

At the following terms, to wit: \$2.00 per annum, if paid within the year...

Bedford Gazette

VOLUME 59.

Freedom of Thought and Opinion.

WHOLE NUMBER, 3088

NEW SERIES.

BEDFORD, PA., FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1863.

VOL. 7, NO. 21.

Philadelphia Advertisements.

Lower & Rank, WHOLESALE TOBACCO SNUFF & SEAGARS, WAREHOUSE, No. 146 North Third Street.

Country custom respectfully solicited. Our stock is large and will always be as low in price as any in the market.

PHILADELPHIA. Country custom respectfully solicited. Our stock is large and will always be as low in price as any in the market.

BUSH & KURTZ, (Formerly BUNN, RAIGUEL & Co.) IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS IN Fancy Dry Goods,

No. 137 North Third Street, PHILADELPHIA.

Cloths, Cassimeres and Vestings, Silks and Dress Goods, Linens and White Goods, Lace and Embroideries, Shawls, Ribbons and Trimmings, Hosiery, Gloves and Notions.

Also—Bleached Shirtings, Colored Cambrics, Flannels, Jeans, Gingham, &c. March 6, 1863.—ly

HOWARD ASSOCIATION, PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Diseases of the Nervous System, Spermatorrhea or Seminal Weakness, Impotence, and other affections of the Sexual Organs, Physical Debility and Premature Decay—new and reliable treatment, in reports of the Howard Association, sent by mail in sealed letter envelopes, free of charge.

GILLETT & SCOTT, AUCTIONEERS AND Commission Merchants,

Jayne's Marble Building, 616 Chestnut St., & 616 Jayne St. PHILADELPHIA.

C. D. MCLEES & CO. Wholesale Dealers in

BOOTS, SHOES, BROGANS, AND INDIA RUBBER SHOES,

NO 133 NORTH THIRD STREET OPPOSITE CHERRY ST., PHILADELPHIA.

Taylor & Hemphill, WHOLESALE DEALERS IN MANUFACTURED TOBACCO,

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC SEAGARS, 229 Market Street, South side, between 2d and 3d, PHILADELPHIA.

COOPER, PARKMAN & WORK, MANUFACTURERS AND JOBBERS OF HATS, CAPS, FURS

AND STRAW GOODS, No. 51 North Third Street, PHILADELPHIA.

BUEHLER, HOWARD & CO. Importers and Dealers in Foreign and Domestic HARDWARE AND CUTLERY,

No. 441 Market St., below Fifth, PHILADELPHIA.

NEWLIN, FERNLEY & CO. HARDWARE JOBBERS AND IMPORTING MERCHANTS,

No. 337 Market Street, PHILADELPHIA. Dealers in Butcher's Edge Tools and Files, together with a general Stock of English and American Hardware.

MIHAEL WARTAN & CO. TOBACCO, SNUFF AND SEGAR MANUFACTORY,

No. 313 North Third Street, PHILADELPHIA.

A. A. SHUMWAY & CO. Manufacturers and Wholesale Dealers in

Boots & Shoes, No. 221 Market Street, and 210 Church Alley, PHILADELPHIA.

THE SCHOOLMASTER ABROAD.

EDITED BY SIMON SYNTAX, ESQ. All contributions to this column must be addressed to "Simon Syntax, Box 93, Bedford, Pa."

The Columbia Spy, having hoisted our banner, says to its readers, that Simon Syntax now edits a like column for it. We would, however, here take the opportunity to inform the readers of that paper, that this is all a hoax.

PRIMARY TEACHING.

"Intellectual progress is of necessity, from the concrete to the abstract." Knowing the above to be true, and that the intellectual operations of a child consist in hearing and seeing rather than in reasoning and reflecting, we must, if we wish to teach with success, direct our first efforts to those senses.

PUNCTUALITY IN SCHOOL.

There is no principle of action more commendable in a scholar, than punctuality. Everything in its time and just at the time, should be the motto of every teacher and scholar, and is as important as "a place for every thing and every thing in its place."

much better and is happier than he who indulges in his idleness and is always behind.

