

# SOUTHERN ÆGIS

A. W. BATEMAN, Editor.

BEL AIR, MD.,

Saturday, September 20, 1862.

The "Southern Ægis" has a more extended circulation among the intelligent farmers and business men of Harford, than any other paper in the county. No "Lock Hospital" or other obscene or "Lottery" advertisement will appear in our columns for any price. A large number of our subscribers pay for their paper in advance, and consequently are just the class advertisers desire to reach.

The attention of respectable and legitimate advertisers is directed to the above facts.

## To Correspondents.

All communications for publication must be accompanied with the real name of the author, or no attention will be paid to them. The real name of the author will not be published unless desired, but we cannot consent to insert communications unless we know the writer.

## WAR NEWS.

The intelligence from the seat of war in Western Maryland is highly important. Brief despatches from Gen. McClellan report a severe battle fought on Sunday last at Bolivar, resulting in the defeat of the Confederates with heavy loss, they retreating towards the river, followed by the Federal troops. The battle commenced in the afternoon and lasted until nightfall. The Federal loss is not reported, but the commanding general thinks that it cannot be heavy. Gen. Reno was among the killed. This officer was a graduate of West Point, and was formerly in command of a division under Gen. Burnside, but was recently transferred to the position of Gen. McDowell, now absent from the army on leave. The town of Bolivar, in the vicinity of which the battle occurred, is on the road from Middletown to Hagerstown, and between the first named place and Boonsboro', about four miles distant from each.

It appears that the portion of the Confederate army which recrossed the Potomac at Williamsport, co-operating with a part of that remaining on the Maryland Side, attacked Col. Miles' position on the Maryland Heights and obliged him to move over to the entrenchments at Bolivar Heights, about one mile behind Harper's Ferry. It is reported that the Confederates were planting guns to bear on Col. Miles' new position. Later advices report that fighting had been going on at Harper's Ferry, but that Col. Miles still held his position.

A despatch reports active operations in Western Virginia. On Wednesday week the Confederates attacked the Federal troops at Fayetteville, in Fayette county, but after a desperate fight, in which they lost one hundred in killed and wounded, the Federal troops escaped to Gauley. An Ohio regiment and three companies of Virginia troops have been cut off at Summersville, in Nicholas county, and nothing has been heard from them. Col. Lightburn was on the Elk river on Saturday last, maintaining his ground against the Confederates, but subsequently moved to Ripley. The despatch confirms the report of the burning of Charleston, by the Federal troops.

All was quiet at Cincinnati at latest advices. The Confederates are reported to have fallen back four miles below Florence, on account of the scarcity of water, and are supposed to be awaiting reinforcement. All business was resumed in Cincinnati.

At the latest advices from Cumberland Gap, Gen. Morgan was supplying his army by foraging in the neighborhood, and was confident that he could hold out till help arrived. A Confederate force was still in his front, but those in his rear had left to join Kirby Smith before Cincinnati.

Since the above was written it is stated that the Federal force at Harper's Ferry, variously estimated at from eight to twelve thousand, was surrendered to the Confederates on Monday. Col. Miles, the officer in command, is said to have been killed.

A despatch has been received stating that Gen. McClellan had come up with the rear of the Confederate army at Sharpsburg, and a great battle was in progress. The portion of the Confederates under Gen. Jackson had recrossed the Potomac, so that their whole army was in Maryland engaged in the battle. Sharpsburg is in Washington county, one mile from the Potomac river, nine miles southwest of the scene of the battle on Monday, and ten miles north of Harper's Ferry.

The Federal forces at Bloomfield, in Stoddard county, Missouri, were attacked by the Confederates on Thursday last and forced to evacuate the town, two of their guns falling into the hands of their enemy. The next day a Federal force from Greenville shelled Bloomfield and retook the place, after a short engagement. In the first fight the Federal loss was three killed and five wounded. The loss of the Confederates is not known.

The latest intelligence from Cincinnati is important. It appears that the Confederate forces have not abandoned the siege, but on Monday drove in the Federal pickets two and a half miles south of Florence, showing an intention of occupying their old camping ground in sight of the Federal lines. Florence is ten miles southwest of Cincinnati. A later despatch says that the report of the advance of the Confederates was erroneous, but they are represented as extending themselves below Florence, where they have been reinforced by the troops under Gen. Humphrey Marshall.

A fight recently occurred at Coldwater, Marshall county, Miss., between a body of Federal cavalry, and a force of Confederates, resulting in the defeat of the latter, with a loss of eight killed. There were no casualties on the Federal side.

