on the part of Gen. McDowell, and to examine and inquire into his whole conduct as a general officer since—being the date on which Gen. McClellan assumed command of the Army of the Potomac. For the convenience of the investigation, the aforementioned time will be divided as follows, being periods of time when Gen. McDowell commanded: First—A division of the Army of the Potomac under Major Gen. McClellan from— to— Second—The first Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, under Major General McClellan, from— to— Third—The Department of the Rappahannock, under the orders of the President of the United States and the War Department, from— to— Fourth—The third Army Corps, Army of Virginia, under Major General Pope from— to— With a view to a statement of facts, and an expression of opinion, the Court will—First examine the correspondence of Gen. McDowell with the enemy's commanders or with any one within the enemy's lines; second, examine and inquire into the course pursued by General McDowell toward the inhabitants of the country occupied by the United States forces with reference to themselves or their property. Third, inquire whether General McDowell fulfilled his duty as a commander of those placed under him, and as a subordinate officer to those placed over him, giving hearty and to the extent of his capacity all the support in his power.

Fourth, inquire whether General McDowell has or has not failed to go to the aid of or send reinforcements to a leader, commander, and if he has so failed, for what reasons.

Col. R. D. Goodwin, who sent a letter from No. 66 St. Mark's place, New York city, Sept. 24, 1862, in which was published in a New York Sunday paper, addressed to Gen. McDowell, was ordered to be summoned as a witness in the case to substantiate his letter, which was ordered to be made part of the evidence in the case.

The Court decided that it will receive the depositions of the witnesses named by Gen. McDowell on the charge of drunkenness.

The Recorder was directed to advise a communication to the headquarters of the army requiring the attendance of the main witnesses, after which the Court adjourned until tomorrow.

General McDowell in the Court disavowed any desire to take away effect of the army in active service to attend witnesses, preferring, in his case, to suffer himself in the court from their non-attendance rather than deprive the government of their services at this time if they are needed in the field.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—The President yesterday went by special steamboat conveyance to Aquia Creek, where he was met by Gen. Burnside. He returned this morning by the same means.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue having heard the arguments of counsel in regard to the liability to taxation under the excise law of persons engaged in the manufacture of clothing, has prepared an elaborate statement, deciding that clothing is a manufacture subject to taxation at the rate of three per centum ad valorem, the value to be returned by the manufacturer, as established by assessors in the manner pointed out by the statute.

Petroleum oil, which rose so rapidly from twenty-five cents a gallon to a dollar and ten cents, has taken the back track again, and is down, as reported, to sixty cents. The rise was merely speculative, and somebody will make or lose fortunes by the sudden fluctuation.

On Wednesday of last week a seaman named Richard Sprout, residing in South Strabane township, about ten miles north of Washington, committed suicide by hanging himself.

WASHINGTON Dec. 1.—The President's Message has just been presented to Congress.

It favors African colonization. The opinion among the blacks regarding this project, it says, is gradually improving.

RETURNED.—Elisha Fultz, of Co. A. 11th P. R. C.

The Advisers of the President, the Detroit Free Press says, are urging him to call out a million of men.

Johns & Crosley's Cement Glass now for sale at H. C. Deane's.