

As in the change of Administrations it is a custom, and indeed a necessity, for the new man to give his constituents some idea, no matter how general, of the course he intends to pursue, so it is expected of one who takes upon himself the responsibility of conducting a public journal—and both for the same reason. The influence of an Administration can change the whole policy and feeling of a nation; and, knowing this, the people claim it as a right that they should be apprised at its commencement of the course to be pursued, in order that they may better understand the principles upon which future acts will be based. This is right. The Journal, although of less importance, has a great influence in the forming of opinions, for it is upon intelligence received through it that people base their opinions. Feeling this to be the case, we have thought it well to give a slight indication of the general principles that shall control it, retaining the right of expressing our approval or disapproval of any act, measure or policy of any party, clique or club, and of persons so far as their course affect the people.

As regards party, we are Republican—uncompromisingly so—and those who know what Republicanism means need no further exposition of the principles to be supported by the Journal. Although, at the present time, there is not so much need for the drawing of dividing lines, yet it is always policy never to forsake, for a moment, adherence to principles which we believe are founded upon truth and justice, and to have no affiliation with men or principles that are opposite—avoiding the doing of evil that good may result.

Being a stranger in the place, we have no personal or local prejudices, no cause for revenge upon any one, and shall not attempt to influence the vote of any man from personal considerations, but shall always do that which will best serve to advance the principles of the Republican party.

Republicans of Potter, we desire your cooperation in the work of putting into the hands of every man in the county a copy of the Journal. "Little Potter" came up nobly to vindicate her appreciation of Republican principles at the last election, and we desire to have it always thus. But, during the peculiar excitement now raging, papers, who have given to those affected by love for "Southern rights" all the aid and comfort possible, will make use of the vilest means to embitter the people against the ruling men; and, as they represent the principles of the "Free Union Party," those principles will suffer if there is not some counteracting influence, or some channel open through which people may learn the truth.

Fellow-Republicans, what will you do for the cause? You claim to love the principles of your party, will you show that you are sincere in your professions by promptly answering with your own name and that of your neighbors. We are unacquainted with the people of the county and we look to you for much. Try and see if you can not raise a Club of Ten or Twenty in your district, the price is small, only One Dollar, there is no one so poor but that they can well afford to take their county paper. Try it.

It is a custom for Editors to promise much at the beginning, we will be more moderate, and perhaps, as you are generally disappointed one way or the other, we may be able to disappoint you in an agreeable manner. We will endeavor to select good articles for every department interesting to our readers, give them a synopsis of everything of importance or interest that may transpire, and in fine give all that can reasonably be expected of a country newspaper.

The credit system is carried to an alarming extent in our country, and it has caused some of the best men many hours of anxious study in attempting to devise a plan that should do away with it. They have not succeeded, and it is left for the individual to adopt his own rule of safety. Of all classes who have suffered most from it the printer is chief: for the reason that his business relations are with so many, for so small an amount comparatively, and with individuals as a general thing, with whom he is unacquainted and never expects to see. The smallness of the amount causes subscribers to think that it is not so important that they be regular in their payments. This is a great mistake; the printer's income is, in a great measure derived from these small amounts, and unless he receives them he must cease to publish.

Believing the principle upon which this system is based to be wrong we have concluded to adopt the ready-pay system to all those out of the village except some with whom we have other business—and our village subscribers we will endeavor to see at an early date. When we say ready-pay we do not mean to require Cash payment exclusively, but that which serves as an equivalent. All kinds of produce will be taken, as their are many things which we need that will require cash to purchase if we do receive them in trade. We will send the paper until the first week in July to all who are on the List whether they have paid or not, and then cross off all who do not pay or make some arrangement, by which we will be secure. We have changed the price to One Dollar, it being a sum much more convenient to send by mail, and for which we can better afford the paper than at the former price and take our pay whenever our subscribers feel the stings of conscience.

Those who have paid in advance to the former proprietor, will receive credit therefor. Advertisements and Cards will be continued, unless ordered out; contracts fulfilled, except in one or two cases of doubtful character.

