The Valley Spirit.

VOL. 10. CHAMBERSBURG, PA., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31. 1864 NO. 10.

The Burning Of Chambersburg.

PRELIMINARY REFLECTION.

It is not our purpose at this late day to attempt any extended reflections upon the subject connected with the destruction of our very beautiful and thriving town. In fact, we do not, at present, even contemplate, in these disjointed and troublesome times, that the Rebels will attempt to do anything so silly as to burn Chambersburg a second time; and we do not think it worth while to waste time and space in order to convert injurious reprimands directed in regard to the position of our citizens in the affair, and also to show up the military "character" of the Headquarters of the Department of the Susquehanna at the time of the occurrence.

WHERE THE BLAME ATTACHES.

It was well known over the country, and we took occasion to remark, that Chambersburg was a very poor fort to fight (if any one pretended to fight) in earnest against the Rebels. Chambersburg was the headquarters of the Military Department of the Susquehanna, with a Major General and his staff quartered there to embolden the citizens. If it was worth while to defend Chambersburg with the aid of a "Military Department" it was worth defending, but that obvious reason never never to have entered into the military consciousness of the brilliant blunderers at Washington. To the stupidity of the War Department must we lay the destruction of Chambersburg. There is no use mincing arms about it. Let the blame be placed fairly and squarely where it belongs. The military opposite made time and again, by citizens, urging to the Operators at Washington, to obtain and organize troops for the protection of Chambersburg against rebel raids, cannot at this time be told. Gen. Couch is too severe a military man to publish them himself, even at the request of the and the War Department is now too far. We know they were made and we know that they were denied. The most ill-natured rather at Gen. Couch will hardly deny that he should have created men and armed and equipped them at his own expense, and would they expect his individuality to attack and drive back the whole rebel force. The War Department seems to have conceived something of the sort but the people have not, and, we think, it is being a Department, to sound at least, the people and so right, supposing the men and arms on hand, which they were not, to undertake the control of its affairs by organizing troops for the best protection. He would have been a bold man, indeed, who doubted the desperate Washington by establishing an independent Military organization in one of the great Departments! In that case the usurped military authority, and all others associated with him, would have been promptly arrested if it took a whole corps from the Army of the Potomac to effect it. Under such a "military necessity," like the riots in New York, they could, no doubt, have been conveniently spared, but not a man for the protection of Chambersburg!

The Editor of the *Repository* with a degree of candor and fairness, unusual in Republican journals in these times, when everything is made to bend to cover up the blundernings of this Administration, charges the authorities at Washington responsible for the Burning of Chambersburg, and totally exonerates Gen. Couch from all the blame. The following is taken from the *Repository*:—

"Yes, Couch had no troops—and even an organized battalion on the border. He had organized six or seven regiments of one hundred day men; but the moment they were delivered and armed they were forwarded to Washington, in obedience to orders from the authorities. He wanted, therefore, not to form whatever to defend the border. The national authorities had persistently refused to uniform the citizens of the border, and the same then to organize for their own defence without arms, in neighborhoods liable to raids, and in one adventure, and the order was thus entirely otherwise."

In another part of the same article in the *Repository* we find the charge against the Washington authorities still more strongly stated, it adds:

"If means were available to arm and equip at a distance that they could, a Major General commanding a Department on the border repeatedly invaded, should have it troops. The Rebel invasion is to name the commander, that is certain. I suppose that he would deserve to have an adequate force placed, and then that people authorily would be given him to defend their State. Just where the blame belongs, we do not whether to distribute it, but we do know that it was no fault of Gen. Couch that he was unable to defend Chambersburg. He organized a Provost Guard of some 1200 strong, expressly for duty in his department—the men were enlisted under a promise authorized by him, based on the order creating the organization, that they were to be kept on duty in the Department—they were ordered to Gen. Couch after the battle of the Wilderness. He organized six regiments of one hundred days men before the advent of McClellan and they were ordered to Washington as soon as they were fit to go. Gen. Couch was assured that the rebels, fully two weeks before the fall of Chambersburg, formally placed in his hands to defend the border, organized, and paying the entire military force on the border for home defence, if the present emergency, extending from July 1st, and ending, we believe, Aug. 20th, was not, in the opinion of the Washington authorities, sufficient to warrant the Rebels in

The Valley Spirit.

[illegible]

TERMS:

[illegible]

TO OUR PATRONS.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

The Gettysburg Compiler

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1865.

LOCAL AND COUNTY.

This members of the Democratic County Committee are requested to meet at the office of the Gettysburg, in the borough of Gettysburg, on Saturday, the 16th inst., (September,) at one o'clock. P. M. A full attendance is desired.

W. A. STENGER,
Chairman.

Chairman's Office, 1st '64.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION.—The Democratic County Convention met in the Public School Room in the Borough of Gettysburg, on Tuesday, August 29th, at 11 o'clock, A. M. and was organized by the election of the following officers:

President—JOHN ARMSTRONG, Chambersburg.

Vice Presidents—JOSEPH GILLIGAN, Littlestown, and H. M. STINER, Washington.

Secretaries—LEBANON BURKHOLDER, Petersburg, and JOHN G. OTS, Gettysburg.

The Delegates then presented their credentials and were admitted to seats in the Convention. The following is a list of Delegates:

Adams township—Jacob Brandenbach, John Guise, H. Bender, W. W. Winner, Henry Deardorf, Victor Chambersburg—E. S. Stockton, Jacob Hoover, Chambersburg, S. W.—S. Y. Maxwell, G. M. Stoughton, Samuel Beck.

Dry Run—D. Skinner, Martin I. Hammond, Wm. Hamilton.

