

Raftsmen's Journal.



BY S. J. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., MARCH 22, 1865.

"THE DEMOCRATIC CASTLE."

Was it to Resist the Draft?

The fact that an organization called "the Democratic Castle," numbering in its subdivisions over a thousand members, existed throughout Clearfield county, though for a long time denied, has recently been established by evidence so conclusive, that even the Clearfield Republican is compelled to acknowledge it. It is alleged, however, that it was a perfectly legitimate and lawful association, having no other object than to promote the success of the Democratic party, by fair and proper means. It is said that "its only obligation was a pledge of honor to vote the Democratic ticket, or not to vote at all; nothing more." If this be true, certainly there was nothing objectionable in the organization, however remarkable the change of opinion in those who, a few years ago, could not find language strong enough to denounce secret political societies. But is this true? Had this organization no "oath" and no other object? Let us inquire.

The necessity of a secret society to further the success of the Democratic party in a county like this, where it is, and always has been, so largely in the ascendancy, may reasonably be doubted. It is, moreover, exceedingly improbable that men who have heretofore so strongly condemned such organizations, would adopt them in the face of all their past denunciations merely as a campaign project, unless there was some more important ulterior design. May it not be possible, then, that the real purpose of "The Democratic Castle" was to reduce to practice the advice of Messrs. Bigler and Wallace at the 13th of August meeting, not to furnish any more men or money to prosecute the war, or, in other words, to resist the draft and the officers who should be sent to execute it?

That this was the real object, is, we think, clearly established by the testimony elicited during the recent investigation before the Military Commission at Harrisburg. The witnesses were from different parts of the county, examined at various times and places, unacquainted with each other, in ignorance of what any one else stated, and, of course, testifying more or less reluctantly. Yet they all agreed in declaring that the members of the organization were sworn, and that its object was to resist the draft! Some of the evidence has already been published, and part of it is in our possession to be published in the future. It is conclusive and irresistible.

When or by whom "The Democratic Castle" was introduced into Clearfield county, we are not informed. Neither do we know whether it existed elsewhere in the same form that it did here, or whether, like Minerva from the brain of Jupiter, it sprang fully matured from the crania of "certain distinguished Democratic leaders in this town." The first we learn of it is in Knox township, just after the Bigler-Wallace meeting in August, and Gainer P. Bloom, Esq., is the witness. His statement is full, clear and distinct. He says he was initiated in Knox township, at Turkey-Hill School-house—that A. L. Hickock was President—that Tom Adams the notorious deserter, who since killed the soldier and got killed, was present—that he was sworn—that the name of the association was "The Democratic Castle"—that the "oath" bound them to keep secret everything connected with the order, and to stand by each other and "resist every attempt on the part of the authorities to enforce the draft—that they were furnished with signs and pass-words—that they were bound to have fire-arms to rescue members from the custody of Marshals if arrested—that there were marks to be placed on houses to distinguish the property of Democrats and Republicans—that the members did keep on hand the arms and ammunition—and that the head of the organization was in Clearfield town. He stated, moreover, that he was President of the "Castle" in his own township—that Frank M. Bride was Secretary—that M. Bride was the delegate to the "Division Castle" at Clearfield town—that he, Bloom, organized a "Castle" in Brady township of which Samuel Miles was President—and he gave the signs and pass-words which show it to be the same organization of which all the other witnesses speak.* If this statement is true the question is settled. But its credibility is denied by the Clearfield Republican, which avers that it was extorted, and that "Mr. Bloom most positively denies and disclaims the major part of it." It becomes important, therefore, to inquire,