During these peculiar and trying times it is worthy to see the attempts of a portion of the Northern press to sow the seed of dissatisfaction among the troops by charging fraud upon the officers of both State and National Governments. The Editors are generally of the Opposition party, disappointed office-seekers, or worn-out politicians, who have all at once become strangely conscientious as regards the disposal of public funds. Those of them who have had office, have no doubt been so corrupt as to lose all faith in the integrity of public men, and have come to think that they all are of necessity dishonest. They think they will steal a march upon the present office-holders by boldly charging them with fraud and challenging an investigation; this is followed by a letter from some irresponsible person, hinting at some fraud he thinks he has partially discovered. All this, bearing upon its face some show of honesty of purpose, causes people to look with suspicion upon the administration and produces fear of and a lack of sympathy with public measures whose success is necessary for the best interests of the country.

The last charge started, is that Gov. Curtin is connected with the clothing contract frauds, and that during the war excitement he and his Administration intended pocketing a small fortune of the States' spare change. Several papers, that think more of selling a few extra copies than of being honest to their subscribers and their country, carried this story all over the State, heaping on the accusations of fraud, without the least regard as to their truth. It appears pretty evident, from all accounts, that there has been fraud practised in the purchase of clothing for troops, but whether the Governor was connected with or had control over it, is not so evident, and it is unjust and the course of cowardice to adjudge a man guilty until proven to be so—the burden of proof always rests with the accuser. The Governor has appointed Commissioners of investigation to see if there has been fraud and if so to have the perpetrators punished. The Commissioners are men from both parties who have heretofore held honorable positions with credit, and from their report we will no doubt find with whom the fault lies. The appointing of these Commissioners evidences a fearless spirit on the part of the Governor, and it would be well for the cause and the honor of the State if a certain class of men would keep their evil counsel and surreis to themselves until their is something authentic published.

From the Tribune of Monday. The movement on Harper's Ferry has fairly begun, and will soon be heard of through its results. The general plan of it was given on Saturday; it includes an advance from three directions upon the Ferry, and is assisted by the checking presence of Gens. Butler and McDowell in positions where they must prevent the enemy from uniting its scattered forces. Several regiments were on their way from Washington yesterday, and others, including the Rhode Island regiment, were to break up their camps in the night and rapidly move on. Mr. Gen. Banks is today to take command at Baltimore. Gen. Cadwalader, whom he relieves, is to conduct a column from the Relay House to support Gen. Patterson, who moves by way of Hagerstown and Frederick. The Rebels have mined the bridges at Harper's Ferry and Sheperdstown, and have destroyed that at Point of Rocks. They are clearly in expectation of an immediate and formidable attack. They have been relying much upon their knowledge of the concealed treason in Maryland, which they intended to make useful at the right moment, and they confidently believed that the Administration had that faith in the professions of loyalty from the Maryland Secessionists that they would leave them to plot unmolested; they waited too long before calling on the traitors of Maryland to rise, and now they can have no hope of taking us unawares.

Therefore, though the explicit details of this advance movement cannot be communicated, enough is known to show that a long stride will soon be taken toward the recovery of the property of the United States, and that a terrible blow will be struck upon the forehead of rebellion. WASHINGTON, June 10.—There will be 10,000 Federal troops in Baltimore in thirty-six hours. The city is in fermentation, and preparations are being made for a traitorous rising. Arms are stored in private houses, and nightly drills have been going on. At the first symptom of uprising the city will be bombarded from Fort McHenry. This is on authority.

ARMY ITEMS.

The N. Y. Tribune thus closes an article in relation to Col. Ellsworth's murder in Alexandria:

"The poor wretch by whose murderous hand Col. Ellsworth fell, probably was not aware whose life he had taken. He saw only a soldier of the United States who had pulled down the visible sign of riot and insurrection, and, obedient to the savage instinct which governs him as well as his masters, he shot him down when sure there was no time for defense and no possibility for escape. The kindly rains of Heaven washed out the blood of the Massachusetts men from the streets of Baltimore, though no Massachusetts man who bears a musket in this war can ever forget those crimson stains. Do our New York Firemen need a visible evidence of the manner of the death of him who mustered and trained them and led them out for this war? We are sure they do not need it, and yet we beg them to cherish sacredly the traitor's flag that is filled with his blood, and let the South learn to tremble and grow pale at the sight of its crimson folds when they go to battle with the war-cry of REMEMBER ELLSWORTH!"

