



ELIAS SMITH...EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday,April 9, 1862.

THE CONFERENCE.

The thirty-second annual Conference, which commenced on Sunday, the 6th inst., has not adjourned, but is in session to-day. It is supposed that it will terminate this afternoon. Not having had an opportunity of attending in the day time, nor of being present at any of the evening meetings which have been held, we cannot speak particularly of the proceedings, but all with whom we have conversed who have enjoyed the privilege of hearing the instructions given, have expressed unqualified satisfaction with what they have seen and heard, each taking the portion meted out to them respectively of a corrective nature, with kindly feelings, and will unquestionably be benefitted thereby according to their determinations severally expressed. We desired to have published the minutes or some portion of them in this number, but circumstances inhibited.

The Tabernacle was not filled to its utmost capacity on Sunday, but on Monday and Tuesday there were no vacant seats, judging from the dense crowds there were on the outside, who could not gain admittance. Every county, city and settlement, throughout these valleys, we believe, has been represented, notwithstanding the bad roads and storminess of the weather. We have seen in our office men from the extreme northern and southern portions of the State, but none with a downcast countenance, all seemingly being in good health and spirits, and ready to perform any labor or work necessary to the furtherance of the cause in which they are engaged, and which brought them to this land.

Meeting of The Legislature.

Some anxiety is, and has been, manifested in relation to what may, or may not be done by the General Assembly, during the first session, which will, in accordance with the proclamation of the Governor elect, meet at the State House, in this city, on Monday next, but we know of no way nor means, whereby the curiosity of those thus operated upon can be gratified beforehand, and they will have to wait till the time shall come, when they may learn something they do not now know. That the members elect will meet at the time and place appointed, and effect an organization of each branch by the election of officers may be considered certain, and that two Senators to represent the State in the Upper House of Congress will be elected, is not problematical. What else may be done is beyond our ken, but we are firmly of opinion that all that may be deemed necessary to be done will be, and no more, and we have no anxiety in relation to the result, as it cannot, under existing circumstances, be any other than right. The members elect are wise men and ardently devoted to the principles of the Constitution of their common country, and will do nothing not authorized by that sacred instrument, nor anything not in accordance with its spirit and provisions.

TELEGRAPH LINES.—The wires between Omaha and Chicago are not yet in working order, as reported, but communication between St. Joseph and the Mississippi was resumed on Saturday, and dispatches were received bringing up the telegraphic history of events to that date. They continued working, but not first rate, till Monday afternoon, when some casualty occurred to the line between this city and the Weber. All was right again last evening, and it is to be hoped that there will be less interruptions to the institution hereafter than for the last five weeks.

FOUND.—A Wallet containing some papers of value, and an India Rubber over coat have been found, and left at our office for those who can make satisfactory proof of ownership.

WAR NEWS ITEMS.

It was announced that on the 10th of March, Col. Geary, with some of his officers, and a detachment of the First Michigan Cavalry, rode to Ball's Bluffs and buried the bones of the Union soldiers who fell upon that field in October last. On the same day, a Federal force amounting to upward of two thousand, proceeded to Centerville and occupied the village about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The town had been deserted by the Confederates.

The command then proceeded on to Manassas that evening. The enemy had destroyed by fire and otherwise what property they could not carry away with them. The bridges, railroad track, and depot in that vicinity were extensively damaged. The evacuation and retreat of the enemy from Centerville, Manassas and other points occupied by them is admitted to have been done in a complete and handsome style—the most perfect of any military movement of the kind on record. It is reported that they carried away all their artillery of any worth, their provisions and munitions, and three fourths of the populace—free and bond, along their route. They blew up or otherwise demolished all the bridges and culverts on the turnpikes and railroads and made a clean sweep of all their camps, huts and barracks, excepting those at Manassas and a few others, enough to accommodate about seventy thousand troops.

On the 13th of March, Secretary Stanton issued an order appointing the Hon Joseph Holt and the Hon. Robert Dale Owen as special commissioners to audit and adjust all contracts, orders and claims on the War department, in respect to ordnance, arms and ammunition, their determination to be final and conclusive as respects the department on all questions touching the validity, execution and sum due, or to become due upon such contract and upon all other questions arising between contractors and the government upon contracts. Persons interested in contracts can appear in person, but not by attorney before said commissioners, and be heard respecting their claims, at such time and place as the commissioners shall appoint. All claims they may award in favor of contractors, are to be promptly paid; but no application will be entertained by the department, respecting any claim or contract, which they shall adjudge to be invalid.