A despatch from Richmond, published in the Southern papers, states that General Joseph E. Johnston has been ordered to the trans-Mississippi department, leaving Gen. Price, Magruder and Holmes under him. Gen. Pillow has been ordered to report his duty at Richmond. A resolution has been passed by the Confederate Congress recalling Messrs. Mason and Seward. 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The latest advices from Western Virginia reports that all the Federal forces had reached Ravenswood, on the Ohio river, on Sunday evening, bringing their baggage train through a safety.

## LETTER FROM JAMES W. WALL.

The following letter from Col. James W. Wall, of Burlington, was read at a Democratic meeting at Philadelphia in reply to an invitation to attend that meeting:

Hon. F. W. Hughes, Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee:

DEAR SIR:—I sincerely regret that it will not be in my power to accept your invitation to be present and address the meeting of the Democracy to be held in Independence Square on Saturday evening next.

I regret it the more, because at this momentous period of the country's history, I believe it to be the sacred duty of every patriot to aid with voice, pen and every energy, in advancing and re-establishing those great national principles upon which the Democratic party rests. That party is one of no mushroom growth. It was born with the Constitution, and can only perish when that Constitution shall become the sport of unprincipled factions, and cease to be considered as the expression of the national will, for the protection of the equal rights of all. It came into power almost with the birth of the present century; and with rare intervals continued in power until, weakened by dissensions, industriously fomented by a cunning and unscrupulous political organization, it was thrust aside to make room for a sectional revolutionary section, whose advent to power has unquestionably inflicted upon the country the curse of civil war. The triumph of the principles of the Democratic party could never have produced revolution. By the wisdom of its keen, far-sighted policy, the Democratic party, when in power, had enlarged our borders, given unexampled prosperity to the country, and labored to imbue with its own spirit of nationality our councils and our legislation. The catholicity of its views banished forever the fell spirit of sectionalism from its midst. Its efforts were always to maintain inviolate the original compact of the Constitution, preserving intact the legitimate rights of the States, recognized no geographical distinctions, and introducing no disturbing forces to interfere with that constitutional equilibrium whose preservation was so vital to the continued harmony and regularity of our political system. It was the disturbance of this equilibrium, by the introduction of the antagonistic forces of sectionalism and fanaticism, that produced the revolution. It is only by the triumph of the Democratic party that such equilibrium can be restored.

Many honest, right-thinking men wonder that the party now bearing rule can treat so lightly constitutional obligations, and trample on the most sacred guaranteed rights of freemen; but such abnormal action is inseparable from its nature. Its very organization was unconstitutional—its tendencies revolutionary in the very throes of the agony that gave it birth. In the formation of this geographical party was recognized the advent of that time, against whose approach the good Washington warned his countrymen. In the formation of that party, designing men succeeded in exciting a belief "that there was a real difference of local interest and local views." "The heart-burnings and jealousies springing from misrepresentation" accomplished the fearful work, and succeeded "in rendering alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by the ties of fraternal affection." Such an organization as this can never acknowledge the sanctity of constitutional obligations, for it would be entirely abhorrent to its very nature. You might as well expect the devil to recognize the sanctity of holy water. As long, therefore, as it holds sway, men may expect to hear of these high-handed outrages upon the constitutional rights of the citizens, and to read in its leading journals that the Constitution is suspended, and may be set aside altogether, whenever the salvation of the Republican party demands it.

It is for those of us who recognize the obligations of that Constitution as binding on the nation and its rulers in war as well as in peace, to labor for the triumph of principles that our fathers gave us, and if the nation had only adhered to them, we should this day have been a united and a happy people. Those principles are still alive. Not all the horrors of civil war can extinguish them, and not all the threats of power can alarm true men from publicly avowing their devotion to them. I conscientiously believe that the salvation of this country from its present most fearful perils depends upon the final success of that great Constitutional party at the ballot-box, and so believing, I shall labor boldly and energetically to that end. Remember what Webster said—"Constitutional liberty must never permit power, and least of all, executive power, to overstep its prescribed limits, either in peace or war, though benevolent motives and patriotic interest come along with it. The spirit of liberty is jealous of encroachment, jealous of power, jealous of men. At all times it demands checks; it insists on securities; it entrenches itself behind defenses, and fortifies itself against the assaults of Ambition and Passion."

Let every good citizen in such fearful times lay these noble words to heart. I thank you for the invitation, believe me, Yours, very truly,

JAMES W. WALL.