The following filial and patriotic letter is the last known to have been written by the lamented Col. Ellsworth:

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1861. MY DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER.—The Regiment is ordered to move across the river to-night. We have no means of knowing what reception we are to meet with. I am inclined to the opinion that our entrance to Alexandria will be hotly contested, as I am just informed that a large force arrived there to-day. Should this happen, My dear parents, it may be my lot to be injured in some manner. Whatever may happen, cherish the consolation that I was engaged in a sacred duty; and to-night thinking over the probabilities of to-morrow, and the occurrences of the past, I am perfectly content to accept whatever my future may be, confident that he who notheth even the fall of a sparrow will have some purpose in the fate of one like me. My darling and ever loved parents, good bye. God bless, protect and care for you. ELMER.

Great dissatisfaction exists among the Rebel forces and daily desertions occur. Those coming from the Rebel camp say that the men are dissatisfied, and are willing to leave their arms and fly to the North the first chance they get. Every day brings us news of the continual escape of slaves from the Southern States. Slaves in the Border States not being worth one-third the money that they were some six months since. Those who take refuge in United States forts are held as contraband goods, and the owners who come after them are made prisoners of war.

Every man who offers his services to his country in the present crisis, and is mustered into service, will be entitled to land warrants in addition to his regular pay, even if the war is closed in thirty days. Privates will receive 100 acres each; officers larger tracts in proportion to the rank they hold.

Tennessee and North Carolina have both seceded, coming out boldly for the traitors. The Union men in the eastern section of Tennessee refuse to act with the secessionists and they will probably cause trouble at home. The Pine Knot State appears to have no care for either party, if they can only be undisturbed.

Mr. Prentice, of the Louisville Journal, writes to his brother in Washington, expressing the opinion that Kentucky will go out of the Union, and asserts his determination to die in his tracks before he will surrender his position as a Union man, or desert his business.

Fort Pickens is considered safe. Gen. Bragg has withdrawn his forces, and the blockade is effectual and perfect. It was thought possible that Gen. Bragg might bring up the forces and attack the fort which could but result in great loss to the Rebels.

The Postmaster General has issued an order suspending all communication with the seceded States on and after the 31st instant. Wheeling, Va., and that section of country, are not included in the order, and the mails thence will be dispatched as usual.

Hon. Anson Burlingame has been refused acceptance as Minister to Austria by that Government. Austria does not wish to have one who has been so closely identified with the cause of Freedom watching her despotic course.

Col. Kelly, who was reported as mortally wounded at the rout of the Rebels at Phillips, Va., has partially recovered and is considered out of danger by his physicians.

Gen. Harney has been recalled from the command of Missouri and Gen. Lyon appointed. This gives great joy to the Union men there and will serve to strengthen the cause.

A Union Convention was to be held in Wheeling, Va., on Tuesday of this week. Delegates from all the western counties and some of the eastern had been elected. Three hundred German Turners, a few days since, left Mississippi and Louisiana to join the Federal troops at St. Louis.

The transportation of provisions to the seceded States has been stopped by the Government.

Perfect confidence is felt in the ability of the Federal troops, under Maj. Gen. Banks, to prevent a union of the Baltimoreans with the other Rebels.

The Volunteers—Why they Returned.

Mr. Editor:—I find in the Journal, of May 30th, an article under the above heading, from which we extract the following: "I wish to first brand the whole forty-nine as deserters, traitors to their country and their country's cause; next to pronounce every story and complaint of hardship and abuse, as an absolute falsehood."