Gen. Halleck issued an order, on the 13th, warning the people of Missouri, that whoever joins a guerrilla band in that State for the purpose of plundering or marauding, will not, on being captured, be treated as ordinary prisoners of war, but will be hung as robbers and murderers.

Gen. Jackson's forces retreated from Winchester, Va., on the night of the 11th of March, which was soon after taken possession of by the forces under Generals Hamilton and Williams of General Bank's division. Before leaving, the Confederates arrested eighty men having Union proclivities and sent them to Richmond.

The Confederates evacuated New Madrid, Mo., on the night of the 13th of March, after some little fighting during the day previous between their gunboats and the siege batteries of the Federal troops under Gen. Pope.

A military express had arrived on the frontiers from Fort Craig, New Mexico, with the news of a fight that took place on the 21st of February, between the Federal troops under Col. Canby and the Texans, which lasted from 9 o'clock in the morning till night.

The Texans had been maneuvering for several days in the vicinity of Fort Craig. On one occasion, on the 18th, they advanced a column of infantry, 1,000 strong, in line of battle, in front of the fort, and moved a column of 800 cavalry to the west of the Federal defenses. They advanced to within a mile and a half of the works with the Confederate flag floating in the breeze, and after remaining a short time they retired.

On the 19th and 20th, the Texans crossed to the east bank of the Rio Grande, in order, as was supposed, to take possession of the heights opposite Fort Craig. Col. Canby crossed and pursued them in force, when the Texans on the heights fired some fifty cannon shots without damage to Col. Canby's forces.

The fight on the 21st commenced in the morning, between a portion of Canby's troops under Col. Roberts, and the enemy across the Rio Grande, with varied success until 1 or 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Colonel Canby then crossed the river in force, with a battery

of six pieces under Captain McCray of the cavalry, but detailed to the command of the battery. Col. Canby also took with him a small battery of two howitzers. The enemy were supposed to have had eight field pieces, which towards evening are reported to have been silenced. They, however, made a desperate charge on the howitzer battery, but were repulsed with great loss.

The battery was defended by Capt. Plimpton's company of United States infantry and a portion of Col. Pinos' regiment of New Mexican volunteers.

The Texans then made another furious charge on the battery with some six hundred picked men armed with carbines, revolvers and long bowie knives, said to weigh seven pounds, and, after discharging their carbines at close quarters, drew their revolvers and reached the battery amid a storm of grape and canister. The New Mexicans of Col. Pinos' regiment became panic-stricken and fled. Capt. Plimpton, with the United States infantry, stood their ground and fought until more than one-half of the men were killed, as per report. Capt. McCray, with his artillerymen cut down, and with his support reported killed, wounded or flying from the field, sat down on one of his guns, and, with revolver in hand, refusing to fly or desert his post, fought to the last and died the last man at his guns.

Kit Carson was in command of a regiment of volunteers, who were deployed as skirmishers, and it is said did good service during the action.

The Federal loss is reported at two hundred killed and wounded. The enemy's loss was severe.

FROM SECESSIA.

Gen. Pillow had recently made a speech at Memphis, in response to a call, explaining the circumstance of the battle of Fort Donelson, and the cause of its capitulation. He made an urgent appeal to Tennesseans to rush to arms if they would sustain the renown gained on other fields. He admitted that the present was full of gloom, but the future was hopeful, and if the Confederate armies would only fight as gallantly as did the dauntless spirits who were overwhelmed at Fort Donelson, Southern Independence would be achieved as certainly as he then addressed the audience. It is said that his speech exhibited a courageous and fearless spirit.

The Memphis Appeal advocated the burning of the city, as a last resort, but the Mayor had issued a proclamation that any person detected in setting fire to houses should be immediately hang.

Advices from Tennessee stated that the cities of Shelbyville, Bedford county, burned a large quantity of Confederate stores to prevent their falling into the hands of the troops under A. Sydney Johnston, who were in full retreat from Murfreesboro'.