The necessity of sending scholars punctually to school is often too lightly regarded by the parents. They do not consider that an hour's absence in the morning deprives them of their most important recitation, of their best hour for study.

Message of Jefferson Davis to the Rebel Congress.

"I regret to inform you that there has been no improvement in the state of our relations with foreign countries, since my message of January last. On the contrary, there has been a still greater divergence in the conduct of European nations from that practical impartiality which alone deserves the name of neutrality and, their action, in some cases, has assumed a character positively unfriendly."

"You have heretofore been informed that by common understanding, the initiative in all action touching the contest on this continent had been left by foreign powers to the two great maritime nations of Western Europe, and that the Governments of these two nations had agreed to take no measures without previous concert."

"The Message then recapitulates the action of England in reference to the observance of the blockade, and discusses at length the validity of this action under international law. In this connection it is said: 'The intimation that relations with these States would be discontinued because they are slaveholding would probably have been omitted if the official personage who has published it to the world had remembered that these States were when colonies, made slaveholding by the direct exercise of the power of Great Britain, whose dependencies they were, and whose interests in the slave trade were then supposed to require that her colonies should be made slaveholding.'"

"It is complained, also, that England has acted unfairly in permitting the Federals to obtain supplies in that country, while denying the same privilege to the rebels. The course of France is thus referred to: 'It is not in my power to apprise you to what extent the Government of France shares the views unreservedly avowed by that of Great Britain, no published correspondence of the French Government on the subject having been received. No public protest nor opposition, however, has been made by her Imperial Majesty against the prohibition to trade with us, imposed on French citizens by the paper blockade of the United States, although I have reason to believe that an unsuccessful attempt was made on her part to secure the assent of the British Government to a course of action more consonant with the dictates of public law and with the demands of justice towards us.'"

"As to the right of the rebels to claim recognition as a nation the Message says: 'For nearly three years this Government has exercised unquestioned jurisdiction over many millions of willing and united people. It has met and defeated vast armies of invaders, who have in vain sought its subversion. Supported by the confidence and affection of its citizens, the Confederacy has lacked no element which distinguishes an independent nation, according to the principles of public law. Its legislative, executive and judicial departments, each in its sphere, have performed their appropriate functions with a regularity as undisturbed as in a time of profound peace, and the whole energies of the people have been developed in the organization of vast armies, while their rights and liberties have rested secure under the protection of the courts of justice. This Confederacy is either independent or it is a dependency of the U. States, for no other earthly power claims the right to govern it. Without one historic fact on which the pretension can rest, without one line or word of treaty or convention, which can give color to title, the United States have asserted, and the British Government has chosen to concede, that those sovereign States are dependencies of the Government which is administered at Washington. Great Britain has accordingly entertained with that Government the closest and most intimate relations while refusing, on its demand, ordinary amicable intercourse with us; and has, under arrangements made with the other nations of Europe, not only denied our just claim of admission into the family of nations, but interposed a passive though effectual bar to the acknowledgment of our rights by other powers. So soon as it had become apparent, by the declarations of the British Ministers in the debates of the British Parliament in July last, that Her Majesty's Government was determined to persist indefinitely in a course of policy which, under professions of neutrality, had become subservient to the designs of our enemy, I felt it my duty to recall the Commissioners formerly accredited to that Court, and the correspondence on the subject is submitted to you.'"

Claiming no favor, desiring no aid, conscious of our own ability to defend our own rights against the utmost efforts of an infuriate foe, we had thought it not extravagant to expect that assistance would be withheld from our enemies, and that the conduct of foreign nations would be marked by a genuine impartiality towards the belligerents. It was not supposed that a professed neutrality would be so conducted as to justify the Foreign Secretary of the British nation in explaining, in correspondence with our enemies, how the impartial observance of neutral obligations by Her Majesty's Government has thus been exceedingly advantageous to the cause of the more powerful of the two contending parties. The British Government may deem this war a favorable occasion for establishing, by the temporary sacrifice of their neutral rights, a precedent which shall justify the future exercise of those extreme belligerent pretensions that their naval power renders so formidable."