What bright visions of fame must have floated before the imagination of the writer as he contemplated those forty-nine deserters annihilated, and consigned to an eternity of disgrace by that single dash of denunciatory eloquence. The Bull of excommunication that Pio Nip hurled at Victor Emmanuel sinks into insignificance in comparison. All true patriots must regret that he chooses such an ignoble foe. Had he directed his shafts at the leaders of the Southern Confederacy, Scott's occupation would have been gone, the incipient laurels would have been plucked from his hoary locks; to have matured on the youthful brow of the great exterminator, and concealed his modest blushes as he receives the adulations of a grateful people. But inhuman beings are apt to mistake their abilities; so with our hero; his diffidence prevented him from choosing an antagonist worthy his might; his powers were expended on an insignificant enemy, and the tide of crimson war still rolls on. Alas for human errors! But leaving our hero to his laurels "that be, and that might have been," let us turn to the consideration of the article under consideration.

Of that I have only to say that it deserves notice only because it appears in a public journal. Its pretended account of difficulties in the company, is glib and untrue; its statement of the reasons why the Volunteers returned, is totally false; while its denunciations of individuals are too contemptible to excite any other emotion than that of amusement.

In the same issue of the Journal is an article entitled "Our Disgrace," over the initials of a prominent citizen of Coudersport. In this article, in blissful ignorance of the facts, we are branded as deserters, and the people of Potter are told that they are forever disgraced unless they compel us to return to what the writer is pleased to call, our "post of duty." Under most circumstances, those forty-nine deserters claim to have sufficient intelligence to determine where the "post of duty" is, and with all the information we could obtain on the subject, we could not, for the time being, discover that mythical support to be in any other place than Potter county. Now, gentlemen, what was the occasion of being thus frightened from your property, and of calling hard names? Is it necessary to the keeping up of your patriotism, that you call some one traitor, etc., if so, fire away.

But here is a simple statement of the facts, I believe, in ignorance of which, those charges were made: As is well known, near a hundred young men from Potter responded to the call of the President for Volunteers. We arrived in Harrisburg just before the three months' requisition was full, and were told almost immediately by Col. Kane that we were not taken into the three months' regiments. We then supposed that our chance was good for three years, and when we read the letter of Sec. Cameron to Gov. Curtin, requesting that in making up the two remaining regiments for three years, the preference be given to Allegheny and other western counties including the "Wild Cat" district, we felt morally certain that we should have a chance to fight, but the three years' quota was made up and we were excluded. Notwithstanding this, we were told from day to day that we were to be sworn in immediately; that all we were waiting for was the arrival of a mustering officer from Washington, etc. We were thus thrown entirely out of the U. S. service, and were asked to enter the service of the State. We were indignant at not having been received into the national service as we had been led to believe we should be; we were aware of the treatment of the Pennsylvania volunteers, and under all those circumstances playing soldier in the State militia was not in accordance with our ideas.

At this juncture Gov. Curtin visited the Camp, called the "wild-cats" around him, and after explaining the nature of the State service, he continued nearly in the following words: "You have done your duty, and now under the circumstances, if any one wishes to return home he can have an honorable discharge, and I wish it distinctly understood that in no case can any disgrace attach to any for so doing." We supposed then, that Gov. Curtin was good authority in this matter; and notwithstanding the anathemas that have been hurled at us through the Journal, and otherwise, I am inclined to the same opinion yet. Perhaps those forty-nine men were cowards, but a part of them enlisted at Elmira because they found an opportunity there by which they would have a chance to meet the Southern Rebels; and others are talking of going there; not as a dire necessity to prove their bravery, and escape the frowns of treason and cowardice, but because they wish to serve their country.

We say to any who may feel disgraced by our conduct, that we did all that we thought our duty required of us, that we alone are responsible for our acts, and that we are willing to accept all the disgrace that may attach to them. We acted upon our individual responsibility; we fear no censure, and will submit to no dictation.

S. S. GREENMAN.

THOSE "EXTRACTS."

By request, we copy the following card and editorial from the Harrisburg Daily Telegraph, May 21:

EDITOR TELEGRAPH.—Being among those who have left the "Potter Rifles" for home, we wish to make a plain statement of the facts that have led us to take this step. Soon after the call of the President for the first quota of men from our State, we had an opportunity of enlisting, believing that the flag of our nation was endangered, we readily rushed to its support. We were told to take no clothing with us excepting such as we wore, as the Government would supply us immediately on our arrival in camp. Our march for seventy-five miles was through a new country, over rough roads, rendered muddy by recent and heavy rains. We arrived at the railroad station covered with mud, wet, weary and foot sore, nearly in this condition we entered Camp Curtin.