The Mobile Register of March 4th stated that information had been received that the enemy had struck his tents on Santa Rosa Island, which was an indication that he was again on the move for some enterprise against the rights and the liberties of the South, and said "if Mobile be his destination, let him come," and whether he was going there, or intending to attack New Orleans, or to land on the coast and march through Mississippi to meet the advancing column of Gen. Buell, he had better be on the look out, for there were lions in his path. The same paper announced the departure of Gen. Bragg from Mobile upon the invitation of Gen. Beauregard to consult upon a plan of campaign for the defence of the Mississippi Valley.

The Theatre.

The performances at the Theatre continue attractive, and a large audience has been in attendance each evening. "Used Up," and "To Oblige Ben-on," were performed on Wednesday evening, and on Saturday night "The Pride of the Market," and "Paddy Miles' Boy," were satisfactorily repeated. Last evening for the first time, "The Charcoal Burner; or, The Dropping Well of Knaresborough" was played, and the performances of the evening concluded with "To Oblige Ben-on." To-morrow evening "The Charcoal Burner" will be repeated, to conclude with the popular New Farce "A Pleasant Neighbor." There will be a performance on Saturday evening next, but with what those who may be in attendance are to be amused, has not been announced.

Miscellaneous News Items.

A late number of the Denver News says that a delegation from Conejos and Gardaloupe counties had arrived in that city with information respecting the threatened difficulties with the Utah Indians. They represented war as imminent. A number of fights had recently occurred between the Utahs and Arapahoes. It is said that an alliance between the latter tribe and four other tribes had been made for the purpose of warring upon the Utahs.

Richard Oliphant, the oldest printer in the State of New York, and an esteemed citizen, recently fell dead in the street, at Oswego.

The re-appearance of the Merrimac in Hampton Roads was much feared, although it was believed that the Monitor was a match for her. The World was of the opinion that if the Monitor could tow a small stone fleet into and blockade the Norfolk channel, there would be time to finish another iron-clad gunboat before the obstructions could be removed, if, indeed, her guns could not altogether prevent their removal.

Generals Buckner and Tilghman had been put in irons at Fort Warren, for what cause is not stated.

It is reported that John C. Breckenridge was one of the evacuees of Columbus, and was so drunk that he had to be carried off in a wagon.

The legislature of Massachusetts has passed a bill authorizing the construction of one or two iron-clad steamers, on the plan of Ericson's Monitor, for the protection of the harbors of that State.

On the 3d inst., writes a Washington correspondent, occurred the first and last council of McClellan with his generals, at which nine were present, and the father-in-law of McClellan as his representative. The nine generals favored the division of the forces into the separate corps d'Armee lately appointed. McClellan's substitute opposed it—they insisted—and the council broke up, it is said, not to meet again.

News from the East.

There have been two mails from the East within the past week, the first on Saturday and the other on Monday, by which, dates from New York and other eastern cities were received to the 15th ult. There had nothing transpired of much importance in this age of great and exciting events more than what had been previously announced, but the papers are filled with the details of the battle at Pea Ridge, in Arkansas, between General Curtis, and the Confederates under Generals Price, Van Dorn, McCulloch and McIntosh; of the evacuation of, and the retreat of the secession army from Centerville and Manassas, the naval fight in Hampton Roads, between the Merrimac and the Union fleet stationed there, and of the successes of the expedition under General Burnside at Newbern, and other points in North Carolina, the news of which Federal victories and successes caused great joy and rejoicing throughout the "land of the North," and much powder was burned in their jubulations.

The tide of war has been, of late, most decidedly in favor of the Federal armies, and it is believed and predicted by many that the rebellion will soon be put down and peace again prevail, but if all the secession leaders are to be hung, as is asserted will have to be done before permanent peace shall be established, there will be a greater demand for hemp than there has been since the commencement of the war. The armies of the Confederates although beaten in battle, have not been annihilated, and from the mustering of their hosts, it is evident that the seceders are intending to make some mighty efforts to regain what they have lost and beat back their foes, which, if they succeed in doing, will of course be attended with the shedding of much blood, and greater battles will be fought than any that have yet been recorded. The next two or three months may be expected to be big with events.

WANTED.—Alum and manganese are wanted at the paper mill, and must be had at the earliest practicable date.

There is plenty of both in the country, but not easy of access just now, and if any person has any of either to dispose of, and especially of the latter, will they please to report.