how much, if any of it, is to be believed. To ascertain how far it is worthy of credence, it is necessary to know under what circumstances it was made. When Bloom was arrested he was first taken before Capt. Kerr at Curwensville. He there made a statement substantially the same as that which he swore to at Philipsburg, two days later. Lieut. Rawlins, a gentleman of unimpeachable veracity, who reduced his statement to writing, testifies in regard to it, as follows: "When Bloom came before me to make his statement, he said it was of his own free will and accord. I reduced it to writing, and he signed and swore to it before me. I told him when I was taking down his words that I did not want him to tell anything but the truth, and what he could conscientiously stand up and swear to before the men he accused. He replied 'that he knew what he was doing as he was a Justice of the Peace.' Major Goebel stated that when Bloom was brought to his office, he took his promise to report, and permitted him to go and stay at the hotel—and that the statement was made the next day, without threats or inducements of any kind, of Bloom's own free will and accord. It is difficult to conceive that a man under such circumstances, should deliberately swear to a tissue of falsehoods, make himself amenable to a prosecution for perjury, and involve no less than seventeen of his innocent fellow citizens and neighbors, by name, in an accusation of conspiracy to resist the draft. It is still more difficult to believe that Gainer P. Bloom would be able, in so brief a period, to devise and plan a complicated organization, with signs, pass-words, and symbols, giving every particular of time and place, the number of meetings, the name of officers, and detailing the practical working of the system. If he did, he is possessed of an amount of ingenuity and originality for which neither he, nor any member of his family, has ever received credit. The internal evidence of the truth of his statement, is alone conclusive.

If any doubt of its credibility remained, a very slight examination of the extrinsic evidence would forever set it at rest. It will be observed that Bloom says he organized a "Castle" in Brady township, of which Samuel Miles was President. Some time after Bloom was sent to Fort Mifflin. This man Miles was arrested in Brush Valley, Centre county, where he had removed. When he was brought to Philipsburg, he also desired to make a statement. He knew nothing about what Bloom had sworn, and made his affidavit of his own volition. He stated that in October last a secret society called "The Democratic Castle," was formed in Brady township, for the purpose of resisting the draft—that he was elected President—that it was organized by Gainer P. Bloom, that they were sworn to stand by each other and resist any attempt on the part of the officers to enforce the draft—that they were directed to keep on hand fire-arms and ammunition for that purpose—that some of the members did do so—that they actually did rescue from the Deputy Marshal two deserters—that John Hanna was one of the deserters rescued by the members of "The Democratic Castle"—that they had signs and pass-words—that he, Miles, was a delegate to the "Division Castle" at Clearfield, and that a tax was paid to support it. Here we have Bloom's statement fully corroborated in every particular.

George Korb, of Brady township, was examined as a witness on the trial of Bloom. He testified that he belonged to "The Democratic Castle"—that the members were sworn—that Bloom administered the oath to him—that he instructed the members in the signs and pass-words—that they were to rescue each other if arrested—that Miles was President—that the object was to resist the draft—and that they actually did rescue from the Marshal, two deserters.

This testimony is sufficient to convince any man that the sworn statement of Bloom, which by the advice of certain disinterested (?) parties he subsequently denied, was true in every particular. And when we find the very same organization—with the same oath, the same pass-words, and the same signs—existing in Graham township, thirty miles distant from the scene of Bloom's operations, his subsequent denial could impose upon no man but an idiot. The evidence published in another column, shows that in Graham township the members were sworn to stick together and help one another—that the society was called "The Democratic Castle"—that the drafted men were to stay at home and not go to the army, &c. Patrick Curley, who was one of the officers, plead "guilty," and admitted that the organization was for the purpose of resisting the draft. Moreover in pursuance of their instructions, the drafted men who were members, went to the woods armed with guns and revolvers, and remained there garisoned, until the Presidential election when they returned home to vote.

There is a circumstance connected with Bloom's statement, stronger than the evidence of a regiment of witnesses, that establishes its truth. It is found in the fact that the hieroglyphics given by him to distinguish the property of Democrats from that of Republicans, were actually found on many houses in different parts of the county. The symbols to be placed on a Democratic house were these, 15 + 19 = 34. Those for a Republican house these, 34 - 15 = 19. No doubt many of our readers will be surprised to find, when they see these signs, that

their own property has been marked for destruction. The editor of the Republican would have us believe that he did not belong to the "Castle." What right, then, has he to contradict the sworn statements of more than a score of witnesses who did? Perhaps he feels authorized to do so, from what he overheard when the "Division Castle" met in the building he occupies. If so he ought to have volunteered as a witness in defence of the men who were tried. But, strange to say, neither the editor of the Republican, or any member of the organization, was there to prove that the "Castle" was merely a political club, to forward the interests of the party by fair and legitimate means. In none of the cases did the defendants produce a single witness to prove the association was the harmless thing the Republican would have us believe. If there was "no oath"—nothing but a pledge of honor to vote the Democratic ticket, what was in the way of the members coming to the relief of their brethren, and laying open before the Court all that appertained to the organization? There are cases in which absence of proof, is conclusive evidence of guilt, and this is one of them.

