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SAMUEL KETTERMAN. BEDFORD, PA. Would hereby notify the citizens of Bedford county, that he has moved to the Block at Bedford.

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A NEW SENSATION AT Cheap Corner. J. B. FARQUHAR has bought out one of the best Soda in the County, and is able now to offer

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Bedford Gazette.

VOLUME 60.

Freedom of Thought and Opinion.

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NEW SERIES.

BEDFORD, PA., FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 17, 1865.

VOL. 8, No. 29.

Rates of Advertising.

Table with columns for ad types (One square, two squares, etc.) and rates for different durations (1 year, 6 months, 3 months).

A SCATHING EPISTLE. Gov. Curtin Overhauls the President. Pennsylvania's Quota Filled.

The Alleged Deficiency Greater than the Judicial Call.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER. HARRISBURG, 24th Jan., 1865. TO THE PRESIDENT: Sir, The act of the 3d of March, 1863, commonly called the enrollment act, provided (section 4) that for the purposes of the act each Congressional district of the respective States should form a district, and (section 11) that all persons enrolled should be subject to be called into the military service of the United States, and to continue in service during the present rebellion, not however exceeding the term of three years, and further (section 12) that in assigning to the districts the number of men to be furnished therefrom, the President should take into consideration the number of volunteers and militia by and from the several States in which said districts were situated, and the period of their service since the commencement of the rebellion, and should so make said assignments as to equalize the numbers among the districts of the several States, considering and allowing for the numbers already furnished as aforesaid, and the time of their service.

The time of actual service which by this act you were directed to consider and allow for, could not, without impracticable labor, (or indeed at all) be fixed with exactitude for each district, but it could easily have been so approximated by averages that little if any practical injustice would have been done. The commencement of the third year of the war was close at hand at the time of the passage of the act. It would not have been difficult to ascertain, of one thousand men enlisted for three years, what was the average number that remained actually in the service at the end of the first and second years respectively, and thus the act could have been sustainably complied with. For instance suppose it to have been found that of one thousand men enlisted for three years, there remained in the service an average of forty per cent at the close of the first year, and twenty per cent at the close of the second year. The result would have been under the provisions of the act, that sixteen hundred one-year's men would have been taken as the equivalent of one thousand three-year's men.

Unfortunately the heads of bureaux, to whom the matter seems to have been entrusted, began by falling into a strange misconstruction of the act. They did in effect strike from the 12th section the phrases "period of their service" and "time of their service," and insert in their stead the phrase "term of their enlistment," and then proceeded to apportion credits by multiplying the number of men furnished from a district by the number of years for which they were enlisted. Calculations made on this basis were of course most extravagant and the people everywhere felt that somehow injustice was being done. In the attempt to soften this, numerous and contradictory orders have been issued from the Provost Marshal General's office, and long essays by himself and others have been in vain published to explain and justify their action.

In fact, as soon as they got beyond the marvellous limit of the actual service of the men, their calculation has no longer a practical basis. Its principle, carried to a legitimate extreme, would justify the enlistment of one man for 50,000 years, and crediting him as the whole quota of the State, with a small excess.

Surely every reasonable man can say for himself whether he has found that getting one pair of boots for three years is practically equivalent to getting three pairs of boots for one year. The visionary character of the system on which they have proceeded cannot be better illustrated than by the result at which they have arrived on the present occasion. The quota of Pennsylvania on the last call was announced to be 61,700. Her quota to make up deficiencies made that call was announced to be 65,969 men. On the 24th instant it was announced that the quota of the Western district had, on revision been fixed at 22,543, which would make that of the whole State about 44,000; and late on the same day it was further announced that the quota of the Western district was 25,512, and that of the whole State 49,563. All these changes being caused by no intervening circumstances that I am aware of. In fact, our quota on the last call was filled, and there can be no deficiency to be now supplied.

Their plan is unjust to the districts and to the government. It widely ignores the losses of men by desertion, sickness, death and casualties. The loss from most of these causes are greater during the first year of service than afterwards. A town which has furnished three thousand men for one year, has probably lost three-fifths of them from these causes before the expiration of the term. Another equal town which has furnished one thousand men for three years may before the expiration of that term have lost seventeen-twentieths of them. The first town will have thus given sixteen hundred men to the country—the second but eight hundred and fifty. There is no equality in this. The exhaustion of the industrial population of the two towns, is in very unequal proportions. As to the government—the government has in the first case the actual service of the whole year of fourteen hundred men—in the second case the actual service of say four hundred men during the whole first year, of probably not more than two hundred men during the whole second year and say one hundred and fifty men at most during the whole third year. Besides, the amount of service that may be required promptly is to be considered,

and not merely the agreed term of service. At the late storm of Fort Fisher, one at least of the Pennsylvania one year regiments was engaged, and behaved most gallantly—who will say that if one third of their number had been enlisted for three years, it would on that account have been able to perform as much service as the whole number did in that unsurpassed exploit?

