

THE JOURNAL.

Coudersport, Pa.

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1863

M. W. McALARNEY, Editor.

Gen. B. F. Butler on Slavery.

This distinguished gentleman has been for many years an influential member of the Democratic party—indeed, for a long time occupied the position of the recognized Democratic leader in Massachusetts. Sanctioning and supporting the entire Democratic creed, his views on the Slavery question were, of course, of rather a pro-slavery stamp. He was a delegate to the Charleston Convention which nominated John C. Breckinridge for President, and supported him against Abraham Lincoln, the successful candidate. But immediately upon the breaking out of the Rebellion, he took strong ground in favor of the Government, and has ever since been actively engaged in its service. His career in New Orleans is familiar to all our readers, and we need only say in reference to it that it has been such as to exhibit on his part great sagacity and administrative ability as well as the most devoted loyalty. Our only object is to call attention to the following extracts from his farewell address, issued on leaving the above named city. Read it, and mark his emphatic confession of a change of views and feeling in regard to Slavery. Yes, read it, Democrats, and profit by the fact that one of the ablest and most influential of your political persuasion was made an Anti-Slavery man by proofs brought before his eyes of the pernicious effects of the system of human bondage:

"If you desire to leave to your children the inheritance you received of your fathers—a stable Constitutional Government—if you desire that they should in the future be a portion of the greatest empire the sun ever shone upon—return to your allegiance."

There is but one thing that stands in the way. There is but one thing that at this hour stands between you and the Government, and that is Slavery.

The institution, cursed of God, which has taken its last refuge here, in its providence will be rooted out as the tares from the wheat, although the wheat be torn up with it.

I have given much thought to this subject. I came among you, by teachings, by habit of mind, by political position, by social affinity, inclined to sustain your domestic laws, if by possibility they might be with safety to the Union.

Months of experience and of observation have forced the conviction that the existence of Slavery is incompatible with the safety either of yourselves or of the Union. As the system has gradually grown to its present huge dimensions, it were best if it could be gradually removed, but it is better, far better, that it should be taken out at once than that it should longer vitiate the social, political, and family relations of your country. I am speaking with no philanthropic views as regards the slave, but simply of the effect of Slavery on the matter. See for yourselves.

Look around you and say whether this saddest, deadening influence has not all but destroyed the very framework of your society.

I am speaking the farewell words of one who has shown his devotion to his country, at the peril of his life and fortune; who in these words can have neither hope nor interest, save the good of those whom he addresses; and let me here repeat, with all the solemnity of an appeal to Heaven, to bear me witness, that such are the views forced upon me by experience.

Come, then, to the unconditional support of the Government. Take into your own hands your own institutions; remodel them according to the laws of nations and of God, and thus attain that great prosperity assured to you by geographical position, only a portion of which was heretofore yours."

The Attorney General has just delivered his opinion on the question, "Are colored men citizens of the United States?" The facts on which it is based are these: "The schooner Elizabeth and Margaret of New Brunswick is detained by the revenue cutter Tiger at Perth Amboy, N. J., because commanded by a colored man, and so by a person not a citizen of the United States. As colored masters are numerous in our coasting trade, I submit to you the question suggested by Capt. Martin of the Tiger, 'Are colored men citizens of the United States, and therefore competent to command American vessels?' As some incorrect statements have gone forth in regard to this opinion, we give the chief points. The Constitution does not define the word 'Citizen,' so the Attorney General examines history and the civil law, from the days of Rome down, for its meaning. His conclusion is that all free persons, without distinction of race or color, if native born, are citizens. A distinction is made between the inherent rights of citizens and the political privileges of certain classes. All citizens have a right to protection, but certain classes enjoy the privileges of voting and holding office. Hitherto, not only the public, but jurists have often confounded the two. A child or a woman

is a citizen, though not always privileged to vote or hold office. The papers conclude as follows: 'And now, upon the whole matter, I give it as my opinion that the free man of color mentioned in your letter, if born in the United States is a citizen of the United States; and, if otherwise qualified, is competent, according to the acts of Congress, to be master of a vessel engaged in the coasting trade.'

Jeff. Davis' Proclamation.

