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## THE PILOT.

GREENCASTLE:

Tuesday Morning, June 7, 1864.



### THE FUTURE OF OUR NATIONAL DEBT.

Many careful and prudent men look upon the increase of our national debt with some foreboding. Let us examine the whole subject fairly and see if we are not able to pay our present, but any reasonable further debt that the exigencies of war may compel us to incur, and that the payment will neither be difficult or excessively onerous. Let us see what are the facts. Unlike an individual who is unable to count with certainty upon increased ability to pay in the future the debt he contracts in the present—this country is sure to increase in wealth and population. It appears from the census returns, that the increase in the value of real and personal property in the United States from 1840 to 1850, was from three thousand seven hundred and sixty-four millions (\$3,764,000,000) in 1840 to six thousand one hundred and seventy-four millions (\$6,174,000,000) in 1850, or 64 per cent.—The next decade shows still greater advance in general prosperity and riches. For in that period, the yield in our gold mines, the extension of our railroad system and consequent openings of new fields for agriculture, our large immigration, and the stimulus given to every branch of manufactures and the mechanic arts raised the national wealth from six thousand one hundred and seventy-four millions (\$6,174,000,000) in 1850 to the enormous aggregate of fourteen thousand one hundred and eighty-three millions (14,183,000,000) in 1860, or 127 per cent, of which ten thousand seven hundred and sixteen millions (\$10,716,000,000) was owned in the loyal States. Is there any good reason to believe that we shall not continue to prosper as we have done—(except from the changes of war, which can only modify and not change the character of the answer to the question,)—that the nation will not continue to nearly, if not quite, double its wealth every ten years for several decades to come? We have but just begun to work our gold mines, and the vast body of other mineral wealth is still undeveloped. We have fertile lands enough for an empire, that the plow has never touched, and it is only in this generation that science and art has fairly begun to open the doors, and show the way towards our future material greatness.

But, experience of what others have done will best tell us what we may rightfully expect to do. Let us compare our position with that of great Great Britain during one of the gloomiest periods of her financial history. At the end of her great wars in 1816, her wealth was estimated at ten thousand four hundred millions (\$10,400,000,000) and her national debt of that time was four thousand three hundred millions (\$4,300,000,000) or more than 41 per cent. of her entire property. In 1861 her property was stated at thirty-one thousand five hundred millions (\$31,500,000,000) while her debt was three thousand eight hundred and ninety millions (\$3,890,000,000) or was a charge on the property of the country of only about 12 1/2 per cent. It needs no argument to show that the weight of the burden of this debt is now, but one third what it was when contracted.

We do not wish to deceive ourselves on either side of this question. Debt is always bad enough but we should look the fact squarely in the face, and accept whatever deductions we have a right to draw from them as truth. In spite of the war, we believe the Northern States are as rich to-day as they were three years ago. Such a demand for labor was never known before, and never before was it so well paid. War destroys, but our hand of industry has never for a moment ceased to create, and the creation will more than balance the destruction. Large as our losses of brave and gallant men have been, the population of the country has steadily increased; and unless some scourge such as never visited a nation should come upon us, unless we should be utterly destroyed, or dismembered and broken to pieces, by yielding to this demon of secession,—there

is no human power that can arrest our continued progress and development. All wars have ended as will ours. Let us hope that it may be soon; but when it is ended, and triumphantly as it must be, this country is bound to take a position in population, wealth, and vigor that will make its debt so small in proportion to its wealth that the most timid man will laugh at the fear that may have once overclouded his vision.—New Yorker.

### THE NEWS.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 3:14 P. M.—To Major-General Dix, New York:—We have despatches from General Grant down to four o'clock yesterday afternoon. There seemed, the despatch says, to be some prospect of Lee making a stand north of the Chickahominy. His forces were on the Mechanicsville road, south of the Tolopotomy Creek, and between that stream and Hawe's shop, his right resting on Shady Grove. Dispositions for an attack were being made by General Grant.