We expected on our arrival here to be indulged, not with the comforts of home, but at least with clean clothes and a sufficient supply of healthy food, and to be mustered into service and placed under drill. We have been here about three weeks, and no member of our company has received a single article of clothing, and during a part of that time, ninety-six men have subsisted on the rations of seventy-seven. We were enlisted for three months' service; we came before that requisition was full; we were not received. Twenty-one of our men then went home, many of us were indignant at them for this course, believing that true policy required us to enlist for the war. A full company expressed our willingness to serve for that time, yet we were still kept out of the service and kept in rags.

All this we could bear; hunger, cold and fatigue could be endured; but we had loved our State as we did our mothers; we were proud of her reputation and jealous of her honor, and when we received news from Washington, and the camps below us, of the situation of our men, and the jeers at the "ragged army of Pennsylvania," we determined that we would not be the passive instruments whereby that honor was to be further prostrated. We are ready to serve our country for the war—we are ready to face the enemy on any battle field—and we are ready to submit to all the necessary exposure and privations of a soldier's life; but we request—aye, demand—to be treated with decency, and as men.

For the ladies of Harrisburg and all other places who have manifested an interest in our welfare, we tender our sincere thanks; their efforts have been a link binding us to the homes we left behind us, and preventing us from forgetting that we were yet surrounded by the luxuries of civilized society.

With this statement of facts we are willing to submit our actions to the impartial judgment of the people of the State and of the nation. POTTER COUNTY.

GOING HOME.—The Potter Rifles, a company of fine-looking, able-bodied and intelligent men, who arrived here some three weeks ago, and have remained in Camp Curtin up to this time in a ragged and starving condition, yesterday disbanded owing to their non-acceptance by the Governor, and about fifty of them determined to return home. We print in another column a well-written and patriotic card from the Rifles, explanatory of their action, and descriptive of their life in Camp, which speaks for itself. It is to be regretted that the country has, by the injudicious course of the "powers that be," lost the services of a body of men who are not surpassed in gallantry or patriotism by any troops in the volunteer service.

And also the following, published in the same paper of May 25:

CAMP CURTIN, May 25, 1861. The undersigned members of the Potter County Rifles have been appointed by their comrades a committee to correct the mis-statements of a card which appeared in your paper of yesterday.

It is true that we had a weary march and suffered many hardships both on the seventy-five miles walk over the mountains spoken of, and coming down the river on the rafts; but it is not true that at any time since our arrival in camp ninety-six men have subsisted on the rations of seventy-seven. It is also untrue that "not a single article of clothing has been furnished to any member of the company." On the contrary every man while here who desired it, was furnished a change of a new and superior flannel shirt, kindly presented by our gallant commander, Col. Kane.

In addition to the garments in haversacks, previously supplied by the patriotic ladies at home, one of these shirts was seen to be carried on the back of each man who returned. Each was furnished a blanket on his arrival in camp. Seventy gray flannel shirts have also been distributed by the State. An abundant supply of provisions has been received daily, and it has been invariably of the best quality.

We do not deny that we have had to submit to some hardships, but in this hour of our country's need we do not think it to be the part of patriotism to swell the burden of complaint unjustly. We can appreciate the difficulties which impeded the action of the State authorities, and we express our opinion that they have done the best in their power under the circumstances to make us comfortable in camp.—John F. Wentz, Edwin Lyman, Coudersport; A. J. Chapin, Osway; Patrick Kane, Genesee; John Harden, Sharon; Wm. J. S. Allen, Pleasant Valley.—Committee.

BY WEDNESDAY'S MAIL.

Another Skirmish.

Our Loss 75, Killed & Wounded.

There are rumors of a battle at Williamsport, Md. The secessionists claim to have 15,000 troops at Harper's Ferry. The 2d Michigan Regiment was attacked when approaching Baltimore, with no loss to the soldiers. No disturbance occurred after getting within the city limits.

