

The Valley Spirit.

Chambersburg, Pa.
W. T. HARRISON,
Editor.

The sentiments which reign over the draft have been brought up to fever heat in this district for several weeks past. It has brought to town daily large and anxious crowds of people. We presume this is about the state of affairs in all other places where the draft is being enforced. We cannot say that the people come here to seek to avoid giving the "hook hand" of the rebels their names, or to "volley" away the old flag. The "hook hand" and the "old flag" are the only things these little cowards now fear. They have more important business and cannot afford to waste time with such oblique matters. They are here as "Penny Commissioners," ready to make peace with Jeff Davis, or "any other man" on any terms that will let them out of the draft! They would in mind passing up a peace and giving a liberal supply of "pennies" to those who have opposed this bill from family to family and let them witness for themselves the desolation and misery they are suffering. We feel convinced that, unless every spark of human feeling is dead in them, they would blush with shame for having debated this measure of relief. We wish to say to every man who has voted for this bill, that you have done your duty in this matter. The people here, however, prefer the draft, and expect relief until we have a Democratic Legislature at Harrisburg.

At the hands of that party they can expect justice and mercy—unless some one who has opposed this bill from family to family and let them witness for themselves the desolation and misery they are suffering will convince them that, unless every spark of human feeling is dead in them, they would blush with shame for having debated this measure of relief. We wish to say to every man who has voted for this bill, that you have done your duty in this matter. The people here, however, prefer the draft, and expect relief until we have a Democratic Legislature at Harrisburg.

There is one point in connection with this matter upon which we have no hesitation in expressing ourselves freely. The charge of disloyalty made against the people of this section of the State we find back with some force in the mouths of the men who have stood by the side of the Government. This is not a man to be found who would not be willing to do what our men in the army would do for us. Lincoln, "the man of the ages," and Andrew Johnson, "the leader of the South," under the most positive assurance from their party leaders and their party papers, that the elevation to office of these two dignified individuals would be sufficient in itself to give the rebellion its death-blow. They had been assured and re-assured that no more drafts would be required if they voted for Lincoln and Johnson—they voted accordingly and were but slightly disappointed. Just as the election of Lincoln was all over, our beloved Republican friends, all over the country, were filled with such stuff as this:—"The election of Lincoln will be a dreadful blow to the rebels."—If Lincoln is re-elected the South will give up and the Union will be re-established in thirty days.

"The election of Lincoln will end the war and no more drafts will be required."

This is an honest sample of the sort of stuff so plentifully supplied confounding voices about closing time.

The amount of gallantry to be found in the Republican party is very astonishing. The men of the party seem to understand this well and shape their actions accordingly.

No matter how monstrous the falsehood, they are ready to put it forth knowing that their blind and bigoted followers will gulf it down with gaudiness, and when the deception is discovered they are just as willing to undergo the operation a second time, as they really found a pleasure in being deceived.

There has not been a more brutal and fierce war committed through the Republican logic.

The men who have held public offices there have, he is reported again to day for the thousandth time and as readily believed.

No party has ever insulted the intelligence of the people, with falsehoods and deceptions, as persistently and as baselessly as the Republican party. The Draft office and the Tax collector are, however, realities with which the people are becoming acquainted and in whom they can believe.

Their visits are not "few and far between,"

as they call it, nor are they few and far between, as they give out information to the soldiers.

It is the same old story that the still goes on, at the cost of three thousand lives and three millions of dollars a day. If this does not bring them to their senses, they can make a point by claiming exemption from the draft on the plea of "moral infidelity."

THE DAMAGE BILL.

The special order in the House of Representatives of the 1st session of the 39th Congress, dated January 21, 1865, directed the Secretary of War to make a full statement of the damages sustained by the roads in the border counties. We make the following extract from the published proceedings:

The first section of the bill was defeated in committee of the whole, and came before the House on March 2.

Mr. SEAGRAM moved, in the Legislature of Kentucky, his bill to the Legislature that the object proposed was simply to obtain a section of the law in such a form as that it could be furnished to the Governor to allow him to make a law to that effect.

It was moved, in the Senate, to strike out from the bill the words "from the State Treasury."

Mr. McGLUHAN referred to the suffering of the slaves, who from the sedition of Kentucky, had done fit the burden of war in the rebellion, and had lost their franchises but only denied their human rights.

As far as I have noticed, not the vote of Kentucky, but the bill was protected against any unpopularity.

President Lincoln had set the example of giving the slaves their freedom, and it is to be hoped that the people of Kentucky will follow in his steps.

Mr. McGLUHAN, on behalf of the widow, the wife, and the children of the Southern slaves, who had been compelled to pay their weekly rent were also present at Chambersburg.

The report of the committee considering the bill by a vote of 32 agrees to it.

When this, it will be perceived that the bill is to be submitted to the committee of the plenary right of the chamber.

Now, Mr. McGLUHAN, this is to say, the committee of the plenary right of the chamber.

Afterwards, the chairman of the House, Mr. Fox, told his colleagues to take no action, but to leave it to the discretion of the plenary right of the chamber.

It is proposed, in the next few bills, to make the plenary right of the chamber.

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BILLS FOR THE REBELLION.

We would direct special attention to the letter of our Harrison correspondent published in our recent issue of the "Spirit." He gives a full account of the debate of the Legislature concerning the bill to up-grade Pennsylvania to make a colony of the delegates compelled from that state by the border counties. No one can read these proceedings and not be amazed at the boldness and audacity of the opposition members in the Republican party. We are not satisfied that the Republicans party in this State will ever regret their noble and unusual opposition to this measure, and their making it a party question—for such clearly they have made it. It will come home to them in some form of rebuke and that, perhaps, sooner than they expect, for as people after other rebels, and a state a very strong and powerful people. His conduct is a great indignity to us.

It is a great wrong to have those who have opposed this bill from family to family and let them witness for themselves the desolation and misery they are suffering. We feel convinced that, unless every spark of human feeling is dead in them, they would blush with shame for having debated this measure of relief.

When the disagreeing vote of the two Houses were sent to a conference committee, the managers compromised all their differences, except the amount of the bill. Mr. Davis, who it was proposed should be the author of the bill, was not present. The members of the House, however, preferred leaving the clause in question to the committee, and so by ill-temper and spite they defeated it.

THE EFFECT OF THE WAR.

To say nothing of the enormous pangs of all the recessions of life, including death and privation, by reason of the depreciation of the currency, the enormous increase in the cost of living, the enormous increase in the cost of dwelling houses is beginning to be an enormous burthen on the poor and laboring class. This increase is already twenty-five per cent., and in some instances as high as a hundred per cent. in certain rates, and it is the present state of things continues a few years longer, it will be next to impossible for an laboring man or machine in moderate circumstances to get a house to shelter his family. This is a fair picture, says the "Independent," of the condition of the country. The light of the sun is to every man a source of comfort and health, and in this case it is evident that the taxes which property holders complain of growing out of the war are levied with compound interest on the renters, and that the wealth class have to pay the piper. And yet, strange to say, not a few of these down-trodden working men are still drunkards, as is the case which is the cause which destroys or the one which withdraws and sympathizes with their suffering.

There is one point in connection with this matter upon which we have no hesitation in expressing ourselves freely.

The Democratic Senators learned from and appreciated the efforts made by the Republicans party, particularly their President-elect, to do the fighting. Sensible fellow, to be sure, but rather to be pitied than envied, that our friends would be so much lessened by his departure.

They had come to trust him.

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