Wilson's cavalry had been ordered to destroy the railroad over the Little River and South Anna, and break up both routes from these rivers to two miles southwest of Hawe's Shop, were the headquarters of our army were established.

There is as yet no telegraphic lines of communication with Washington.

A despatch from General Sherman, dated yesterday, 30th, 11 A. M., reports no change in the positions of the armies. Some slight engagements had occurred subsequent to the affair of Saturday.

No intelligence from any other quarter has been received by this Department.

EDWIN M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 8:30 P. M.—To Major-General Dix, New York:—A despatch from General Grant, dated six o'clock this morning, at Harris' Shops, has just been received. It is as follows:—

"The enemy came over on our left last evening, and attacked. They were easily repulsed, and with considerable slaughter.

"To relieve General Warren, who was on the left, speedily, General Meade ordered an attack by the balance of our lines. General Hancock was the only one who received the order in time to make the attack before dark. He drove the enemy from his entrenched skirmish line, and still holds it. I have no report of our losses, but suppose them to be light."

Other official despatches, not from General Grant, were received at the same time, and give more details. They are as follows, the first being dated yesterday, May 30th, 8 o'clock P. M.:

"In the course of the afternoon, General Warren had pushed down on our left until his flank division, under General Crawford, reached a point abreast of Shady Grove Church.—Crawford having got detached from the rest of the Corps, was attacked and crowded back a little. The enemy then threw a force which appears to have consisted of Ewell's corps, upon Warren's left, attempting to turn it, but was repulsed.

The engagement was short, sharp and decisive. General Warren holds his ground at a distance of seven miles from Richmond. He reports that he has taken a considerable number of prisoners, and that there are many Rebel dead on the field. Of his own losses he has not yet made a report.

His last despatch says that the enemy were moving troops to his left, apparently to cover the approach to Richmond. On our right an active conflict has been raging ever since dark, but has just closed. As soon as the enemy attacked the left of General Warren, Generals Wright, and Hancock were ordered to pitch in, but do not seem to have got ready until after night-fall. No report have yet been received from them.

The other despatch above referred to is dated at 6 o'clock this evening, and states that in Hancock's attack last night, Colonel Brooks drove the enemy out of a strongly entrenched skirmish line, and held it. The losses are not reported. General Burnside's whole corps got across the Tolopotomy Creek last evening, and is in full connection with General Warren.

The left of Hancock's rests upon this side of the Creek. The Fifth Corps is upon Hancock's right and threatens the left flank of the enemy. General Smith ought to arrive at New Castle by noon, whence he can support Warren and Burnside if necessary.

General Sheridan, with Gregg's and Torbert's Divisions of cavalry, is on our left flank. General Wilson is on the right and rear, for the purposes reported in a former despatch. The country hereabouts is thickly wooded pines, with good openings.

"The indications, this morning, are that the enemy has fallen back south of the Chickahominy."

Nothing of a latter date has been received by this Department.

EDWIN M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, May 31—11:25 P. M.—To Major-General Dix, New York:—The follow-

ing despatch has been received from General Butler:—

"Yesterday all day heavy firing was heard in the direction of Mechanicsville. Six refugees from Richmond report that Grant is on the Mechanicsville turnpike, fourteen miles from Richmond. Yesterday they heard the firing, and that Grant was driving Lee.

"A woman reports that a meeting was held yesterday while she was in Richmond, to see whether the city should be surrendered or burned. The Mayor advocated a surrender, and was put in Castle Thunder.

"The enemy attacked my lines yesterday and were repulsed. To-day, all day they have been demonstrating against my works on Spring Hill, easterly side of the Appotomax, but are repulsed."

Nothing further since my telegram of this evening from General Grant

E. M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, June 2.—To Major-General Dix, New York:—A despatch from General Grant's headquarters, dated yesterday, June 1, at 10 A. M., has been received by this Department.

It states that about five P. M. yesterday, Sheridan, perceiving a force of Rebel cavalry at Coal Harbor, which proved to be Fitz Hugh Lee's division attacked it, and after a hard fight routed it, together with Clingman's brigade of infantry, which came to Lee's support.