An engagement occurred at little Bethel, near Hampton Creek, between Col. Duryea's, Col. Townsend's and Col. Bendix's Regiments and some 400 of the Rebels who had batteries greeted, and everything arranged for a hot contest. The Federal troops charged upon the batteries but their ammunition giving out they were forced to retire. The loss on our side is estimated at 75 in killed and wounded.

All the Rebel's guns were silenced with the exception of one rifled gun.

Lieut. Greble is among the killed, had the back part of his head shot away when in the act of spiking one of the enemy's cannon.

It is feared Col. Winthrop is among the killed. The enemy's loss is supposed to be very large.

Our men fought bravely and well.

News Items from other Counties.

TROGA.—They have a youthful military organization in Wellsboro called the "Wellsboro Cadets," of which George W. Duttonworth is 2d Lieut. It is composed of boys from twelve to seventeen years of age, and numbers about sixty members. Their uniform is black pants, red shirts and glazed caps. They go through the evolutions of drilling in good style. There will be but one week of county Court.—The Democrat is crying for a "Union Ticket," as they all do in counties where democracy is in the minority. Did you ever hear of such a thing in a Democratic county?—There will be a meeting in Cherry Flats, on Saturday June 22, for the purpose of organizing a military company.

CLINTON.—The Lock Haven Bank is now issuing small notes.—On Friday night, a fine black mare was stolen from the stable of Philip Royer, in Potter township; \$10 reward for the horse and saddle.—An unsuccessful attempt was made to rob the Howards' Express office in Lock Haven, on the night of the 29th ult.—B. Rush Pettiken, has been appointed Colonel in the regular Army by the President.

WAYNE.—The Honesdale Guards have started for the field.—A barn of Edward Murrays, on Cherry Ridge, was set on fire by a little nephew and burned to the ground.—The Honesdale Band took a trip to Scranton, and surprised the Scrantonians with their good music.

LEWIS.—The Annual Meeting of the State Teacher's Association will be held at Lewisburg on the 6th 7th and 8th of August next.—The "Sifter Guards," the second company from Lewisburg started for Harrisburg the morning of June 5th.—They have formed a female Military company in Millburg, called the "Mrs. Lincoln Guards."—We see by the Star & Chronicle that a large number of the Union county people who settled in Missouri some years since and who have been improving the land, building houses and barns, and settling the country in a christian manner without the aid of slaves, have been compelled to leave the State.—Such is the curse that the present war has been inaugurated to perpetuate.

CLUBS.—To any one who will send us five subscribers and \$5—and who will also act as Agent and Correspondent to send us any item of news from their district, and to receive subscriptions—we will send a copy of the Journal free for one year, or as long as he continues to act as Agent. We desire to have every part of the County represented in our columns, and we can only do this through some one at the several Post Offices.

What we want is a short letter giving any item which may be of interest to a majority of our readers, notices of deaths, marriages, &c., avoiding all personal allusions. To any one bringing us Two subscribers and \$2, we will present a well-executed steel engraving Portrait of Pres. Lincoln.

LIST OF CAUSES for trial in the Court of a Common Pleas of Potter county, at June Term, 1861.

- G Smith, for use, vs S P Reynolds; Jones, Mann & Jones, for use, vs S P Reynolds; Potter & Brooks vs S C Lewis; Platt & Platt vs W T Jones; Dusenbury, Austin & Co vs S P Reynolds; Iffjan and Fanny his wife vs J Mann & Graves; Asa Downes vs Geo. H Wood; Roswell Owen vs L F Maynard; P A Stebbins vs W T Jones A F Jones & C Smith; Crittenden & Langdon vs Stephen Horton; S W Payne & Co vs W T Jones and A F Jones; James Shaffer vs Henry W May; S P Reynolds & Benj. Renwick; M Mattison vs H Lord & John Dwight; S Hall vs D S & E W Chappell & B Lewis; J M Lyman vs J B Davidson & S S White; John Hay vs Stewardson Township; G W Hollenbeck et al vs J W Rounds; L B Cole vs Henry H Dent; Joseph Stone Jr vs Holly & Adams; Peter B Dedrick vs Wm F Burt; H. J. OLMSTED, Prothy.