But there is even more serious error than has been above exposed. The clause of the act of 3d of March, 1863, under which your officers profess to be acting, has not been in force since the 24th of Feb. 1864.

Whether indeed thereto by the strangeness of the system which had been adopted under it, or for whatever reasons, Congress thought fit to pass the act of 24th of Feb. 1864 (entitled "An act to amend the act of 3d March 1863") which provides, (section 2) that the quota of each ward of a city, town, &c., shall be as nearly as possible in proportion to the number of men resident therein liable to render military service, taking into account as far as practicable the number which had been previously furnished therefrom.

Thus the former Act was amended by giving credits, not to districts but to smaller localities, and by omitting the provision for considering and allowing for the time of service in estimating credits; they were directed in future to be given as far as practicable on the basis of the number of men previously furnished, without reference to the time of service.

And this was followed up by the Act of 4th July, 1864 (passed at the same session) which provides (section 1) that the President may at his discretion, call for any number of volunteers for the respective terms of one, two and three years, with bounties regulated according to their term of enlistment, and (section 2) that in filling the quota of any town, &c., shall not be filled within the space of sixty days after such call, then the President shall immediately order a draft for one year to fill such quota.

These are the clauses which now regulate the subject. It is not for me, or you, sir, to discuss the question of their propriety. They are to be obeyed.

It would be easy to show that they form a reasonable and intelligible system. Formerly when calls were made of men for military service, they were made by requisitions on the Governors of the respective States, who then proceeded to draft the required number to fill the quota of the State. In this draft, men from any State or locality who had voluntarily entered the service of the U. S. States, by enlisting in the army or otherwise, were not taken into account. No credits were given for them on their own account engaged themselves in any other lawful employment. The systems however, of raising very large bodies of men as Volunteers, under the Act of Congress of 1861, had drawn upon the military population of the respective States and localities very heavily, and not quite equally, and therefore when the Enrollment Act of 1863 was passed, it was thought best to provide for equalizing the exhaustion by allowing credits to localities for the Volunteers furnished by them. But the Government had accepted Volunteers for various terms of service and hence the effort to render the equalization more perfect by considering and allowing for the time of their service as well as the number of men. The Acts of 1864, recited, have modified this system by fixing a definite term of service (one year) for which men are to be drafted. Volunteers for less than that term are to be credited to their localities on the quota and receive certain bounties from the Government, but so far as regards the increased term beyond one year, are not to be credited on the quota but are to be left on the same footing that all Volunteers were on before the Act of 1863. That is to say, the Government announces that it will take by its authority a certain number of men from a locality for military service for one year. That is the lawful demand which it will enforce. It pays bounties in case of localities to facilitate them in complying with this demand without a compulsory draft. But it has made no demand for men to serve for two or three years. The Government receives and pays additional bounties to Volunteers for these terms, but, in that, deals with the men only, and, as the increased term of service beyond one year is not agreed to be rendered in compliance with any demand of the Government, it gives the locality no credit on the quota for it. The Government requires 100,000 men for one year, not a less number of men for a longer term. For a deficiency in the number of Volunteers for that term, it makes a draft for one year. This is to fill the quota—not more but less—when the draft has effected the quota is full—there is neither excess or deficiency.

You see that the system thus established by law is not without foundation in reason, and can be readily understood.

Sir, you may not have been heretofore apprised of the fact that your subordinates are wholly disregarding the Act of 24th of February, 1864. They are proceeding in open and direct violation of it, and are thus creating naturally, great confusion and uncertainty among the people. They announce on the one hand that although a three-year's man counts only as a one-year man towards the quota on which he volunteers, yet that he shall be counted as three one-year's men, towards the quota on a future call. This is directly in the teeth of the law. On the other hand, they are exploying out a deficiency on the last call by counting three one-year's men as only equivalent to one three-year's man, which is equally against the law.