Sheridan remained in possession of the field. He reported at dark he had considerable number of prisoners, and that there were many rebel dead and wounded on the field. He was ordered to hold the position, and at 10 P. M., the Sixth Corps set out to occupy it.

We have not yet heard from Wright or Sheridan this morning and do not know whether the former has got his troops to their destination. General Smith must be close upon Wright's column.

This morning the enemy are also moving a heavy column in the same direction. The order has just gone to Warren to fall upon their flank.

Wilson had a fight last evening near Hanover Court House with Young's brigade of cavalry, and routed Young, killing and capturing many, but there has been a good deal of artillery firing in that direction this morning.

Warren reported last night that in his fight of Monday afternoon, near Bethesda Church, Colonel Terrell, of the 13th Virginia, and Col. Wills, commanding Pegram's brigade were killed. Colonel Christian, of the 49th Pennsylvania, was wounded and captured; so was the Assistant Adjutant General of Ramsey's brigade. His name is not reported. Ten other commissioned officers were captured, and seventy privates. Sixty rebels were buried on the field.

On our centre Burnside reports his advanced line as being this morning within a mile and a half of Mechanicsville. No other military intelligence has been received by this department since yesterday.

E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

WASHINGTON, June 3—10 o'clock P. M.—To Major-General Dix:—A despatch dated yesterday, at 7:30 P. M., has this evening been received from General Sherman.

He reports that on Wednesday, June 1st, McPherson moved up from Dallas to the point in front of the enemy at New Hope Church.

On Thursday, June 2d, Schofield and Hooker having been shifted to the extreme left pushed forward to Marietta.

At the same time Stoneman's and Garrard's cavalry were sent to Alatoona Pass, which they reached and hold possession of.

This movement, the despatch says, has secured that pass which we consider a formidable one.

Movements are reported by the despatch as in progress which are not now proper for publication.

Nothing has been heard from General Grant since his despatch at seven o'clock yesterday morning. Telegraphic communication has delayed by a violent storm on the Peninsula yesterday evening and last night, and cannot be established before to-morrow.

E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

WASHINGTON, June 4, 10 A. M.—Despatches from Gen. Grant's headquarters, dated three o'clock yesterday, P. M., have just been received.

No operations took place on Thursday. Yesterday at 4 o'clock, P. M., General Grant made an attack on the enemy's lines, of which he makes the following report:

We assaulted at 4 o'clock this morning, driving the enemy within his entrenchments at all points, but without gaining any decisive advantages.

Our troops now occupy a position close to the enemy—some places within fifty yards, and are remaining.

Our loss was not severe, nor do I suppose the enemy to have lost heavily. We captured over 300 prisoners, mostly from Breckin-

ridge. Another later and unofficial report, but not from General Grant, estimates the number of killed and wounded at about 3000. The following officers are among the killed: Colonel Haskell, 36th Wisconsin, Colonel Porter, 8th New York Heavy Artillery, Colonel Morris, 66th New York. Among the wounded are General R. O. Tyler, seriously—will probably lose a foot, Colonel M'Mahon, 164th New York, Colonel Byrnes, 25th Mass. Probably mortally, Colonel Brooks, 53rd Penna.

E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

### Shocking Calamity.

Outposts, Camp Classen, 132 Regiment N. Y. Infantry, Bachelor's Creek, N. C., May 27.

—At four o'clock yesterday afternoon, on the arrival of the train at this station from Newbern, a terrible explosion attended the removal of four torpedoes from the cars to the platform. Forty odd soldiers were blown into eternity in an instant, while between twenty persons, white and black, were wounded and mangled in a manner frightful to behold.