We have neither time or space to refer to other evidence in our possession, nor is it necessary. In Bloom's statement, fully corroborated as we have seen, "The Democratic Castle" stands forth unmasked, in all its hideous deformity. A conspiracy to resist the draft, to oppose the Government, and to give aid and comfort to the rebellion, it merits and should receive the condemnation of every good citizen, whether Democrat or Republican. When those engaged in it marked the houses of their neighbors, they little thought how indelible was the brand they were placing upon themselves—a blistering stain that will cause their remotest posterity to rise up and curse their memory. That many persons were innocently enticed into it we have no doubt, but that others belonged to it who knew exactly what they were doing, we have just as little doubt. Many deluded men are now suffering in the stead of those who most richly deserve punishment, but they may rest assured that the hour will inevitably arrive when those really guilty will receive their full share of retributive justice.

THE WAR NEWS. A letter from Gen. Sherman to Gen. Grant, dated Fayetteville March 12th, describes his army as in good health and spirits, having met with no serious opposition—that at Columbia he destroyed immense arsenals and forty-three caissons, and large railroad establishments—at Cheraw he found much machinery and war material, including 25 cannon and 3,600 barrels of powder—at Fayetteville 20 cannon and much other material—and that Hardee keeps in his front, at a respectable distance. He also states that on the 10th, Hampton got in the rear of Kilpatrick's headquarters, and surprised and captured, his staff—but two officers, and that Kilpatrick escaped, formed his men, drove the enemy with great loss, and recaptured about all he had lost. There he lost 86 dead on the field. A report is also current that Sherman had arrived at Goldsboro, and was marching on, Raleigh.

Our troops have possession of Kingston, the rebels having evacuated the place. In the recent attack of the rebels on Schofield's forces under command of Gen. Cox, they lost very heavily—having left 700 dead on the field, besides many wounded who fell into our hands. There was fighting for three days, on one of which the rebels lost 2,000 in all. Our entire loss does not exceed 1,000. Gen. Cox states in an order dated the 11th, that Sherman's army would join him in three days.

Sheridan reports on the 15th, from the Bridge of the Richmond and Fredericksburg railroad across the South Anna river, that having destroyed the James River canal as far east as Goodland, he marched up the Virginia Central railroad, of which he totally destroyed 15 miles, and all the South Anna bridges, at one of which he captured their cannon—30 men having charged across the bridge on foot.

THE FLOOD. From our exchanges we learn, that the flood last week pervaded a large extent of territory, and the destruction of property was immense. At Oil City, forty thousand barrels of oil, and fifty thousand empty barrels floated off—the loss sustained in that place alone, being estimated at two millions of dollars. All along the western streams the bridges, and railroads were swept away, and all other property within reach of the water was destroyed. In the eastern part of the State the flood was equally destructive. Cities and towns were inundated, and railroads, houses, fences, bridges, etc., swept away. The amount of damage sustained is almost incalculable, not only in Pennsylvania, but in New York and other States. In fact, this has been the most destructive flood that has occurred in this country for a number of years.

P. S. We incidentally learn that the boom at Lock Haven has been entirely destroyed. Also that there was a break in the Williamsport boom, causing a loss of about six millions feet of lumber, in logs.

The amount appropriated for the purchase of cavalry and artillery horses, is twenty-one millions of dollars; and for the purchase of gunpowder and lead, ten millions and a half of dollars.

THE CLEARFIELD COUNTY CASES BEFORE THE MILITARY COMMISSION AT HARRISBURG, PA. CASE OF SAMUEL LANSBERRY. Samuel Lansberry was called up for trial on the 20th of February last. The Commission consisted of COL. CHARLES EWING of 4th New Jersey, President; COL. GEO. ZINN of 57th Penn'a., and CAPT. A. G. HAPPER of 11th Penn'a., and CAPT. H. L. JOHNSON, A. A. G., Judge Advocate. The persons tried were all defended by eminent and distinguished counsel, and all the witnesses they desired were brought at the expense of the Government.