The chief of the rebels has issued a proclamation, which, after reciting various enormities of which the Union soldiers, especially General Butler and those acting under him, have been guilty, concludes as follows:

And whereas the President of the United States has, by public and official declarations, signified not only his approval of the effort to excite servile war within the Confederacy, but his intention to give aid and encouragement thereto, if these independent States shall refuse submission to a foreign power after the first day of January next, and has thus made known that all appeal to the law of nations, the dictates of reason, and the instincts of humanity would be addressed in vain to our enemies, and that they can be deterred from the commission of these crimes only by the terrors of just retribution:

Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, and acting by their authority, appealing to the Divine Judge in attestation that their conduct is not guided by the passion of revenge, but that they reluctantly yield to the solemn duty of redressing, by necessary severity, crimes of which their citizens are the victims, do issue this my proclamation, and, by virtue of my authority as Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the Confederate States, do order:

First: That all commissioned officers in the command of said Benjamin F. Butler be declared not entitled to be considered as soldiers engaged in honorable warfare, but as robbers and criminals deserving death; and that they, and each of them be, whenever captured, reserved for execution.

Second: That the private soldiers and non-commissioned officers in the army of said Butler be considered as only the instruments used for the commission of crime perpetrated by his orders, and not as free agents; that they, therefore, be treated, when captured, as prisoners of war, with kindness and humanity, and be sent home on the usual parole that they will in no manner aid or serve the United States in any capacity during the continuance of this war, unless duly exchanged.

Third: That all negro slaves captured in arms be at once delivered over to the executive authorities of the respective States to which they belong, to be dealt with according to the laws of said States.

Fourth: That the like orders be executed in all cases with respect to all commissioned officers of the United States when found serving in company with said slaves in insurrection against the authorities of the different States of this Confederacy.

In testimony whereof I have signed these presents, and caused the seal of the Confederate States of America to be affixed thereto, at the City of Richmond, Dec. 30, 1862.

JEFF. DAVIS.
J. P. BENJAMIN, Sec. of State.

A BOLD MOVE IN ARKANSAS.—Our forces have advanced to the Arkansas River for the first time, Gen. Blunt having established the Army of the Frontier in Van Buren on the Arkansas, at the western edge of the State, on Monday, Dec. 30. It will be remembered that always before the rebels when beaten have "fled into the fastnesses of the Boston Mountains." Gens. Blunt and Herron have for the first time passed this habitual barrier. In two columns, amounting in all to some 6,000 troops, in light marching order, with six days' cooked rations, with twelve-horse teams to the field-pieces and the caissons left behind, these energetic commanders pushed over the Boston range, marched forty-two miles without stopping, met three miles south of the mountains, pushed forward again, drove the rebel cavalry at Dripping Springs after a sharp skirmish, and instantly followed them up to Van Buren. Here they rallied, and were routed by a splendid charge led by Gens. Blunt and Herron in person. They escaped over the river, and there they are, Hindman and all, discouraged and incapable of much mischief at present. Three steamboats were taken, over 100 prisoners, and a large quantity of stores, ammunition, and transportation. All the people of that region are said to be tremendously frightened.

We have much from Democratic newspapers about the great revolution in public sentiment which is shown by the result of the elections of the present year, but we do not remember to have seen in any of them a statement of the aggregate vote of all the States; nor can we expect to, inasmuch as that aggregate shows a majority of over 60,000 for the Administration. Had our brave soldiers been allowed to vote, that majority would have been several times repeated.

Gen. Butler is now in Washington. He is soon to have command in one of the most densely populated slave districts of the South, where he will organize a corps of black soldiers, whose duty it will be to guard certain important lines of communication.

Gen. Rosecrans' Victory at Murfreesboro.

The following is Gen. Rosecrans' official dispatch in reference to the battle of Murfreesboro:

On the 26th of December we marched from Nashville in three columns, Gen. McCook by Nolinsville Pike; General Thomas from its encampment on Franklin's Pike, and Gen. Crittenden on the main Murfreesboro Pike. Our left and center with a strong resistance, such as the nature of the country permits, the rolling or hilly routes, skirted by cedar thickets and farms, and intersected by small streams, with rocky bluff banks, forming serious obstacles. Gen. McCook drove Gen. Hardee's corps a mile and a half from Nolinsville, and occupied the place. Gen. Crittenden reached within a mile and a half of Lavergne. General Thomas reached the Wilson Pike, meeting with no serious opposition.