### THE ACCIDENT AND THE CAUSE

The train which left Newbern at three o'clock in the afternoon brought to the outposts the remaining four of thirteen torpedoes, of monstrous weight and proportion, intended to complete the blockade of the Neuse river in the direction of Kinston. The last of the four was about reaching the station platform when an accidental blow, from a log of wood striking upon the cap, exploded the torpedo. The concussion was so great that the other three followed on the explosion of the first, and so quick as to make one mighty report, like the crash of a thousand pieces of artillery fired simultaneously. The disaster was one of the most appalling and heartrending that has happened in this country in a series of years. Soldiers whose gallantry has been displayed on battle fields, and whose eagerness to hear the news from their brave comrades in Virginia had brought them clustering around the station, were hurled, mangled and torn, into eternity in a moment's time. Heads, bodies and limbs were scattered for a quarter of a mile around, and in many instances it was found impossible to recognize the remains of the unfortunate victims. The signal tower and commissary building, twenty feet by eighty feet, built of logs, were thrown into the air a distance of eight hundred feet, and strewn the country for a distance around with fragments.

### THE CASUALTIES

The greatest sufferer by this terrible catastrophe was the One Hundred and Thirty-second New York, stationed for the last twelve months on this front, and whose camp is adjacent to the railroad station.

Lieutenant W. W. Wells, Fifty-eighth Pennsylvania, (special aid to Colonel P. J. Classen,) severely wounded; left foot since amputated.

The killed and wounded of the contrabands will number between twenty and twenty-five.

This sad accident, entailing such consequences, has cast a gloom over the soldiers of the outposts of which will require a long time for them fully to overcome. A number of the wounded of the One Hundred and Thirty-second New York are badly mangled and will probably die. Everything, however, that care and skill can accomplish will be done to save life and ease the suffering of these unfortunate soldiers.

### A Patriotic Office-Holder.

The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial says:—

A few weeks since, I wrote of a man who did not want an office. Now I have a still more startling fact to announce, a man who holds an office under the Government, works hard, and won't take any pay for it! The *rara avis* is Mr. Whiting, Solicitor of the War Department, and the case as related to me by an intimate friend of his, is as follows:—About two years ago, Secretary Stanton wrote to Mr. Whiting, whom he had known well and favorably as a lawyer for many years, at his home in Massachusetts, informing him that he was about to create the office of Solicitor for the War Department, and tendered him the position at a salary of five thousand dollars a year.

I believe Mr. Whiting replied that he would be glad to serve the Government in the capacity named, and would accept the office on one condition, that he receive no pay or emoluments of any kind, and have the privilege of bearing his own expenses at the Capital. This was finally, though reluctantly, acceded to by Mr. Stanton, and Mr. Whiting left his palatial home in New England, and took up his abode in Washington city. Not content with refusing to receive compensation himself, he drew up an instrument of writing, and filled it in the War Department, stipulating that, in case of his death while here, his family should not be entitled to one dollar for the services he may have rendered. Mr. Whiting is a rich man, and can afford to do all he has magnanimously agreed to; but it should be remembered there are hundreds of others equally rich, and who could equally well afford it, who would hesitate for a long time before accepting such a non-remunerative berth.

### PASSING EVENTS, &C.

HATS, Caps, Boots and Shoes, cheaper than ever at KUNZI'S.

Meeting.—The annual Tinker meeting held at the Welsh Run church last week, was largely attended.

Sale of a Farm.—ABRAHAM HORST has sold his farm, near the Williamsport turnpike, to JOHN SHANK, at \$75 per acre.

Humorous Books.—Private Miles O. Riley has his book for sale by FETTERHOFF, as also Artemus Ward's own book.

Behind Time.—The evening train on last Thursday was considerably behind time, owing to a "break down" on the Cumberland Valley.

If you want job work done, neatly and cheaply or if you want to subscribe for a good paper, come at once to THE PILOT office.

Killed.—JOHN F. BYRNS, company B, 148th Pa. is reported in the Philadelphia Inquirer to have been killed in one of the recent battles. BYRNS was from Antrim township, and was drafted last August.

Wounded.—A. J. CLINA, of the 148th Pa., who was reported to have been killed, was only wounded in the Wilderness battle, and is now in one of our hospitals.