Mr. Lansberry was defended by the Hon. JOHN C. KUNKLE of Harrisburg, and WM. P. JENKS, Esq., of Brookville. The order convening the Court was first read to him, when he was asked if he had any objection to be tried by the Court as constituted. He replied that he had not. He was then arraigned, and plead "not guilty" to the several charges and specifications, which are as follows:

CHARGE I.—Entering into, confederating and assisting in forming combinations to resist the execution of certain provisions of an Act of Congress approved the 23d day of March, 1863, entitled "An Act for enrolling and calling out the National Forces," and the several supplements thereto.

Specification 1st. In this, that he, the said Samuel Lansberry a citizen of Clearfield county, State of Pennsylvania, did unite, confederate and combine with Jacob Wilhelm and Patrick Curley and many other disloyal persons, whose names are unknown, at or near the county of Clearfield, State of Pennsylvania, to resist the draft and prevent persons who had been drafted under the provisions of the said Act of Congress, approved March 23, 1863, and the several supplements thereto, from entering the military service of the United States, and the said Samuel Lansberry did resist and evade and counsel and advise others to resist and evade the execution of certain provisions of the said Act of Congress and the several supplements thereto. All this in or near the county of Clearfield, State of Pennsylvania, on or about the 10th day of October 1864, and at divers times and places before and after said mentioned day.

Specification 2d. In this, that he, the said Samuel Lansberry a citizen of Clearfield county, State of Pennsylvania, did unite, confederate and combine with Jacob Wilhelm and Patrick Curley and many other disloyal persons, whose names are unknown, and form or unite with a society or organization, commonly known and called by the name of the "Democratic Castle," the object of which society or organization was and is to resist the execution of the draft, and prevent persons who have been drafted under the provisions of the said Act of Congress, approved March 23, 1863, and the several supplements thereto, from entering the military service of the United States. This done in or near Clearfield county, State of Pennsylvania, on or about the 10th day of October 1864, and at divers times and places before and after said mentioned day.

CHARGE II.—The commission of acts of disloyalty against the Government of the United States, and uttering disloyal sentiments and opinions, with the object of defeating and weakening the power of the Government in its efforts to suppress the unlawful rebellion now existing in the United States.

Specification. In this, that he, the said Samuel Lansberry a citizen of Clearfield county, State of Pennsylvania, did by words, in substance, threaten and declare that he would resist by force all the officers and others in aid of the Government of the United States, concerned in enforcing the laws of the United States for enrolling and drafting under the laws thereof, and counseled and advised others to resist by force all officers and others in aid of the Government of the United States, and of persons drafted into the military service of the United States. This done at or near Clearfield county, State of Pennsylvania, on or about the 10th day of October, 1864, and at divers times and places before and after said mentioned day.

The sections of the Act of Congress, of which these specifications constitute a violation provide, as follows: "If any person shall resist any draft of men enrolled under this act, or shall counsel or aid any person to resist such draft, or shall counsel any drafted men not to appear at the place of rendezvous, or wilfully dissuade them from the performance of military duty, &c., he shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500, and imprisonment not exceeding two years. Again, any person who shall forcibly resist any enrollment, or shall incite, counsel, encourage, or shall conspire or confederate with any other persons to resist or oppose such enrollment, or shall assault, obstruct, hinder, impede or threaten any officer or other person employed in the performance of or aiding in the performance of any service in any way relating thereto, or in arresting or aiding to arrest any spy or deserter, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, and imprisonment not exceeding five years.

Before commencing the testimony, it is proper to explain, that in Military Courts, all the witnesses are excluded from the room, and are called in and examined separately. Each witness is therefore ignorant of what has been stated by the others.

The first witness called on the part of the Government was S. B. BENSON, Deputy Provost Marshal, who testified as follows: "I have been employed for nearly two years past as Deputy Provost Marshal of the Nineteenth District. I know the prisoner by sight. He lives in Clearfield county, which is in the Nineteenth District.

