Westchester

## THE DRAFT IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

A large meeting was held in Morrisiana, Tuesday evening, to hear the report of a committee appointed to secure a suspension of the draft.—A communication was read from Moses G. Leonard, Provost Marshal of the Tenth District, from which the following is an extract:

Finding so much excitement produced in the popular mind as to prevent the proper execution of the law, I immediately suspended, for the time being, all business of the district; and, that there should be no cause to produce outbreak or disturbance, I removed the books and papers of the office and government property to a place of security out of the district.

Thus far there has been nothing from the government countermanding my action, and I have reason to believe, no desire on the part of the authorities, and certainly no inclination of mine, to vary the course thus decided upon.

If such arrangements, conveyed to me verbally today by you, can be carried out—namely, to provide the quota of men for this district, or any portion of it, by volunteers or substitutes by the authorities or individuals—I have reason to believe the government would willingly accept, and for myself, I should most gladly welcome any such consumation.

In conclusion, your fellow townsmen may be assured that nothing further will be done in reference to the draft in this district until full information is given to the public of such intention. I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

Sevearl addresses were made. Hon. A. B. Tappan, State Prison Inspector, elected on the Republican ticket, denounced the Conscription Act as unconstitutional. He said "certain parties were endeavoring to make it appear that Democrats were disloyal, but they had done more than their share in Westchester, and were yet willing to respond voluntarily, though not by force."

Isaac T. Williams, Esq., of West Farms, and a legal adviser of the *Tribune*, offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

That while we pledge ourselves to the strictest obedience to all laws, human and divine, and will, in no wise, directly or indirectly, countenance the violation of either law or morals.

Resolved, That no man shall be permitted to leave the county of Westchester for the seat of war, unless he shall go voluntarily, cheerfully, and with a heart for the work.

Resolved, That the county of Westchester, by a resort to her pecuniary resources, has abundant power and ability to achieve this end, and that it is both justice and patriotism to do so.

Hon. William Radford, M. C. elect, said that in an interview with Gov. Seymour, a federal officer was present who offered to send a regiment to every district, and patrol the Hudson with gunboats. Gov. Seymour replied that he needed no such aid, being perfectly able to maintain the peace.

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**New Castle.**

AN ACT *to Ameliorate the Draft in New Castle.*

*Whereas*, The Town of New Castle has already sent to the field quite a number of volunteers; and

*Whereas*, Some eight or ten of them having got homesick, and have returned without leave of their officers to see their friends, (those that keep liquor, especially;) and

*Whereas*, the Deputy Sheriff, and Zeno Hoyt, constable, have greatly disturbed these visitors and taken some to the Provost Marshal, and will not allow the remainder to assist us in getting our hay and harvest without giving said visitors great fears; and

*Whereas*, the weather is not good for getting said hay—therefore,

*Resolved*, That we cannot afford to do without the help of these men; that a Committee of one be appointed by said town to beset Jeff. Davis at Richmond and represent

☞The Hon. J. B. Haskin, of Westchester county, N. Y., in a speech before the Board of Supervisors arguing in favor of a postponement of the Conscription, concluded as follows:

"I am anxious, as I hope every citizen is, to avoid the disgrace of the enforcement of the draft, especially in the county of Westchester, surrounded, as it is, by so many revolutionary reminiscences; and I feel assured that if the Government will but give us a reasonable time, Westchester will, without the yoking of conscripts together, yield all the men that the draft—so called—requires from this county.—This war, thank God, is drawing to a close; this war, in my opinion, does not require that there should be sent from the State of New York a single man to reinforce our armies.—But if the General Government will insist upon the enforcement of the draft, we must meet it as loyal citizens; meet it not only as men who desire to have the rebellion crushed, the Union restored as it was, the Constitution maintained as it is, but also to perpetuate a government or the Union and for the State which shall in the future, give more benefits in the way of liberal principles—in the way of beneficent legislation—in the way of everything that conduces to make men on earth happy—than any government under heaven."

**Fort Schuyler.**

Fort Schuyler (Throgg's Neck) is occupied at present by the regiment commanded by Senator Baker, of Oregon. Colonel Baker is taking great pains with the drill of his force, and is ambitious to have the best disciplined regiment in the army. The men are robust, well-built, a little inexpert in the use of their weapons, but are fast learning, and becoming martial in their appearance. The officers look well on parade.

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N. Y.**

A very large meeting was held in Morrisiana, Westchester county, Tuesday night, over which Hon. John B. Haskin presided, who stated that he had seen a large number of the wealthy citizens of the county and did not find one who was not willing to have any sum voted by the supervisors necessary to prevent "dragging men away by force from their homes, their firesides and their families." Hon. A. B. Tappan expressed himself as opposed to the conscription act upon every ground, not excepting that of its unconstitutionality. Isaac T. Williams offered the following resolutions which were adopted unanimously:

That while we pledge ourselves to the strictest obedience to all laws, human and divine, and will, in no wise, directly or indirectly, countenance the violation of either law or morals,

Resolved, That no man shall be permitted to leave the county of Westchester for the seat of war unless he shall go voluntarily, cheerfully, and with a heart for the work.