Franklin—Samuel Brechbillen, John Shaffer, John H. Rupert, B. F. Stocker, H. J. Snyder, W. T. Rupert.

Green—Hugh Campbell, C. McQuead, Wm. Reed, John Laidlaw.

Hamilton—Jacob Miner, J. Gingrich, Daniel Palmer, Hamilton—Dr. Jacob Mock, J. F. Harlacher, Wm. Lowe.

Letterkenny—David Bullinger, Joseph Gilmore, Letterkenny—S. A. Ker, Peter Kohler, J. H. Lyon.

Letterkenny—C. Brewer, Andrew Burgan, Robert Lyon.

Metcalfe—John B. Speer, J. W. DeHaven, John Gilmore.

Peters—Wm. H. McElhenny, John H. Allen, G. W. Fahs.

Southampton—Michael Rohrer, Henry Wheeman, R. W. Mellon.

Mt. Rock—Simon Bitner, Conrad Plasterer, George Miller.

Tyrone—James B. Orr, Wm. S. Reed, John G. Orr.

Tyrone—John Crouse, Jacob Bender, J. C. Kerr.

Washington—John Crouse, Jacob Bender, J. C. Kerr.

Wm. Franklin—A. A. Ayres, Peter Rice, J. Gillian, Jr.

S. J. Cleaver.

Gettysburg—Daniel D. Rock, John R. Fleck, H. J. Stahle.

Gettysburg—Wm. Lemon, J. J. Miller, Robert Clugston, David A. Buehler, E. W. Miller.

Mt. Pleasant—Jacob Cook, Wm. Reed, Simon Bitner.

On motion of Geo. M. Stenger, Esq. the reporters of the Press were invited to seats on the floor of the Convention.

On motion of B. Y. Hamaker, Esq., the President appointed the following named gentlemen a committee on resolutions, to wit: B. Y. Hamaker, James B. Orr, D. R. Russel, D. J. Sheirne and R. J. Sewell.

The Convention then adjourned to meet again at 1 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention was called to order by the President. B. Y. Hamaker, Esq., on behalf of the committee on resolutions, offered the following which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Democratic principles and bare ever been the Democratic party of the country. Under its conservative principles and enlightened policy the United States have hitherto been preserved in concord and strength; our territory has been extended; our resources developed, our wealth increased, the rights of the States and people maintained, public peace and tranquility secured, and the respect of the world for our free Government established, and, God helping us, this Union we will maintain inset, and hand it down as a priceless legacy to our posterity.

Resolved, That to restore the Union, the Constitution and the laws to their original strength, beauty and purity, to heal a bleeding and almost ruined country; to bind up the broken hearts; to pour oil and wine into the wounds made by war; to restore gold and silver to the pockets of the laboring man; to relieve the grief of the bereaved; to put up the civil power to military power; to bring back the Judges corpus, the habeas corpus, the trial by jury, the bills; to drive out the thieves and robbers from the public cribs and to put laws, as in general and legislation, the conditions is now the great mission of the Democracy and patriotic men of the country.

Resolved, That the military despotism and calamitous war is the result of the political usurpation of power of Sumner and Stevens extremists; that the deliberate invasion by the national administration of the rights of the States, the elective franchise, the freedom of speech and of the press, and the personal security of the citizen, and its atrocious plan to propagate war for the abolition of negro slavery, is still that institution shall be abolished, exhibit a spirit of contempt for the Constitution, defiance of the laws, and a disposition to trample the rights of the people under foot, and to establish a military despotism, or at the overthrow of the Union, and the ruin of the country, and the ruin of the Union, and the ruin of the country, and the ruin of the Union, and the ruin of the country, and the ruin

Stove & Range.

COLLIER & BARNES

COLLIER'S RANGE STOVE

SWIFT'S PREMIUM.

New York State Fair.
First Premium for Family Machines
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine

Ohio State Fair.
First Premium for Family Machines
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine

Vermont State Fair.
First Premium for Machine Work

Ohio State Fair.
First Premium for Machine Work

Iowa State Fair.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine
First Premium for Machine Work

Illinois State Fair.
First Premium for Machine Work

Kentucky State Fair.
First Premium for Machine for all purposes
First Premium for Machine Work

Michigan State Fair.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine
First Premium for Machine Work

Indiana State Fair.
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine
First Premium for Machine Work

Oregon State Fair.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine

Chautauqua Co. (N. Y.) Agr'l Soc.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine
First Premium for Machine Work

Franklin Co. (N. Y.) Fair.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine

Champlain Valley, (Vt.) Agr'l Soc.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine
First Premium for Machine Work

Hampden Co. (Mass.) Agr'l Soc.
First Premium for Family Machine
Diploma for Machine Work

Washington Co. (N. Y.) Fair.
First Premium for Family Machine

Queens Co. (N. Y.) Agr'l Soc.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine

Saratoga Co. (N. Y.) Fair.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Manufacturing Machine

Mechanics' Institute (Pa.) Fair.
First Premium for Machine for all purposes
First Premium for Machine Work

Greenfield (O.) Union Fair.
First Premium for Machine for all purposes
First Premium for Machine Work

Clinton Co. (O.) Fair.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Machine Work

Montgomery Co. (Pa.) Fair.
First Premium for Machine for all purposes
First Premium for Machine Work

San Joaquin Co. (Cal.) Fair.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Machine Work

San Jose District (Cal.) Fair.
First Premium for Family Machine
First Premium for Machine Work.

☞ The above Premiums are the highest to which the Lady's Family Machine was exhibited this year, viz: Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana, Oregon, New York, Vermont, Ohio, Ohio, Ohio