Question.—Give the state of feeling among the people of Clearfield county in regard to the draft, as it existed last fall.

Answer.—I was sent into Clearfield county last fall by Capt. Campbell, Provost Marshal, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of feeling among the inhabitants. I traveled through the county in citizen's clothes, and talked with a great many persons some of whom I knew, but most of whom I did not know. I talked both with those who were in favor of the war, and those opposed to it. I was satisfied there would be difficulty in enforcing the draft, and so reported to Capt. Campbell.

Wemade a draft for Clearfield county, on the 3d of October last, of 666 men. They were ordered to report at Brookville—about 40 or 50 miles from the central part of the county. The Board of Enrollment transferred its Head Quarters to Brookville in order to accommodate these drafted men. They were to report on the 20th of October. Less than three hundred men reported out of the whole number drafted. Most of those who did report, were such as were certain of exemption. The men who were held to service, were allowed a furlough of ten days, at the expiration of which they were to report at Waterford. A large number of them never came back, and have not yet reported. When the Board left Brookville, we determined to send detectives into the county to arrest deserters. Col. Cyrus Butler and George Van Vliet, were accordingly sent on the 28th of October, 1864, and on the 31st of October, we received information that Col. Cyrus Butler had been killed while attempting to arrest a deserter named Lansberry. Requisition was then made for troops. A detachment of the 16th Regt. V. R. C. was sent up, numbering 300 or 400 men. We arrested, I think, nearly three hundred men. We found a great many deserters from the army, as well as a large number of delinquents from the Draft. In one house nineteen men were arrested, fourteen of whom were deserters. After the troops came, the men began to report. The supplementary draft was made for 184 men, and they nearly all reported.

JACOB RINEHART, sworn.—I know Samuel Lansberry. I was at a meeting, held at Polk School House, on the evening before the State election, last fall. There were 20 or 25 men there. Jacob Wilhelm was President, Amos Hubler Vice President, and Patrick Curley Secretary. Wm. Wilhelm, Henry Hubler, Heseckiah Lansberry, Daniel Curley, Samuel Lansberry, John A. Green, John McDowell, Geo. W. Hall, W. R. Green and others were present. Patrick Curley stated the object of the meeting. He said it was a Democratic meeting, and he wanted none but Democrats in—that any drafted men who wanted to report could do so, but that those who did not want to do so could join. There was an oath administered. We were sworn to stick together—keep the secrets—assist one another—and not go to the army. Patrick Curley administered the oath. I don't think Samuel Lansberry was present when I was sworn. I think Lansberry did not come in until we were all sworn in. I do not remember that any save drafted men were sworn in. I am not certain who called the meeting. Samuel Lansberry asked me to go. He served a notice on me that I was drafted the night of this meeting, after I was sworn. He came to my house on the day of the meeting—I was in the garden. He told me about the meeting and asked me if I was coming. I told him I did not know. He allowed I had better come and join the meeting and get my draft notice. I told him if he had a notice for me I would like to have it. He allowed I had better come to the meeting and get it, and said he would give it to me there. He then asked me if I was going to the green woods. I told him I could not afford it, that I had to work for my living. He replied "we have plenty to live on." I asked him why he took the notices to serve? He said he thought he could give us a better chance to stay at home. We were all in the house when he served the notices on us. When he gave me mine, he laid the others down on a table, and told Mr. Wilhelm to read them off. Lansberry said he had better not report, but all stuck together. I did not hear him advise any others. He said M. Kierman, the Deputy Marshal, had employed him to serve the notices.

I attended a meeting at Jacob Hubler's house, I saw Lansberry there. It was about two weeks after the one at the School house. I believe the same men were present. It was also a secret meeting. There were probably 25 or 30 there. There were drafted men in the party—several of them. The meeting was nearly over when I got there. I was taken into a small room and sworn. I was then shown the signs, and pass-words, &c., sworn to stick to the party and not vote for any one outside, to keep the secrets, &c. It was different from the oath at the School House. It was called the "Democratic Castle." I cannot recollect whether anything was said about the draft. I was only there about half an hour or so. I think this meeting was after the time we were ordered to report. I did not hear Lansberry say anything while I was there concerning the meeting.