Resolved, That the county of Westchester, by a resort to her pecuniary resources, has abundant power and ability to achieve this end, and that it is both justice and patriotism to do so.

Hon. Wm. Radford, M. C. elect, Hon. Pierre C. Talman, Wm. Cauldwell, Esq., editor of the Sunday *Mercury* and Supervisor of Morrisiana, Lewis G. Morris, Esq., and others spoke in support of the resolutions. The character of this meeting may be inferred from the following reference to the men who participated in it by the New York *Express*:

The above meeting deserves more than usual attention. Hon. J. B. Haskin, Hon. Wm. Radford, M. C. elect, State Prison Inspector Tappan (*elected on the Republican Union ticket*), Isaac T. Williams, Esq., who defended Horace Greeley in the suit brought against him by De Witt C. Littlejohn and of whose legal ability the Tribune at that time was full of praise, Wm. Cauldwell, P. C. Talman and others were the class of men who countenanced the movement.

towards Jeff. the above grievances, and that said Committee be instructed to inform said Jeff. that he has always been his friend and advocate, *but unless he, said Jeff., will grant* a cessation of hostilities until after haying and harvesting, he, said Committee, will stop opposing the draft and also the advocating the secession cause.

*Resolved*, That ——— ——— be appointed said Committee of *one*, for his peculiar fitness to carry the above preamble and resolutions into effect.

A farmer offered the following:

*Resolved*, That if Jeff. Davis does not comply with the request of said Committee, that said Committee be authorized to employ a certain lawyer in the city of New York, whom it is presumed Jeff. is well acquainted with, to bring a suit for damages against said Jeff., and that ——— ——— and ——— be a Committee to ascertain what damages the farmers in said town have sustained in said Jefferson Davis not complying with the requirement of said Committee.

*Resolved*, That this resolution and proceeding be published in so many of the county papers as will print gratuitously, unless said Committee think best to have them inserted in the *Eastern State Journal*, at White Plains.

Submitted for consideration by a few farmers in hopes more may be convinced.

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The World

## THE POLITICAL CONTEST.

### The Situation from a New Point of View.

#### Remarks of John B. Haskin at Tarrytown.

A large meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon, at Tarrytown, in ratification of the nomination of William Radford as candidate for Congress from the Tenth Senatorial district. It was characterized by an unequivocal expression in favor of carrying on the war with vigor to the suppression of rebellion, and in rebuke of all usurpations of the Constitution.

Mr. Wm. A. Hunt, of Westchester, was chosen president, and Messrs. James Ferris, O. C. Denslow, J. Odell, Charles Purdy, Frost Horton, Benjamin J. Ambler, Gouverneur Kemble, Saxton Smith, John Quackenboss, and E. Welant as vice-presidents.

The following resolutions were read and unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTIONS.

The National Democratic Union electors of the counties of Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam, in mass meeting assembled, do unanimously resolve as follows:

1. That we heartily respond to the National Democratic Union nomination for state officers, headed Horatio Seymour (cheers) for governor, and that in Seymour and Jones, in Skinner, Clark, and Talmadge we have men fitted for the times and able to bear the banner of Democracy in the pending contest onward to victory. (Cheers.)

2. That we meet cheerfully ratify the nomination of the Hon. William Radford (loud cheers) as the national Democratic Union candidate for Congress in the Tenth district—that in William Radford (cheers) we have a man who will speak for his constituents in tones of patriotism and conservatism, and discarding all sectional issues he will be first, last, and all the time for his country, the Constitution, the Union, and the laws. (Great applause and three cheers for Wm. Radford.)

3. That the County of Westchester, true to her historical renown, will again be found first and foremost in supporting the candidates of true Democratic principles. That the county of Rockland, famed for Democratic triumphs and associations, will again roll up an overwhelming vote for the entire ticket. And the county of Putnam, emulating the glorious mass meetings, will join the sisters in sustaining the cause of

constitutional liberty.

4. That the Republican party has not been true to the country in the councils of the nation or in the tented field. In the name of liberty it has sought to sacrifice liberty; in the name of the country it has steadily pursued a sectional and partisan policy; in the name of the Union it has falsified in this campaign that honest Union movement which characterized the state campaign of 1861; and in the name of the Constitution it has invaded the privileges of the citizen and the sacred rights of men, and of their homes and firesides.

5. That the party which sustains a Sumner and eulogizes a Wendell Phillips, and erects its abolition followers and sectional disorganizers into heroes and statesmen, can never wield the destinies of the American republic and of the American nation, and we call upon all who love their country to rescue that country from the control of that party which, failing to rule, "fain would ruin."

6. That we attest and renew our devotion to the Union and the Constitution, and to the government of the United States of America; that we are now, as ever, heartily resolved that the rebellion must be crushed, and that the supremacy of the laws must be maintained.