Lot Sold.—A forty foot town lot fronting on Hagerstown street, was sold at public outcry by the administrator of the estate of Mrs. SCHNEIDER, for \$150. LEWIS CANTREK, purchaser.

Hymn Books.—MR. FETTERHOFF has for sale hymn books, suitable for the use of all denominations; Lutheran, German Reformed, Presbyterian, Brethren and Methodist hymn books.

Read.—Farmers, remember that LEWIS & RUODER are selling Grain and Hay Forks, Scythes, Snathes, and harvesting tools of all kinds. Manure Shovels and Forks, Rakes and Hoes, at old prices. Call and see.

Conventions.—The Convention which assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, on Tuesday of last week, nominated Gen. JOHN C. FREMONT, for President of the United States, and Gen. JOHN COCHRAN, for Vice President.

The Baltimore Convention meets on the 7th inst. The Chicago Convention meets on July 4th.

By a late decision of Judge WRITING, Solicitor General of the United States, it appears that the payment of three hundred dollars commutation money will only exempt the party paying it from the operation of the present draft, leaving him liable to be drawn again in case there should be another call. The names of persons paying the commutation money, however, will not again be put into the wheel until the entire list shall have been exhausted.

Godey's Lady's Book.—This magazine, appropriately termed the "queen of monthlies," still preserves its proud position. With the ladies, the "war news" and everything else is cast aside on its arrival, that they may "divore" its charming pages. In an experience of thirty-years, Godey has made himself thoroughly acquainted with the wants of the ladies in the way of reading matter, and knowing them, always does the best to supply them, and hence his great success. L. A. GODEY, Philadelphia.

Courts of Franklin County, Pa., for 1864.—COMMON PLEAS: 3d Monday, January 18, 2nd ditto, April 11, 2nd ditto, August 8, last ditto, October 31st.

ORPHANS: 2nd Tuesday, March 8, 1st ditto, June 7, 1st ditto, October 4th.

All causes for trial must be put on the Trial List four weeks previous to the first day of the term.

All accounts in the Common Pleas must be filed twenty-one days before the first day of the term. All accounts in the Orphans' Court must be filed thirty days before the first day of the term.

Paving and Curbing.—We have printed hand-bills for the Town Council, directing attention to the condition of the side-walks, and calling upon the owners of lots to curb and pave, in compliance with the ordinance of the Borough. If this work is not done by the owners or agents of lots before the 1st day of August next, the corporate authorities give notice that the ordinance will be enforced without respect to persons.

For the information of the citizens, we notice gratis, that good curb stones can be got at JOHN RUTENAUER'S quarry, and also from BENJ. BERRY'S, and probably at several other places in this vicinity.

Broke Jail.—On Wednesday night of last week, says the Franklin Repository of June 1st, six prisoners effected their escape from the Jail in this place. Their names are—Mac Hamilton, (colored) awaiting trial for murder, and John Halurg, Co. M, 22nd Penna. Cavalry; William Van Dyke, and Jacob H. Coons, of Co. B, 5th New York Artillery, and William Sisson, Co. G, 120th New York Vols.,—all arrested by the Provost Marshal as deserters. They had been locked inside of the Jail building in the evening, and when they supposed the Sheriff to be out, they asked for a bucket of water. When the servant girl opened the door to hand in the water, they struck the girl on the arm with a stick, and rushed out of the Jail and made their escape. On Saturday morning last the negro returned to the Jail voluntarily and gave himself up. What his motive was for doing so, can scarcely be conjectured, as he is imprisoned on a charge that will demand his life if found guilty. He reports that he left the deserters in Amberson's Valley. Any citizen is entitled to a reward of \$30 for the arrest of a deserter, and we doubt not that the citizens of the Valley can, with a little strategy, gather most of these deserters up. We learn that Capt. Eyster has placed a special guard about the Jail to prevent the escape of deserters and military prisoners hereafter.

The Draft.—The draft for Franklin county is over. The quota of the county was 1408, and the credits 1108, leaving a balance of 307, and fifty per cent. additional makes 461, the number of names drawn. In Antrim township the quota was 123.