Question.—Did you expect to receive any assistance from the members of this meeting in the event of your being arrested?

Answer.—Yes sir, I did. I expected to get assistance by using the signs. One sign is to draw the right hand across the mouth, and the answer was to draw the left hand across the forehead. If I met a man who did not understand the signs I would know he did not belong to the party, and I could shun him if necessary.

Question.—Did not Lansberry insist upon obedience to the laws of the country?

Answer.—I could not say he was obeying the laws when he told me not to report. I have never witnessed any resistance to the draft further than I have stated.

Question.—If you were arrested and met persons who understood your signs, what did you expect them to do?

Answer.—I expected them to have me released.

Question.—In what way?

Answer.—By the way that was explained in the meeting—which, as I understood it, was to take me from the authorities, but not to kill anybody.

Question.—Suppose the party having you in custody, refused to release you, what then?

Answer.—They would take me from them as best they could.

I cannot say Lansberry was sworn, as I did not see it done.

JOHN S. M. KIERMAN, sworn.—I reside at Smith's Mills, Clearfield county, Pa. I was appointed Deputy Provost Marshal in June 1863, and continued to act in that capacity until the 1st of November last. I know the accused. He was to serve the draft notices, for Graham township, and I believe he did serve them judging from the return he made to me. I empowered him to return them. There was considerable difficulty in getting any one to serve the notices. I was in Clearfield on Friday or Saturday after the draft, in October, and asked a number of persons from Graham township to serve the notices, but they all refused. Samuel Lansberry came to me and asked to see the list of drafted men. I told him I could not let him see it, unless he would consent to serve the notices. There was considerable other talk, but that was the substance of what I told him. He wanted to know what he would have to do. I explained to him that he must take an oath to do it faithfully, and also explained how the notices were to be served. He then asked to see the oath. I showed it to him, and he carefully read it over. He told me he could take the oath, and I then administered it to him. I gave him the notices. I had never seen him before, to my knowledge.

GEORGE W. HALL, sworn.—I know Samuel Lansberry. I attended a secret meeting at the Polk School-house, in Graham township, about the first of October last. Samuel Lansberry notified me of the meeting, on the Sunday previous. He came to my house on that day. He told me he had a draft notice for me and to come to the meeting, and he would give it to me. He also told me I should not report. He told me he did not have the notice with him. He served the notice on me at the meeting. There was quite a crowd standing round when he served the notice on me. Patrick Curley stated the object of the meeting. He said it was to get the men to stick together, and that those who did not want to report, should help one another not to go. I suppose 20 or 25 men were sworn. There were a good many drafted men sworn in. He served the notices after they were sworn. The first time I recollect seeing him that night was when he gave me my notice.

Cross Examined.—He did not tell me what kind of a meeting it was to be. He only told me there would be a meeting. He did not say it was to be a Democratic meeting. My mother said, in the presence of Lansberry, when he told me I was drafted, that I was too young. He stopped at our house to tell father to fill up some graves in the burying ground. I could not say positively whether he was present when Curley served the object of the meeting, nor whether he was present when the oath was administered to any one. I did not hear him say that he would be willing to pay for substitutes.

WILLIAM W. HOOVER, sworn.—I was drafted last October. Samuel Lansberry left the notice at my father's house. I was at the meeting at the Polk School-house. Lansberry notified me of it. It was held on Monday before the election in October, 25 or 30 present. We were sworn, to stick together, and help one another not to go to the army. I saw Lansberry just after the meeting was over. He gave the notices to the drafted men who were there, after they were sworn. He told me afterwards, not to report but to come and work for him, and he would put me in a substitute. I went and worked for him. I went to him about three weeks after the draft. I had conversations with him several times about reporting. His advice on each occasion was not to report. I worked for him upwards of 3 weeks. I know of a party of men living in the woods in a long cabin last fall. William Wilhelm, H. Zekiah and Alex. Lansberry, (sons of the accused,) Thomas Holt, John Loder and myself composed it. We were all drafted men. It was about a week after we got the notices that we went to the woods. We were ordered to report on the 10th of October. I think—the day before the election. We remained in the woods about two weeks. We lived in a shanty which we constructed ourselves. We took provision with us from home. On Wednesday after we went out, Samuel Lansberry brought us provisions, in a spring wagon. We had our rifles with us. We went there to hunt—that's what we built the shanty for. The time for reporting was, up when we got home. None of the party reported. It was Lansberry's team that brought the provisions.