7. That the events of the past two years have shown that the Republican party is unequal to the task of preserving the Union; that we hold the Union to be the casket of our national honor, and the source of our national strength and prosperity, and mindful of the errors of past administration and of the faults of the present, we will intrust the guardianship and protection of that Union to other and better hands—to denounce not only abolition agitators and fanatical demagogues, but we hold disunionists and traitors in all sections of the country to deserve the scorn and detestation of all honorable men.

8. The flowers of peace can never bloom on the grave of a buried Union, and we will strengthen the hands of the Union men in all sections by honest and constitutional legislation, and we will strengthen the forces of our army in the field, that the Union may be preserved, that traitors may be punished, that an atrocious rebellion may be crushed, and that the "Union and peace" may again reign together.

We call upon the government to be true to the Constitution. We call upon all armed against the authority of the government to again range themselves under the folds of the old flag, and we call finally upon the Democratic Union men of the state and the district to maintain their nominations at the ballot box, and to show by the result of the election, that there is a sober second thought, and that men are worthy and capable of self government. (Cheers.)

Mr. Frederick Codart, of Westchester county, was then introduced and spoke at some length.

He was followed by Hon. John B. Haskin, who was received with great applause, and delivered an able and elaborate speech of an hour's length.

He referred to the Chicago platform, to speeches of Lincoln and other Republicans, and to resolutions passed in Congress to show that the Republicans were guilty of obtaining power on false pretenses. The first mistake of Mr. Lincoln, he said, was in reinstating Fremont after his removal; his second mistake was in approving the confiscation bill; his third in preventing the reinforcement of McClellan when near Richmond by McDowell, which he judges due to Mr. Chase, the Mephistocles in the government and the radical leader in the administration; the fourth mistake was in removing McClellan from the command of the army, and his fifth and greatest mistake was the emancipation proclamation.

He next referred to the provision of the Constitution guaranteeing freedom of conscience, of speech, of press, and to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances. Thank God, Congress can make no law, unless they indulge in the usurpation of a despot, to abridge the liberty of the press or speech. Yet the administration has assumed to do many things which in other countries would have created a revolution. They have suspended the writ of habeas corpus when they had no right to do it. It might be suspended where the government had armies to enforce it, but in the loyal State of New-York they had no more right to suspend it than they had to suspend the speaker by the neck. The Democratic party should be brought into power for the purpose of preventing such acts. The administration claims the right to declare martial law, and divest the citizen of all his rights, liberty and the pursuit of happiness included. They very well know that in the 35th and 36th Congresses he opposed the administration of Mr. Buchanan. He did it boldly, because he saw that Floyd was an infamous traitor and scoundrel, and was then using Mr. Buchanan to aid the cause of secession; because Howell Cobb was a thief and traitor, and others of the cabinet of the same character. He opposed the [illegible]

opposed the forcing of a constitution on Kansas which the people of Kansas repudiated. As he opposed that administration for its corruption and venality, so he would oppose the present administration for its extravagance, corruption, and despotism. (Applause.) They have been in power two years, and we are further off from the conclusion of the war than at the first battle of Bull Run. The spirit of party predominates at Washington, and when a Democratic general who they think may hereafter run for an office wins a victory, they are afraid he will get up further on the ladder of fame, and so they pull him down. They are prolonging the war to put money in their purses out of the infamous contract system. (Applause.) This man Chase is issuing his paper money; and to the honor of New York be it said that she took the first fifty millions, though he believed that if they had refused to take it the war would be over now; and as long as this paper money increases and circulates—as long as money is to be made by thousands and hundreds of thousands and millions by the contractors and the favorites of Mr. Chase—he doubted if this war would come to an end. He was going to give his efforts to elect an honest Democrat who would watch and protect the treasury from the plundering thieves that now infest it. (Cheers.) Mr. Haskin said they might think he spoke strongly, and referred to the reports of the Van Wyck committee and remarks of Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, and Elihu E. Washburn, which all proved the full truth of what he had said. Mr. Dawes declared, up to the time of the presentation of that report, this administration had plundered more than the current expenses of Mr. Buchanan's administration. Was it not just that the people who are to settle the bills—for the tax-gatherer is almost already at our doors—should condemn the party under which these frauds had been perpetrated, and which would not remove the men that perpetrated them? A year ago a large body of Democrats joined the Union movement in this state, believing that the President intended to be conservative. At the last Union convention, however, the party had become purely abolition, presided over by Simeon Draper, Republican chairman of the state committee and provost marshal. (Hisses.) The convention was controlled by Mr. Greeley, and nominated the most radical man, and one who, to the positive knowledge of the speaker, had taken every occasion to injure McClellan—(cheers)—and to exert influence in favor of his removal. What was left of the Union party of last year had been turned by the abolition contractors into a pure abolition movement. He had left it, thank God, forever! (Great applause.) The Republican party had demonstrated their incapacity for carrying on the affairs of the government. He referred to Cassius M. Clay getting $17,500 from his Russian mission, $7,000 or so, and then going around the country calling Union men traitors and threatening to hang Mr. Seymour. He wished to say a few words in reference to congressional nominations. He referred to a paragraph from the *Tribune* urging the election of Haight in opposition to Mr. Radford, and speaking of its support of Mr. Haskin on a former occasion because he opposed the Lecompton and other swindles. Mr. Greeley, he said, without solicitation supported his re-election because he opposed the corruption of Buchanan's administration. Now he supports Mr. Haight because Haight voted in Congress against the resolutions censuring the Secretary of War, against the exposure of the frauds in the Western Department. He supports Haight because Haight is the mere creature of this man—Secretary Chase—and the office holders foisted him upon the people of the Tenth district in opposition to their wishes.