Thus the quota of Pennsylvania, under the call of 18th July last, was filled in accordance with the law by men to serve for not less than one year. The term of service of these men is

not yet half-expired, and yet your subordinates are threatening a draft to fill an alleged deficiency on that very call, the existence of which they attempt to make out by persisting in their unlawful and unsubstantial theories and calculations. Our people know that the Government requires more men. They are willing to furnish them—heavy as the burden has become of the industrial population. Let the requirement be made in the clear and definite shape which the law provides for, and it will be cheerfully complied with. But it is hardly to be tolerated that your subordinates should be permitted longer to pursue the system of substituting, for the law, an eccentric plan of their own.

Sir, on behalf of the Freeman of this Commonwealth, who have always given a cheerful and hearty support to your Government in the prosecution of this war,—it is my duty to insist,—and I do insist,—that you enforce upon your subordinates that obedience to the law which you owe, as well as they and all us,—to the evil example—it tends to enforce—and to destroy—the just power of the Government—and you should suffer your officers to treat with open contempt your Acts of Congress, and especially those which you have yourself approved, and which regulate a matter of such deep and delicate moment as the enforcing a draft for the military service.

Relying heavily on your wisdom and justice to set right what has thus been going wrong, and to compel heretofore on the part of all, a proper respect for and obedience to the laws of the land, I am, sir, very respectfully,

A. G. CURTIN.

Judge Pierrepont on Arbitrary Arrests.

The following passage in Judge Pierrepont's summing up of the Opldyke-Weed case, was called out by an attempt to impeach one of the defendant's witnesses by proving that he had been arrested and sent to Fort Lafayette by the Government:

"Henry B. Stover has been on the stand before you—a man who has lived here many years attending to his business—a man of as good a character as any man in this crowded room, and yet he was led out of Fort Lafayette but a few weeks ago, where he had been confined for five months and four days, without the shadow of a crime; his business ruined, his fortune dissipated, and he compelled to begin his anew, and now the Government, finding that he has been wronged, are trying to repair the wrong by re-employing him again, and giving him all the contracts they can, he having been misled by fraudulent men, who wished to drive him away from the Boston Navy Yard for entering into their business in trade.

This is a civil war, gentlemen. The tree of liberty is growing very vigorously just now. Give a verdict that will have the effect to muzzle the press and prevent the disclosure of frauds and the leaves of that tree will never put forth again, and next spring you will see that the tree is dead. You may water it with your tears or the blood of your sons, but it will not revive any more. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Let us recall Henry D. Stover's tale; it is but a trifling circumstance compared with many which the walls of that fort will tell, for a free country, where we boast so much of liberty. You heard it all under oath. You saw from his appearance that he was a man of energy and enterprise. He was engaged in furnishing the navy yard for the Government, and desired to extend his business likewise to Boston, and he was successful. Smith Brothers, I think he told you, desired to run him away from that trade, and they hired a clerk to make a false, perjured affidavit for \$500, that he attempted to get things passed there on false weights, and Stover was arrested and put in Fort Lafayette, until finally it was proved that his accusers were the ones in the wrong, and they are the ones that are now sentenced, and the Government, having been misled, discovered too late that Mr. Stover was an innocent man.

Now these things, gentlemen, grow out of civil war, and they are very sad, but they need some guarding on your part—Stover is brought here upon the stand, and you have seen the attempts made to blacken his character for crimes he never committed; and he is asked if he had not been in Fort Lafayette, as though he had been in there for some infamous crime, though he were to be blackened before you because a perjured villain for money had placed him there, when he had shown you that he had been respected to the confidence of the Government. Now these things have been constantly going on since the war commenced. For instance, Mr. Nettleton went to Washington to get a position in the Treasury Department from a title town in Connecticut, and a drunken fellow there, who wanted to get the place, reported him to a magistrate in Washington as a secessionist and a spy, and Mr. Nettleton was arrested and put into the Old Capitol Prison, and lay there eleven months as innocent as the unborn child. These things have been constantly going on since this civil war commenced, and yet when an innocent man is, through mistake of the Government, put into prison, and he comes before a court of justice to testify, he is treated as a felon—as a culprit—and a vengeance, from New Orleans, who never knew him, is called here to blast his character.

These are the results of civil war.—They grow out of the undertings who, from a desire of exercising arbitrary power, are perpetually trying to undermine and destroy their fellow men. Gentlemen, there is not a man of you who is not as liable to be put in Fort Lafayette as Henry D. Stover. What could you think of it, when, after it was discovered that they were not in the wrong, you were called to give evidence in a court of justice, and it should be considered as an evidence against your character? Gentlemen, it is for you to see that our civil liberty is not taken away entirely from us. If, by your verdict, you will muzzle and

hush forever the public press, then our liberties are not worth a straw—they have departed.