"The rebel army, according to the message, is in better condition than ever before, but men are still greatly needed. 'In view of the large conscription recently ordered by the enemy, and their subsequent call for volunteers, to be followed, if ineffective, by a still further draft, we are admonished that no effort must be spared to add largely to our effective force as promptly as possible. The sources of supply are to be found by restoring to the army all who are improperly absent, putting an end to substitution, modifying the exemption law, restricting details, and placing in the ranks such of the able-bodied men now employed as wagoners, nurses, cooks and other employes who are doing service for which the negroes may be found competent.'"

"The Message recommends the organization of an Invalid Corps, and urges that all new recruits be assigned to veteran organizations, instead of being formed into distinct companies and regiments. As to the ordnance department, it is said: 'The reports from the ordnance and mining bureaus are very gratifying, and the extension of our means of supply of arms and munitions of war from our home resources has been such as to ensure our ability soon to become mainly independent of supplies from foreign countries. The establishment for the casting of guns and projectiles, for the manufacture of small arms and of gunpowder, for the supply of nitre from artificial nitre beds, and mining operations generally, have been so distributed through the country as to place our resources beyond the reach of partial disasters.'"

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

"A systematic and concerted effort has been made to quiet the complaints in the United States of those relatives and friends of the prisoners in our hands who are unable to understand why the cartel is not executed in their favor, by the groundless assertion that we are the parties who refuse compliance. Attempts are also made to shield themselves from the execration excited by their own odious treatment of our officers and soldiers now captive in their hands, by misstatements, such as that the prisoners held by us are deprived of food. To this last accusation the conclusive answer has been made that, in accordance with our law and the general orders of the department, the rations of the prisoners are precisely the same, in quantity and quality, as those served out to our own gallant soldiers in the field, and which have been found sufficient to support them in their arduous campaigns, while it is not pretended by the enemy that they treat prisoners by the same generous rule. By an indulgence, perhaps unprecedented, we have even allowed the prisoners in our hands to be supplied by their friends at home with comforts not enjoyed by the men who captured them in battle. In contrast to this treatment, the most revolting inhumanity has characterized the conduct of the United States towards prisoners held by them. One prominent fact, which admits no denial or palliation, must suffice as a test. The officers of our army, natives of Southern and semi-tropical climates, and unprepared for the cold of a Northern winter, have been conveyed, for imprisonment, during the rigors of the present season, to the most Northern and exposed situations that could be selected by the enemy. There, beyond the reach of comforts, and often even of news from home and family, and exposed to the piercing cold of the Northern lakes, they are held by men who cannot be ignorant of, even if they do not design, the probable result. How many of our unfortunate friends and comrades who have passed unscathed through numerous battles, will perish on Johnson's Island, under the cruel trial to which they are subjected, none but the Omnipotent can foretell."

THE REBEL NAVY.

The Report of the Secretary of the Navy gives in detail the operations of that Department since January last, embracing information of the disposition and employment of the vessels, officers and men, and the construction of vessels at Richmond, Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, Selma, and on the rivers Roanoke, Nouse, Pelee, Chattanooga and Tombogee; the accumulation of ship timber and supplies, and the manufacture of ordnance stores and equipments. The foundries and workshops have been greatly improved, and their capacity to supply all demands for heavy ordnance for coast and harbor defence is only limited by our deficiency in the requisite skilled labor. The want of such labor and of seamen seriously affect the operations of the Department.

CONDUCT OF THE ENEMY.

The skill, courage and activity of our cruises at sea cannot be too highly commended. They have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy without suffering a single disaster, and have seriously damaged the shipping interests of the United States by compelling their foreign commerce to seek the protection of neutral flags. I cannot close this Message without again alluding to the savage ferocity which still marks the conduct of the enemy in the presence of the war. After their repulse from the defenses before Charleston, they first sought revenge by an abortive attempt to destroy the city with an incendiary composition, thrown by improved artillery, from a distance of four miles. Failing in this, they changed their missiles, but fortunately have thus far succeeded only in killing two women in the city. Their commanders, Butler, McNeil and Turchin, whose horrible barbarities have made their names widely notorious, and everywhere execrable, are still honored and cherished by the authorities at Washington. The first named, after having been withdrawn from the scenes of his cruelties against women and prisoners of war, (in reluctant concession to the demands of outraged humanity in Europe,) has just been put in a new command at Norfolk, where helpless women and children are again placed at his mercy.