From the Journal of Commerce.

## THE CONSTITUTION.

The great foundation-stone of our national existence is a terrible obstacle in the way of radicalism, and every possible effort is used on the part of the "progressives" to destroy it. The plan of attack is not bold nor is it courageous. It consists in plots and tricks to undermine the popular love and respect for it, deprive it of defenders, and expose it to the malice of its enemies. Those who maintain the cause of the Constitution are pronounced traitors. It is not uncommon to hear radical men declare every man a traitor who talks about the Constitution in these times. If the Constitution stands in the way of a yet radical project, the old saying is revived that it is a league with death and a covenant with hell. If a loyal man opposes a fanatical scheme because it is unconstitutional, the vials of ridicule are poured out on him. The New York Tribune gives a notable instance of its enmity to the Constitution by an elaborate article proving that though it may be unconstitutional to kill Southern bloodhounds, still circumstances may justify it, and therefrom derives the moral that slaves of the Southerners may be set free in spite of the Constitution. Perhaps no one sees the connection, but that is the Tribune's business and not ours, and if this is not the moral of the argument it has none at all.

The efforts of the radical branch of the last Congress to nullify the plainest precepts of the Constitution present a sorrowful picture in our history. Every effort was made which ingenuity could devise to entrap the Government into attacking it and setting it at defiance. The people were misled by a thousand sophistries, the boldest of which was that the rebels had no rights under the Constitution. This notion is still iterated and reiterated by radical newspapers, in face of the plain fact that we have no right to punish them as rebels except under and by virtue of the Constitution. But argument availed nothing against the tempest of the progressive shakers of the country, and they pursued their work of destruction with varying prospects of success, up to the hour of the adjournment of Congress, spreading in all directions the pestilent doctrine that the Constitution itself was unreasonable because it stood in the way of their plans of emancipation and anarchy. There is now no radical man who professes to have respect for the Constitution. It is a bye-word and reproach in their mouths. The Tribune ridicules the idea that a man should be tried by jury before he is hung, or that his property should be held inviolate so long as he is unconvicted, and therefore possibly an innocent man. The programme of radicalism is to introduce the French Revolution plan at once, and establish commissions and guillotines in the North and in the South.

Let us regard for one instant the state of our country under radical rule. 1. No trials by jury for any one suspected of treason, but a short rope and a sudden execution for every one who shall be denounced by a newspaper or a citizen. 2. No protection to the property of any one suspected, nor any defence of his wife and children against marauders, but when any one says of any one else that he is a rebel, descend like a whirlwind on the man's house, burn, kill, and destroy, so as to strike terror into other men's hearts. 3. Proclaim freedom to slaves, place arms in their hands, inform them that no rebel house or man or woman is protected by any law or order, and send them out on a mission of "subduing the rebellion." Every one of these three propositions is deliberately urged by a radical newspaper, and opposition to these plans of blood and rapine is ridiculed as kid glove management.

We have no space to speak of their plans for the North. The church is to be reformed by the halter, the State to be governed by the saints of the Abolition school. Every man who defends the Constitution is to be declared a sympathizer with the rebellion, and every State which claims any relics of State sovereignty is to be regarded as contemptuous, and reduced to a territorial condition.

Long distant be the day of the Abolition millennium!

In contrast with these mad schemes, the vast majority of the American people are determined to stand by the Constitution and defend it, with blood and treasure, against Northern and Southern foes. They are determined that the victory in this war shall be the victory of the Constitution and the laws, and to that end they are determined that the Constitution shall be respected, as Washington taught, and as all the long line of patriots down to the present day have taught. The Constitution is the Union. The triumph of one is the triumph of the other. Let every man diligently study each proposal of radicalism, and if he finds in it an attack on the Constitution he may regard it as an attack on the Union. To strike one is to strike both. To defend one is to defend both, and the only loyal defenders of the Union to-day are those who defend the Constitution and the laws, and to that end they are determined that the Constitution shall be respected, as Washington taught, and as all the long line of patriots down to the present day have taught. The Constitution is the Union. The triumph of one is the triumph of the other. Let every man diligently study each proposal of radicalism, and if he finds in it an attack on the Constitution he may regard it as an attack on the Union. To strike one is to strike both. To defend one is to defend both, and the only loyal defenders of the Union to-day are those who defend the Constitution and the laws, and to that end they are determined that the Constitution shall be respected, as Washington taught, and as all the long line of patriots down to the present day have taught. The Constitution is the Union. The triumph of one is the triumph of the other. 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