He voted for all the swindles and speculating schemes of the last Congress, and the Republicans owned him body and soul, and he had very little brains. (Laughter.) He was nominated here by the interference of Mr Chase's assessors and collectors,—by the interference of federal office holders—an influence that Washington and the fathers of the republic deprecated, and that it is for the men of the plow and the anvil to rebuke. He spoke in terms of high praise of Mr. Radford, and urged that it required such men in the next House to check the corruption of the administration. The handwriting was on the wall. Had they heard from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Iowa? Ohio was Mr. Chase's state, and he had appointed his collectors and assessors all over that as over this, but the honest

[illegible] journalry and spurned the bribe as they would here. (Cheers.) He urged to bring the Democracy into power as a more vigorous war party than that which exists—which has been tried and found wanting. Had not the people a right to complain of their agents at Washington for not carrying on the war with more vigor and with a purer purpose toward the suppression of the rebellion? (Cheers.) He advocated the Democratic ticket because he was a war man and for keeping the Union together by putting down rebellion (great cheering), but not by issuing inoperative proclamations. If there be war made upon slavery, let it be made by the advancing column of our army. ("That's so.") Let the general, when he has the power to strike off the shackles from the slave, do as Napoleon did when he issued his proclamations—do it on the top of victory. If this ought to be done—if McClellan desired to use the slaves as he advanced and to free them—in God's name let it be done as a means of putting down the rebellion, but do not undertake to do it by violating the Constitution, which hitherto has kept the Union together.

Mr. Haskin closed amid great applause and three cheers. Mr. Conrad Swackhamer and Moses B. Perkins followed.

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## Westchester County.

### PUBLIC MEETING IN MORRISANIA—THE ENROLMENT AND DRAFT SUSPENDED.

Last Wednesday evening a public meeting of the citizens of Morrisania and West Farms was held at the Town Hall in Tremont. The Hon. John B. Haskin presided. That meeting appointed a committee to wait upon the Provost Marshal of the district and see whether steps could not be taken to suspend the operation of the Conscription act; and the meeting stood adjourned till last evening, in order to receive the report of the committee.

The meeting last evening, in McGraw's Hall, Morrisania, was largely and respectably attended. Mr. Haskin presided, assisted by the following named Vice Presidents:—Abraham B. Tappen, George E. Butler, Lewis G. Morris, N. P. Bailey, U. N. Camp, Adrian Jones, Charles White, Lorin Ingersoll, Jordan L. Mott, Daniel S. Penny.

Mr. HASKIN, after he had called the meeting to order, stated that, in view of the excitement prevailing along the lower part of the county, he, as one of the Supervisors, had deemed it proper that the Board of Supervisors of the county should be called together; and he had obtained a majority of names of Supervisors calling a special meeting of the Board, to be held at White Plains next Thursday, for the purpose of taking immediate action as to the best means possible of removing the obnoxious features of the Conscription act, if there should be an attempt on the part of the general government to enforce it in the district. (Cries of "Good," "Sound.") He had seen a large number of the wealthy citizens in the lower part of the county, but had not met one who was not willing that the Board of Supervisors should vote any sum, however large, for the purpose of alleviating the sufferings of the families of those who might be conscripted, or preventing, if possible, the enforcement of the draft. In his interview with the Provost Marshal he (Mr. H.) had insisted that, if time were given, the quota of the county could be raised by appealing to the patriotism and the pockets of the people, thus avoiding the disgrace of conscription, and without dragging men away by force from their homes, their firesides and their families. (Cheers.) The committee was now ready to report.

Mr. F. W. GILLEY, from the committee to wait upon the Provost Marshal, reported as follows:—

The committee to whom was entrusted the matter of waiting on Moses G. Leonard, Esq., the Provost Marshal of this district, for the purpose of requesting him to delay or postpone the draft in this district, and to urge upon him the necessity of so doing, &c., would report:—That through their chairman, P. H. Talman, they did on Thursday last endeavor to reach him by telegraph; but, inasmuch as communication by that means had been cut off, it was found to be impossible; but on Friday communication having been restored, a dispatch was sent, asking that time might be set when he would meet our committee. Having no immediate response, it was resolved to proceed on Saturday morning to Tarrytown, there if possible to find the Provost Marshal and carry out the instructions and wishes of the people.