Cross Examined.—I did not see Lansberry when the oath was administered to me. I never asked him to get me a substitute. I never sent him to a meeting to procure one for me. He said he would get me one if he could be got for \$125. The place where we were staying in the shanty, was the ordinary hunting ground of the people in that country. It is customary to go there in the fall to hunt. My father and other citizens were out at the same time. Lansberry hauled provisions for all of us. I was with Lansberry from the 7th to the 10th. Some persons went home from the shanty and then came back. I would have gone there to hunt, but I cannot speak for the others.

JOHN L. LODER, sworn.—I live in Bradford township, Clearfield county. An A. H. bore, I know Lansberry. I was one of the party living in the shanty in the woods. All the men were drafted. They said they went there to hunt. When I went there I did not know the others were there. They were all armed. I didn't hear anything said about avoiding the draft. It was said, that it was a nice place to resist the soldiers if they come. We left the woods on the Saturday before the Presidential Election. While we were there Alexander Lansberry heard that he was exempted from the draft. He then left. They told him when he started that if any fighting was going on in the neighborhood they should let us know. Mr. Lansberry hauled us provisions, with his wagon and horses. The parties did not seem to be much afraid of being arrested.

Cross Examined.—It was customary to hunt at that period of the year. The party had more fire-arms than hunters usually take. Each man had a revolver, an article which hunters do not usually carry.

The prosecution rested.

JAMES R. GRAHAM Esq., was the first witness called for the defence. He testified as follows:—I am 53 years old. Am Cashier of the Clearfield County Bank. I have been acquainted with Samuel Lansberry for

Answer.—They would take me from them as best they could.

I cannot say Lansberry was sworn, as I did not see it done.

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GEORGE W. HALL, sworn.—I know Samuel Lansberry. I attended a secret meeting at the Polk School-house, in Graham township, about the first of October last. Samuel Lansberry notified me of the meeting, on the Sunday previous. He came to my house on that day. He told me he had a draft notice for me and to come to the meeting, and he would give it to me. He also told me I should not report. He told me he did not have the notice with him. He served the notice on me at the meeting. There was quite a crowd standing round when he served the notice on me. Patrick Curley stated the object of the meeting. He said it was to get the men to stick together, and that those who did not want to report, should help one another not to go. I suppose 20 or 25 men were sworn. There were a good many drafted men sworn in. He served the notices after they were sworn. The first time I recollect seeing him that night was when he gave me my notice.

Cross Examined.—He did not tell me what kind of a meeting it was to be. He only told me there would be a meeting. He did not say it was to be a Democratic meeting. My mother said, in the presence of Lansberry, when he told me I was drafted, that I was too young. He stopped at our house to tell father to fill up some graves in the burying ground. I could not say positively whether he was present when Curley served the object of the meeting, nor whether he was present when the oath was administered to any one. I did not hear him say that he would be willing to pay for substitutes.

WILLIAM W. HOOVER, sworn.—I was drafted last October. Samuel Lansberry left the notice at my father's house. I was at the meeting at the Polk School-house. Lansberry notified me of it. It was held on Monday before the election in October, 25 or 30 present. We were sworn, to stick together, and help one another not to go to the army. I saw Lansberry just after the meeting was over. He gave the notices to the drafted men who were there, after they were sworn. He told me afterwards, not to report but to come and work for him, and he would put me in a substitute. I went and worked for him. I went to him about three weeks after the draft. I had conversations with him several times about reporting. His advice on each occasion was not to report. I worked for him upwards of 3 weeks. I know of a party of men living in the woods in a long cabin last fall. William Wilhelm, H. Zekiah and Alex. Lansberry, (sons of the accused,) Thomas Holt, John Loder and myself composed it. We were all drafted men. It was about a week after we got the notices that we went to the woods. We were ordered to report on the 10th of October. I think—the day before the election. We remained in the woods about two weeks. We lived in a shanty which we constructed ourselves. We took provision with us from home. On Wednesday after we went out, Samuel Lansberry brought us provisions, in a spring wagon. We had our rifles with us. We went there to hunt—that's what we built the shanty for. The time for reporting was, up when we got home. None of the party reported. It was Lansberry's team that brought the provisions.