Thus are the rights and the liberties of the citizens trampled under foot as attested by one who has invested this whole subject of arbitrary arrests in its practical form. It is difficult to conceive a more despicable way than is here depicted, under the most absolute government, of the old world.

An Extraordinary And Horrible Crime.

A Triple Murder by a Recruiting Officer—His Arrest and Strange Conduct. [From the Cleveland Leader, of Saturday.]

We learned yesterday the particulars of one of the most startling and atrocious murders which have ever been put on record, the details of which surpass in their accumulated horrors, the triple murder of the Cey family, a year ago, in Mendota, or that more recent, and perhaps more horrible, murder of the Roos family, in Deerfield, in December last. So terrible is the story which we are about to relate, that it seems incredible. We were reluctant to believe it, and only accepted it as true, on learning its facts confirmed by undisputed authority—Mr. Quinan, of this city, who was present at the time of the arrest of the murderer and heard his confession. The facts are as follows:

A young man named David L. Bivins about twenty-five years of age, of prepossessing address and appearance, made his appearance a few weeks since at Grafton, Lorain County, and established there a recruiting office for one of the regiments now being raised in this State in which he held a recruiting commission. He passed as a single man. Soon after coming to Grafton, he formed a marriage engagement with a lady living at Grafton Station, the daughter of a grocery keeper there, who had accumulated some property. Whether because he was in love with this girl, or merely because her father had promised to set him up in business, this scandalous deliberately formed the diabolical purpose of returning to Coldwater, Michigan; where his wife was living, and killing her, in order to be free to marry the young lady in Grafton. On Monday last he left Grafton for his former home, near Coldwater, Michigan, arriving there on the same day, and being cordially received by his young wife, who was living with his father and mother. On Tuesday morning he hired a horse and sleigh and drove out of town, returning in the evening, and hiring another horse and sleigh at another stable. This was about 11 o'clock at night.

During the absence of Bivins in the evening, his wife was suddenly seized with the pangs of child-birth, and, as his father was spending the evening at a neighbor's the old lady went out to find him and send for a doctor, leaving the sick woman entirely alone. During her absence the husband entered the house, and, unmoted by the delicate condition of his wife, deliberately killed her. While engaged in consummating the outrageous and horribly unnatural crime, his father and mother entered, and the fiendish villain, not shrinking at any amount of crime, shot both his father and mother, killing both. He then hid their bodies in the cellar, set the house on fire, and hurried to the railway station, forgetting his horse and sleigh, which he left standing in front of the burning house. He took the night train, then due from Coldwater, arriving in Grafton on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the horse, which he had left at the scene of the triple murder, became frightened at the burning house, and, breaking the hitching strap by which he was fastened, ran home to his stable. When the house was discovered to be in flames, and the conflagration quenched, the bodies were found in the cellar, the presence of the broken hitching strap tied to a post in front of the house, at once threw suspicion on Bivins. The Sheriff of the county with a deputy, immediately started in pursuit of him, and arrested him in Grafton, on Tuesday. On being arrested he confessed the crime. A number of peculiar pieces of silver were found on his person, which were known to be the property of his father.

The bearing of Bivins after his arrest, was as peculiar and extraordinary as the unprecedentedly horrible deed which he had done, and suggests the charitable conjecture that the man is insane. He coolly confesses the crime, and seems astonished at the excitement which it causes. He distributed among the crowd who gathered around him, a number of his autographs, written as follows: "David L. Bivins, murderer of his wife, father and mother." He joyously bid good-bye to his acquaintances in Grafton, inviting them to come up and see him, and telling them that they would find him "playing checkers with his nose on the jail window." This bearing of his, together with the horribleness of the murder, so increased the crowd of spectators at Grafton Station, that they were for lynching him on the spot. Instead, had not the Sheriff who had him in charge been a Mason, and called on Masons in the crowd to assist him in preventing it, the indignant crowd would have dispensed summary justice to the scoundrel. He was however, saved from Lynch law, and placed on board the Toledo train, and taken back to Coldwater. He is in no danger of meeting his deserts there, as capital punishment is prohibited in Michigan by special enactment—an enactment which this case, if anything, will cause the repeal of.

Mr. BLAIN'S second visit to Richmond resulted in bringing Vice President Stephens, R. M. P. Hunter and Judge Campbell to Fortress Monroe for the purpose of conferring with the Federal authorities as to terms of peace. They were met first by Secretary Seward, who telegraphed to President Lincoln to "come on." There they have been consulting, but we have no positive information of what passed between the parties. Sensation rumors are plenty. On Monday a telegram announced a general ar-

rest, a cessation of hostilities and a restoration of the Union upon the basis of the Constitution, and a guaranty of indemnity to all citizens of the Confederacy. We are not prepared to place much confidence in any statements yet received. However, we will accede to Abraham Lincoln the honor of becoming a peace commissioner and give him further notoriety for having taken the first opportunity to recognize the Southern Confederacy.