Our committee early on Saturday morning took conveyance by carriage and by railroad, reaching Tarrytown at nine A. M. We sent to the office of the Provost Marshal, informing him of our arrival and asking an interview, which was granted, and very soon we were received very respectfully by Mr. Leonard.

The object of our visit was explained by Mr. Talman, who read the resolutions, and in suitable remarks gave the Marshal the condition of matters in the towns which we had the honor on this occasion of being the representatives.

Mr. Talman was followed by the Hon. John B. Haskin, who exhorted the Marshal to take into consideration the all-pervading excitement which paralyzed the community, setting forth the patriotism of our people, their desire to sustain the authorities in quelling the rebellion, and their willingness to maintain law and order. He pledged himself that he would aid the people with all his power to provide all the men which should be required as the quota for our towns, if time could be given as sufficient to raise them without any resort to drafting under the act of March 3d, which act, from its inequality, was obnoxious and objectionable on account of certain features which drew the lines of distinction strongly between the rich and the poor.

Mr. Gilley then called upon the Marshal in the name of the terrified inhabitants, who were not in fear of our own townsmen but of the [illegible]

[illegible] invasion of our borders, and whose desire and will is rapine and plunder, to hesitate and not to bring the people into a frenzy bordering upon despair.

The other gentlemen of the committee spoke their sentiments and touched on all the various reasons why precipitancy was unjust as well as inimical to the welfare of the people, hoping that sufficient delay might be made to test the validity of the law before the courts, and at the same time assuring the Marshal that our people were aroused to the necessity of maintaining their reputation as true patriots, and having no designs but the protection of the general welfare and the maintenance of peace and the restoration of confidence and quiet in the community.

Mr. Leonard then responded, saying:—Gentlemen, this visit gives me great satisfaction. You have given me new ideas, and have opened my eyes to the considerations of the strong points which you have urged. However, I must first inform you that I have anticipated much which is the object of your mission. I have suspended all action in my office in reference to the enrolment. As yet I have had no orders in relation to the draft. I have removed my papers and the government property out of the district. I have informed the authorities at Washington of my action, but have as yet received no response. I have considered the state of feeling, the anxiety and alarm which pervades the district, and am of opinion that precipitate action would be fraught with much danger. I am not disposed to bow to the fiat of a lawless mob, but I am willing to hear the arguments of reasonable men. I shall not order the continuation of the enrolment or reverse my action until the public safety shall warrant. And before I will do so I will retire from my official position.

I am struck with your earnest proposition to supply the men required, and, as you say, without any unnecessary delay; and I believe it will be well received at Washington.

On inquiry it was found that the whole number which would be required as the quota of men called for under the draft in this district, comprising three counties, would be not more than 1,200, and allowing three fifths for the proportion of Westchester county, only seven hundred and fifty would be required, and that the whole number for the two towns, West Farms and Morrisania, could not exceed two hundred—say one hundred and fifteen for Morrisania and eighty-five for West Farms.

This is a very large estimate, but shows how very small is the work to be accomplished.

Your committee bear testimony to the respect which was shown them by the Marshal and his manifest desire to do all in his power to conform to the requests of the people who appealed to him through your committee.

Mr. Haskin suggested to Mr. Leonard that it would be very desirable to receive the conclusions then and there given in a written communication, to which he unhesitatingly and cheerfully acceded.

Shortly after Mr. Talman received a note from Mr. L., to which he replied enclosing the resolutions passed by the meeting at the Town Hall, West Farms, on Wednesday last. The communication over the official signature of the Provost Marshal was received by the committee, directed to Pierre C. Talman and others, and will now be read.

Mr. TALMAN read the following letter from the Provost Marshal, and subsequently addressed the meeting at considerable length, and with much force.

HEADQUARTERS, PROVOST MARSHAL,
TENTH DISTRICT, TARRYTOWN, N. Y., July 18, 1863.

Hon. PIERRE C. TALMAN and others:—

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication enclosing for my consideration certain resolutions purporting to have been adopted by citizens of the town of West Farms and vicinity relative to the Conscription act.

From the assumption of my duties as Provost Marshal it has been my endeavor to render the operation of this law as unobjectionable as possible to our citizens. The nature of the law itself is of a character to create excitement, and from a misapprehension of certain portions it has unfortunately become obnoxious to the majority of those to whom its provisions apply.

Finding so much excitement produced in the popular mind as to prevent the proper execution of the law, I immediately suspended, for the time being, all business of the district; and, that there should be no cause to produce outbreak or disturbance, I removed the books and papers of the office and government property to a place of security out of the district.

Having gone thus far I advised the authorities that nothing further could be done in carrying out the law until such time as the labors of the office could proceed without danger to the disturbance of the public peace, and of certain protection to the lives and property of citizens within the district.

Thus far there has been nothing from the government countermanding my action, and, I have reason to believe, no desire on the part of the authorities, and certainly no inclination of mine, to vary the course thus decided upon.

If such arrangements, conveyed to me verbally to-day by you, can be carried out—namely, to provide the quota of men for this district, or any portion of it, by volunteers or substitutes by the authorities or individuals—I have reason to believe the government would willingly accept, and, for myself, I should most gladly welcome any such consummation.