On the 27th Gen. McCook drove Gen. Hardee from Nolinsville, and pushed a reconnoitering division six miles toward Shelbyville, who found that Gen. Hardee had retreated toward Murfreesboro. Gen. Crittenden fought and drove the enemy before him, occupying the line of Stewart's Creek and capturing some prisoners, with slight loss. Gen. Thomas occupied the vicinity of Nolinsville, when he was partially surprised through into confusion, and driven back.

On the 28th McCook completed his reconnoissance on Hardee's movements. Crittenden remained awaiting the result and bringing up trains. Thomas moved into Stewart's Creek. On the 29th McCook moved into Wilkinson's Cross Roads, seven miles from Murfreesboro on the end of a short, rough pike road, through a rolling country skirted by bluffs, covered with dense cedar thickets and open timber. Crittenden pushed the enemy rapidly, saved the bridges, and reached a point within three miles of Murfreesboro, his advance driving all the outposts to within sight of the town.

Thomas's two divisions closed up to Crittenden, and took position on his right. On the 30th McCook advanced on Wilkinson's pike, having to make his way through dense woods, meeting with a determined resistance. He got into position three miles from Murfreesboro, occupying the extreme right of our line. The left stood fast; the center advanced slightly, and were engaged in cutting through an almost impenetrable growth of cedar which separated them from our right, rendering communication with them exceedingly difficult. The combat and the roughness of the country had brought forward McCook's right division so as to face strongly to the south-east instead of being re-faced to face the south, with the several divisions between the center and right and sufficiently far in the rear to support, and if necessary, to extend it, the grave consequences of which were developed the next day.

The 31st found our left crossing the Murfreesboro pike and railroad, one division in front, one forming a crochot on Stone River, and one in reserve in the center; Negley between the left and right, and Rousseau in reserve.

The plan of the battle was to open on the right, engage the enemy sufficiently to hold him firmly: to cross the river with our left, consisting of three divisions (to oppose which they had but two divisions), and the country being favorable to an attack from that side of the town; but the enemy attacked the whole front of our right flank, which was partially surprised, and thrown into confusion and driven back.

Gen. Sheridan's division had repulsed the enemy four times and protected the flank of the center, which not only held its own, but advanced until this untoward event, which compelled me to retain the left wing to support the right until it should be rallied and assume a new position.

On the 1st inst., the Rebels opened by an attack on us, and were again repulsed.

On the 2d inst., there was skirmishing along the front, with threats of an attack until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when the enemy advanced, throwing a small division across Stone's River to occupy the commanding grounds there.

While reconnoitering the ground occupied by this division, which had no artillery I saw a heavy force emerging from the woods and advancing in line of battle three lines deep. They drove our division before them after a sharp contest in which we lost 70 or 80 killed and 375 wounded, but they were finally repulsed by Gen. Negley's division and the remaining troops of the left wing of Gen. Morton's pioneer brigade, and fled far over the field and beyond their intrenchments, their officers rallying them with great difficulty. They lost heavily. We occupied the ground with our left wing last night. The lines were completed at 4 o'clock in the morning.

The 3d was spent in bringing up and distributing provisions and ammunition. The ground is very heavy.

The following is the loss in General Negley's Division, at the battle of Murfreesboro:

From official returns it has been ascertained that the total loss in Gen. Negley's Division, comprising killed, wounded and missing, is 1,556.

The total loss in Col. Hambright's 77th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers is 300 killed wounded and missing; over half of the regiment is lost. Gen. Rosecrans has taken occasion to compliment the Colonel and his men personally for their conspicuous and unflagging courage under fire.

The 78th Pennsylvania Regiment loses 22 killed, 110 wounded, and 26 missing. The 79th Pennsylvania Volunteers were placed in the Reserve Corps, and only lost 4 killed and 11 wounded, not having been engaged during the hardest fighting.

The 71st Regiment (Penn'a Cavalry) lost 14 altogether—killed, wounded, and missing. The Pennsylvania troops all behaved splendidly.