Cross Examined.—I did not see Lansberry when the oath was administered to me. I never asked him to get me a substitute. I never sent him to a meeting to procure one for me. He said he would get me one if he could be got for \$125. The place where we were staying in the shanty, was the ordinary hunting ground of the people in that country. It is customary to go there in the fall to hunt. My father and other citizens were out at the same time. Lansberry hauled provisions for all of us. I was with Lansberry from the 7th to the 10th. Some persons went home from the shanty and then came back. I would have gone there to hunt, but I cannot speak for the others.

JOHN L. LODER, sworn.—I live in Bradford township, Clearfield county. An A. H. bore, I know Lansberry. I was one of the party living in the shanty in the woods. All the men were drafted. They said they went there to hunt. When I went there I did not know the others were there. They were all armed. I didn't hear anything said about avoiding the draft. It was said, that it was a nice place to resist the soldiers if they come. We left the woods on the Saturday before the Presidential Election. While we were there Alexander Lansberry heard that he was exempted from the draft. He then left. They told him when he started that if any fighting was going on in the neighborhood they should let us know. Mr. Lansberry hauled us provisions, with his wagon and horses. The parties did not seem to be much afraid of being arrested.

Cross Examined.—It was customary to hunt at that period of the year. The party had more fire-arms than hunters usually take. Each man had a revolver, an article which hunters do not usually carry.

The prosecution rested.

JAMES R. GRAHAM Esq., was the first witness called for the defence. He testified as follows:—I am 53 years old. Am Cashier of the Clearfield County Bank. I have been acquainted with Samuel Lansberry for

Answer.—They would take me from them as best they could.

I cannot say Lansberry was sworn, as I did not see it done.

JOHN S. M. KIERMAN, sworn.—I reside at Smith's Mills, Clearfield county, Pa. I was appointed Deputy Provost Marshal in June 1863, and continued to act in that capacity until the 1st of November last. I know the accused. He was to serve the draft notices, for Graham township, and I believe he did serve them judging from the return he made to me. I empowered him to return them. There was considerable difficulty in getting any one to serve the notices. I was in Clearfield on Friday or Saturday after the draft, in October, and asked a number of persons from Graham township to serve the notices, but they all refused. Samuel Lansberry came to me and asked to see the list of drafted men. I told him I could not let him see it, unless he would consent to serve the notices. There was considerable other talk, but that was the substance of what I told him. He wanted to know what he would have to do. I explained to him that he must take an oath to do it faithfully, and also explained how the notices were to be served. He then asked to see the oath. I showed it to him, and he carefully read it over. He told me he could take the oath, and I then administered it to him. I gave him the notices. I had never seen him before, to my knowledge.

GEORGE W. HALL, sworn.—I know Samuel Lansberry. I attended a secret meeting at the Polk School-house, in Graham township, about the first of October last. Samuel Lansberry notified me of the meeting, on the Sunday previous. He came to my house on that day. He told me he had a draft notice for me and to come to the meeting, and he would give it to me. He also told me I should not report. He told me he did not have the notice with him. He served the notice on me at the meeting. There was quite a crowd standing round when he served the notice on me. Patrick Curley stated the object of the meeting. He said it was to get the men to stick together, and that those who did not want to report, should help one another not to go. I suppose 20 or 25 men were sworn. There were a good many drafted men sworn in. He served the notices after they were sworn. The first time I recollect seeing him that night was when he gave me my notice.

Cross Examined.—He did not tell me what kind of a meeting it was to be. He only told me there would be a meeting. He did not say it was to be a Democratic meeting. My mother said, in the presence of Lansberry, when he told me I was drafted, that I was too young. He stopped at our house to tell father to fill up some graves in the burying ground. I could not say positively whether he was present when Curley served the object of the meeting, nor whether he was present when the oath was administered to any one. I did not hear him say that he would be willing to pay for substitutes.

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