In conclusion, your fellow townsmen may be assured that nothing further will be done in reference to the draft in this district until full information is given to the public of such intention. I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MOSES G. LEONARD,
Provost Marshal, Tenth District, N. Y.

The meeting was orderly and well conducted and apparently the men who took part in it were, while opposed to the Conscription act, loyal, patriotic citizens and law abiding men.

## COL. BAKER'S CALIFORNIA REGIMENT.

This fine regiment will leave Fort Schuyler to-day for Fortress Monroe, where Col. Baker will take command of a large brigade. The regiment will arrive in the city at four o'clock, landing at Fourteenth street, and march down Broadway to Cortlandt street to the Jersey City ferry, for Philadelphia, where, after a stop of two days, it will proceed to Fortress Monroe by steamer.

# THE CONSCRIPTION IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

## Important Meeting of the Board of Supervisors—Remarks of Hon. John B. Haskin—Resolutions Providing for a Suspension of the Draft, &c., &c., &c.

The Board of Supervisors of Westchester county met yesterday at White Plains, in response to a call for a special meeting to consider the Conscription act and to take measures to relieve the people from its obnoxious features.

The Board was called to order by the Secretary, J. Mason Smith, Esq. The following Supervisors answered to their names:—Wood, of Bedford; Carpenter, of [illegible]; Miller, of Yorktown; Odell, of Northeastle; [illegible], of Rye; Hill, of Mamaroneck; Secor, of Scarsdale; Sutherland, of White Plains; Taylor, of Greenburg; Hoffington, of New Rochelle; Martin, of Eastchester; Hegeman, of Pelham; [illegible], of Westchester; Cauldwell, of Morrisania, and Haskin, of West Farms.

Mr. Cauldwell, of Morrisania, was chosen chairman. On taking his seat he thanked the Board for the honor conferred upon him, and stated the object of the meeting. Residing, as he did, in the lower section of the county, most contiguous to New York city, and most subject to the excitements which that city has gone through for the last two weeks, he, in connection with other members of the Board, had thought it their duty to call a meeting of the Board to take measures for the prevention of such scenes of violence as had disgraced some portions of the State. Mr. Cauldwell referred to the meeting held at Morrisania, at which resolutions were offered by Isaiah T. Williams and unanimously adopted, that no man should leave the county of Westchester for the seat of war unless voluntarily, cheerfully and with a heart for the work. The meeting was not called by any particular party—was not a meeting of partisans—and the resolutions were offered by a gentleman who occupies a prominent position in the republican party. Upon the basis of that meeting it had been thought proper to call a meeting of the Board to take a final action in the matter.

In response to the inquiry of the chairman as to the pleasure of the Board, Hon. John B. Haskin spoke as follows:—

### SPEECH OF HON. JOHN B. HASKIN.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:—Not having had the honor to be a member of this Board since 1864, I had supposed that some more recent member of the Board of Supervisors would have expressed to the Board the purposes for which they have convened, and prepare some plan of action for our adoption. I have deemed it necessary, as a supervisor coming from the lower part of the county, to say that with some of the remarks which have been made by the Chairman, in behalf of the owners of property in the lower part of this county, that there is not among them one who is opposed to any suitable amount of taxation to relieve the sufferings of those who may be drafted, provided a draft is resorted to in this county, or to do anything within the power of the worthy portion of the people of the lower part of the county to remove the most obnoxious feature of the Conscription act—the one which is known as the $300 clause. It is well that I should state to the Supervisors here present who come from the more rural parts of the county, that on Wednesday of last week a large meeting of citizens was called at the Town Hall in Morrisania, with no any printed notice, and superintended by the fact that three hundred men were banded together resolved to carry out outrages from a violent minority, upon the rights of the liberties of the Conscript draft. These citizens, in my opinion, would have burned the houses of some republicans in the lower part of the county who never have spoken to them but for the intervention of prominent democrats, who allayed and pacified their feelings by representations to them that the Board of Supervisors of the county, and the people of the county, if time were given them, would resort to such measures as would prevent the enforcement, perhaps, of this odious Conscription act. It may be well to say here for myself that if the conscription can be avoided it is the duty, in my judgment, of every man in this county and of the State to do all in his power to accomplish this end. Conscriptions are the incidents of despotic power. They have never had them in Great Britain. The Romans resorted to them and the French resorted to them as a result of their varied revolutions. During the War of 1812 there was a law passed upon the subject of conscription, but to the honor of the people of this State I may be said here that by appealing to the patriotism and the choice of the people at that time the conscription was very generally disregarded. It certainly was not put in forcible force. Considering the existence at the present time of a deep-seated hostility to the provisions of the Conscription act, and especially of that feature of it which [illegible]