The loss of the Rebels increases every day. Two thousand wounded Confederates were sent to Lavergne from here yesterday. Many more are left here, but they cannot be moved, as their wounds are frightful, and most of them will die. Just as I telegraphed, I learn that the town of Lavergne has been accidentally burned down; and so the Rebel wounded will have to be sent to Nashville, and thence to Louisville, for treatment.

The official report of Gen. Wright to Gen. Halleck fully confirms the story of Gen. Carter's railroad breaking operations in East Tennessee. He entirely destroyed the Union and Watuga bridges, with ten miles of railroad. Five hundred and fifty Rebels were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. Seven hundred stand of arms, and a large amount of flour, salt, and other Rebel stores, were destroyed.

Gov. Andrew in his message says that Massachusetts has raised 60,000 men for the war. The public debt of the State is \$5,352,000, the designated provision to meet which is \$5,096,000. The disbursements of the past year amounted to \$1,673,391. The collections of revenue have been promptly made and the treasury presents a spectacle of prosperity and strength usual only in peace.

The Rebels in Eastern Virginia are hurrying off to the South all the slaves they can catch, and on the other hand the slaves are making every effort to get within the Union lines. It is said that slaves in Maryland are refusing to work without pay, and altogether there would seem to be very little reliance to be placed upon the peculiar institution along the Eastern border.

Our Nashville dispatch of Thursday says that Murfreesboro is entirely deserted. Our army and Gen. Rosecrans's headquarters have advanced ten miles beyond that place. The Rebel army is reported to be at Tallahoma. Gunboats and transports are arriving at Nashville.

The Governor of Minnesota says that that State has furnished 300 men over her quota, besides crushing out the greatest Indian uprising ever known in the country. The Governor demands that the Indians shall be removed from the borders of the State.

Gen. Halleck thanks Gen. Rosecrans and his army. He says: The victory was well earned, and is one of the most brilliant of the war. You and your brave army have won the gratitude of your country, and the admiration of the world.

Gov. Robinson of Kentucky, in his message just printed, violently attacks the Emancipation Proclamation, which he thinks inflicts a fatal blow upon Kentucky, and unites the South in one inexhaustible hate.

Gov. Andrew has received the offer of a full cavalry battalion from California, to consist of four companies. The question of acceptance is now pending before the War Department.

The flag-of-truce boat to Metamora arrived at Fortress Monroe from City Point on Thursday, bringing down 300 Union prisoners, mostly cavalry taken at Dumfries.

A Baltimore paper says that Gen. Corcoran has advanced on the Rebels on the Blackwater in force, and will give Gen. Pryor an opportunity for a fight if he desires it.

We have disagreeable news from Galveston. On the 1st our blockading force was attacked by a number of Rebel gunboats, and a contest ensued which resulted in the defeat of our forces, the capture of the Harriet Lane and the destruction of the flag-ship Westfield. We lost a number of valuable officers, Commander Koushaw among the number.

The news of Gen. Sherman's repulse from Vicksburg is confirmed. Not finding the expected support from below, he was forced back to his gunboats, embarked under their protection, and was at the last accounts bound up the river toward Napoleon. His loss is stated to be 600 killed, 1,500 wounded, and 1,000 missing.

Through Rebel sources we are told that the Union force at and near Newbern is 50,000 strong; that Gen. Foster is about moving, his men being (on Friday) engaged in cooking their marching rations, and that probably Charleston, Wilmington, Goldsborough and Weldon would be simultaneously attacked.

On Wednesday night a party of Union cavalry and infantry from Yorktown landed at White House, captured a large number of wagons and animals, destroyed the depot and rolling stock of the railroad, burned a steamer and several sloops, boats and barges laden with grain, and sustained no loss whatever.

Richmond papers say that Bragg is at Tallahoma, 32 miles from Murfreesboro, where he says he will stay and whip the Yankees. Rosecrans had advanced six miles beyond the late battle-field.

The Paper Mills of the State of Maine are forced to stop manufacturing for the want of logs.

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N. B. The pay for the Goods must be on hand when the Goods are delivered, as we are determined to live by the motto of "Pay as You Go."

Just one thing more. The judgments, notes and book accounts which we have on hand must be settled and closed up immediately or we fear they will be increased faster than the usual rate of interest. Dec 11