Since writing the above we have received intelligence that Mr. Lincoln and Seward have returned to Washington to announce that the commission of peace ended in an entire failure. From the statements related by Washington correspondents we are inclined to believe Lincoln and Seward went to Fortress Monroe on a "spree," and drink tossed in honor of the amendment to the Constitution passed by Congress. The New York World under the title of "The Peace Convention," says:

It is given out in Washington, ostensibly by authority, that the interview between the President and Secretary of State and the rebel envoys, had no satisfactory result. The subject, however, is so important that the country will not be satisfied with vague and irresponsible givings out to newspaper correspondents, to be by them telegraphed over the country. The public has a right to know, and ought to be officially told, what proposals were made and rejected at a meeting which has kept the country in a fever of expectation, and which will be ever memorable in the history of the war.

We trust that Congress will today pass a resolution respectfully calling on the President for information. That body cannot legislate intelligently in relation to the war, if the executive is in possession of facts bearing on its duration, which he wittily conceals from their knowledge. If the late negotiations have not been concluded, but only adjourned, the President would be justified in declining to give publicity to facts which might embarrass a subsequent stage of the proceedings. But if there are no proposals still pending, there can be no justification from withholding from Congress and the country a frank and full statement of what has been attempted, and of the causes of the failure.—Star of the North.

Concerning Editors.

At a late printers' festival, the editorial vocation was thus done brown:

"The man that is expected to know everything, tells all he knows and goes at the rest; to make known his character, establish the reputation of his neighbors, and elect all candidates for office; to blow everybody and reform the world; to live for the benefit of others, and the epitaph on his tombstone—'Here he lies at last.' In short, he is a locomotive running on the track of public notoriety; his lever is his pen; his boiler is filled with ink; his tender his scissors; his driving wheels public opinion; whenever he explodes it is caused by the non-payment of subscriptions.—Economy.

"We might go further and say that his break is an order from Government suppressing him; his lubricating oil a few thousands of dollars bonus or a fat office; his water-wheel the 'local' his brakeman the Provost-Marshal; his freight train, the weekly; and his fuel, the subscribers.

"ONLY A LITTLE TIPSY." "Oh, mamma, said a bright boy nine years, 'did you hear the fire-bell ring this morning?' "Yes, my dear." "The city hall was burnt down," added the boy, "and a man who was put in the lock-up for disorderly conduct was burned to death." "Was he, indeed?" "Yes, mamma; and he was a real nice, kind man. He got into a scuffle last night with some rowdies, and to keep the peace till morning they put him in the lock-up. People are so sorry he is burnt."

"Yes, my dear boy, we have all reason to be sorry. For a man to be burned to death is a very shocking thing. But how came the poor man to be in that scuffle? You say he was a nice, kind man. That seems strange."

"Why, mamma, he was only a little tipsy." "Only a little tipsy? That explains all." "Yes, he was tipsy. And they think that in lighting his pipe towards morning, a spark fell on something that kindled very quick, and so the building was burnt, and the poor man in it.—He shrieked dreadfully to be let out, but they could not get him out till it was too late."

"Remember that, my boy. When you grow bigger, and the boys want you to drink any thing like rum or wine, don't listen to them for a moment. They may say, 'A little won't hurt you.' Remember that all the drunkards in the world began by taking a little at first. The poor man who was burned to death this morning had no idea of being a drunkard. But bad habits become stronger and stronger, and they make slaves of us before we know it. Always remember the man who lost his life because he was 'only a little tipsy.' "One word more, my boy; remember too that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven."

THE PROMISED PEACE.—The greatest boon the Administration is now capable of bestowing upon the country is peace. We were promised it specially if Lincoln was re-elected. He secured his re-election in some way, but there is no peace yet. If he will secure it to us, we will freely forgive him, every folly he has committed, and Heaven knows they have been numerous as the sands upon the seashore. Shall we have peace? The honest, intelligent, laboring masses of the country are becoming deeply interested in the solution of this question. They see the war was criminal, unnecessary, and desire to get out of it before becoming embroiled in a war with other nations. Shall we have peace with the South giving to her all her rights, or shall we have a five or ten year war with England and France?