[illegible] distinction between the rich and the poor, enabling those who can give their $300 to avoid the draft. In my judgment it behooves every conservative man in this community to do all in his power to avoid here scenes of riot, confusion and injustice—to be liberal in taxing the property of the country for the purpose of avoiding, if possible, the enforcement of the draft therein. For myself I can say that I am above being a party man in reference to this subject. I recognize, as we should all recognize, the position in which the country is placed at the present crisis in consequence of the existing rebellion. I recognize that the scenes of victory which have occurred within the last ninety days, in the driving of Lee from Maryland, in the successful attack on and taking of Vicksburg by General Grant, in the recent attack on Jackson, city, the capital of Mississippi, in the—in my judgment—impending taking of Charleston, in [illegible] doubt as to whether a conscription of the citizens of New York is at all necessary. I do not believe it is, if the general government will give to us in this county and State a reasonable time to obtain by volun[illegible] a sufficiency of men to fill up the ranks of the army at Washington. You probably have seen the action [illegible] the committee that waited upon the Provost Marshal, [illegible] Leonard. I was one of that committee. Mr. Leonard, [illegible] the subject of the enforcement of the conscription in [illegible] District, acted like a conservative gentleman—an [illegible] desirous, perhaps, of performing his duty, yet at [illegible] time of doing it so as to offend as few as possi[illegible] the same [illegible] the general government insisted upon the [illegible] of the act. (Mr. Haskin read the letter addressed by Mr. Leonard to the committee, [illegible] been published.) In addition to it has already [illegible] to the committee that if the [illegible] Washington insisted upon precipitate action [illegible] authorities at Wa[illegible] enforcing this draft, while the public [illegible] on his part in a [illegible] excited, that in preference to [illegible] mind was so general [illegible] his position. The committee [illegible] doing so, he would re[illegible] was given them they thought [illegible] stated to him that if the [illegible] operations of the district [illegible] the patriotism and pe[illegible] the constituted authorities, to would enable them, with [illegible] congressional district. He im[illegible] supply the quota for this [illegible] amount to between one [illegible] formed us that the quota [illegible] to one thousand five hun[illegible] thousand two hundred and fifty [illegible] are five Assembly dis[illegible] for the whole district. The [illegible] district, and three within [illegible] districts within the Congressional [illegible] Westchester county about [illegible] this county. That would give West[illegible] Westchester would [illegible] three-fifths, so that at the outside [illegible] timate, to furnish not be required, according to his [illegible] conscripts or volun[illegible] more than eight hundred and fifty [illegible] ment. If the [illegible] teers. Now, sir, this is a bona [illegible] of Supervisors, County of Westchester, through its Board [illegible] using a regi[illegible] will pass suitable resolutions, in favor of [illegible] counties to in[illegible] ment here, and giving large [illegible] and liberal bo[illegible] that should induce volunteering, and the general government [illegible] wait until the 1st of September. I do not hesitate to say [illegible] as a citizen, and as a member of this board, that eight hundred and fifty men could be [illegible] raised without resorting to the enforcement of the obnoxious conscription act. The democrats who are opposed to the [illegible] act, many of them, to my certain knowledge, have their op[illegible] position not grounded upon any desire not to assist the general government in putting down the rebellion, for they and their friends have contributed largely in men and money to that end; but they have felt that the act itself has [illegible] divested the State authorities and themselves, as citizens of the State, of certain rights to which they are entitled under the constitution of the United States, and under the precedent which has been established by this administration in Order 99 of the War Department, issued last year for the enforcement of the draft in the United States. The constitution of the United States provides for a uniform militia. It also provides that that militia shall be obtained through the Governors of the several States and by the State authorities. It also provides that the officers of the militia shall be appointed by the Governors of the States. Now, under Order No 99, issued last year, Governor Morgan was asked to afford the quota of the State of New York for the conscription act. Order No. 99 provided that the assessors elected by the people in the several towns should be the enrolling officers. Order No. 99 further provided that the government of the State should appoint the commissioners to put this draft into execution. This was only last year. During the last session of the Congress of the nation, for some purpose best known to themselves—by some conceived to be a partisan purpose—they passed the existing Conscription act, which blotted out an appeal to the Governor of the State—which blotted out the assessors who were, by the Order No. 99, provided as the persons to enroll, and the general administration have appointed in this county and throughout the State enrolling officers not well known to the citizens—to I did not know, as Supervisor, who was the enrolling officer in my town until about six days ago. These appointees are all made in Washington, and the democrats, many of them supposing that an intended insult was proposed by the administration in the way in which they have sought to enforce the draft here, have felt some little reluctance to have the authority of the Governor and officers of the State thus blotted out by an attempted centralization of power at Washington. Therefore, some of them have raised the question of the constitutionality of this law, and have desired that it should be passed upon by the courts. But however the courts may decide, it is the duty of each of us as Supervisors and citizens to obey this law, even though it may be onerous and unjust to the poor of this county. The object of the meeting to-day is, if possible, to pacify the poor people throughout the county who may be taken under the operation of the Conscription act. If this Board of Supervisors will pass a suitable appropriation, with the purpose of applying to the Legislature next winter to have it confirmed and enacted into a law, I do not hesitate to say we will be enabled to obtain enough men to make a regiment, and satisfy the people here and prevent any undue excitement, and certainly to avoid any scenes of violence. I am a taxpayer

