

1863
Oct 12

SOLDIERS READ!

Letter from Gen. McClellan

Orange, N. J., October 12th, 1863.

HON. CHAS. J. BIDDLE,

DEAR SIR:--My attention has been called to an article in the Philadelphia Press, asserting that I had written to the Managers of a Democratic Meeting of Allentown, disapproving the objects of the Meeting, and that if I Voted and Spoke, it would be in favor of Governor Curtin. I am informed that similar assertions have been made throughout the State. It has been my earnest endeavor, heretofore, to avoid participation in Party Politics, and I had determined to adhere to this course, but it is obvious that I cannot longer maintain silence under such misrepresentations. I therefore request you to deny that I have written any such letter or entertained any such views as those attributed to me in the Philadelphia Press, and I desire to state clearly and distinctly that, having some few days ago had a full conversation with Judge Woodward, I find that our views agree, and I regard his election as Governor of Pennsylvania, called for by the interests of the Nation. I understand Judge Woodward to be in favor of the Prosecution of the War with all the means at the command of the Loyal States, until the Military power of the Rebellion is destroyed.

I understand him to be of the opinion that while the War is urged with all possible decision and energy, the policy directing it should be in consonance with the principles of humanity and civilization, working no injury to private rights and property not demanded by Military necessity and recognized by Military Law among civilized nations, and finally, I understand him to agree with me in the opinion that the **SOLE** great objects of this War are the restoration of the unity of the Nation, the preservation of the Constitution, and supremacy of the laws of the country. Believing that our opinions entirely agree upon these points, I would, were it in my power, give to Judge Woodward my voice and my vote. I am very respectfully yours,

GEO. B. McCLELLAN.