and orders, and I know that in the lower part of the county the taxpayers are anxious that this Board of Supervisors should act liberally in making an appropriation for the purpose of allowing no injustice to be done to the poor of this county, provided the general government insist on the draft. I desire, gentlemen of the board, to call your attention to a letter that I discovered a day or two since from one of the most learned and distinguished citizens of bygone days of this county, showing that in the war of 1812 there was some opposition even then from wealthy men to the enforcement of a conscription act. I allude to the letter of John Jay to Judge Peters, dated "Bedford, Westchester county, March 14, 1813;" and I read it for the purpose of calling the attention of the Supervisor of that town to this high authority to justify, to a certain extent, the natural opposition which now exists to the enforcement of the existing Conscription act:—

BEDFORD, Westchester Co., March 14, 1813.

To JUDGE PETERS—

DEAR SIR—On reading your interesting letter of the 19th January I observed with particular pleasure, from the manner and matter of it, that, notwithstanding the winter of life and snow falling on your head you endure like an evergreen. Your impression that "we should ere long have peace" has been verified. If I remember right, you had heretofore an impression that Spain, although her case was apparently desperate, would get safe through her danger; and so it came to pass. Events having justified both these impressions or opinions, I wish you may have another, viz:—That the peace will terminate the delusion which caused the war. Several considerations induce me expect that the peace will diminish it in particularly these: Unless discontents should arise between France and Britain French influence will not soon be very active in America, and, consequently, will not administer much fuel to renew and feed the flame against England. The peace will deprive the delusion of the sustenance it derived from the patronage which the war created. The abandonment of the professed objects of the war, and that without compensation either in fact or in expectation; the manifest incapacity and profusion with which the war has been conducted; the attempts to force supplies of men and money by conscription, &c., and the immense debt incurred and to be paid without any value received, all tend to withdraw confidence and good will from our political projectors, nor can the continuance and operation of war taxes be congenial with the feelings of a people who, if Pagans, would dedicate more temples to Plutus than to Minerva. These and the like facts and considerations will doubtless have the most weight with that portion of the community which have been misled, but who really mean well. They will probably have some effect also on the more considerate of the others. As to the position, that "the people always mean well," or in other words, that they always mean to say and to do what they believe to be right and just. It may be popular, but it cannot be true. The word people, you know, applies to all the individual inhabitants of a country collectively considered. That portion of them who individually mean well never was, nor will the millennium will be, considerable. We have not heard of any country in which the great mass of the inhabitants individually and habitually adhere to the dictates of their consciences. We know how well demagogues and pharisaical patriots mean. Having their reward, they will, like this world, and like of that of which they mean and act accordingly. Besides, Providence sometimes chastises nations their great predecessor, Absalom, and sometimes (by "manifesting their with physical epidemics and sometimes after a while "relusions") with moral epidemics; and if we have arrived at or near the *pessimum* of this evil the *me*[illegible] cannot be far distant. * * * * * * * * *

Adieu, my dear sir. Yours, affectionately.

JOHN JAY.

This is a letter of John Jay, the father of the gentleman (Judge Wm. Jay) whose likeness is over that bench (pointing to the portrait over the chairman's seat), and one who took as much part in forming the constitution of the State of New York as any distinguished man of the period in which he lived. I have referred to this letter because it was my misfortune or good fortune yesterday to be coupled in the *Tribune* with Governor Seymour, Judge Barnard and others, in an assertion on the part of that paper of an attempt to commit treason by resisting the draft. The statement is mendacious; the source from which it comes is cowardly. When I recognize the fact that I have myself done more to raise volunteers in the lower part of the county for the war—paid more money than any man of my means in the county—a statement coming from the *Tribune* to the effect that, because Governor Seymour and others are anxious to allay the excitement of the people upon this subject and to see the laws properly enforced and at the proper time, that we therefore commit treason, is an act of injustice towards us that could only emanate from those who want this war to continue, in my opinion for the political as well as pecuniary purposes which they will achieve from it. I hope Governor Seymour will be true to the constitution of the State, true to the people of the State, and true to the constitution of the United States, and that he will recognize, as I do, the great elements which constitute a State illustrated by the poet.—

What constitutes a State?
Not high raised battlement or labor'd mound,
Thick wall or moated gate;
*Not cities proud, with spires and turrets crown'd;*
Not bays and broad arm'd ports,
Where, laughing at the storm, rich navies ride;
Not starr'd and spangled courts,
Where low born baseness waits perfume to pride.
No! Men, high minded men,
With powers as far above dull brutes endued
In forest, brake or den,
As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude;
Men who their duties know,
But know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain them.

If Gov. Seymour recognizes, as I do, that such men constitute the State of New York, he will not by the bravado of those who wield federal bayonets yield one iota of the rights of our citizens. I am anxious to see the laws enforced. I am anxious, as I hope every citizen is, to avoid the disgrace [illegible]