CONCLUSION.

The message concludes as follows: 'The hope last year entertained of an early termination of the war has not been realized. Could carnage have satisfied the appetite of our enemy for the destruction of human life, or grief have appeased their wanton desire to inflict human suffering, there has been bloodshed enough on both sides, and two lands have been sufficiently darkened by the weeds of mourning to induce a disposition for peace. 'If unanimity in a people could dispel delusion, it has been displayed too unmistakably to have silenced the pretences that the Southern States were merely disturbed by a factious insurrection, and it must long since have been admitted that they were but exercising their reserved right to modify their own Government in such manner as would best secure their own happiness. But these considerations have been powerless to allay the unchristian hate of those who, long accustomed to draw large profits from a union with us, cannot control the rage excited by the conviction that they, by their own folly, destroyed the richest sources of their prosperity. They refuse even to listen to proposals for the only peace possible between us—a peace which, recognizing the impassable gulf which divides us, may leave the two peoples separately to recover from the injuries inflicted on both by the senseless war now waged against us. Having begun the war in direct violation of the Constitution, which forbade the attempt to coerce a State, they have been hardened by crime, until they no longer attempt to veil their purpose to destroy the institutions and subvert the Government and independence of the United States. We now know that the only reliable hope for peace is in the vigor of our resistance, and the cessation of their hostility, is only to be expected from the pressure of their necessities. 'The patriotism of the people has proved equal to every sacrifice demanded by our country's need. We have been united as a people never were united under like circumstances before. God has blessed us with success disproportionate to our means, and under His divine favor our labors must at last be crowned with the reward due to men who have given all they possessed to the righteous defence of their inalienable rights, their homes and their altars.'"

the conduct of the enemy in the presence of the war.

After their repulse from the defenses before Charleston, they first sought revenge by an abortive attempt to destroy the city with an incendiary composition, thrown by improved artillery, from a distance of four miles.

Their commanders, Butler, McNeil and Turchin, whose horrible barbarities have made their names widely notorious, and everywhere execrable, are still honored and cherished by the authorities at Washington.

The first named, after having been withdrawn from the scenes of his cruelties against women and prisoners of war, (in reluctant concession to the demands of outraged humanity in Europe,) has just been put in a new command at Norfolk, where helpless women and children are again placed at his mercy.

Nor has less unrelenting warfare been waged by these pretended friends of human rights and liberties against the unfortunate negroes.

Whenever the enemy have been able to gain access they have forced into the ranks of their army every able-bodied man, that they could seize, and have either left the aged, the women, and the children, to perish by starvation, or have gathered them into camps where they have been wasted by a frightful mortality.

Without clothing or shelter, often without food, incapable, without supervision, of taking the most ordinary precautions against disease, these helpless dependents, accustomed to have their wants supplied by the foresight of their masters, are being rapidly exterminated wherever brought in contact with the invaders.

By the Northern man, on whose deep-rooted prejudices no kindly restrained influence is exercised, they are treated with aversion and neglect. There is little hazard in predicting that, in all localities where the enemy have gained a temporary foothold, the negroes, who under our care increased six-fold in number since their importation in the Colonies of Great Britain, will have been reduced by mortality, during the war, to not more than one-half their previous number.

Information on this subject is derived not only from our own observation and from reports of the negroes who succeed in escaping from the enemy, but full confirmation is afforded by statements published in the Northern journals by humane persons engaged in making appeals to the charitable for aid in preventing the ravages of disease, exposure and starvation among the negro women and children who are crowded into encampments.

The frontier of our country bears witness to the avarice and efficiency with which the general orders of the enemy have been executed, in the devastation of the farms, the destruction of the agricultural implements, the burning of the houses, and the plunder of everything moveable. Its whole aspect is a comment on the ethics of general order issued by the United States on the 24th of April, 1863, comprising "instructions for the government of the armies of the United States in the field," and of which the following is an example: 'Military necessity admits of all direct destruction of life or limb of armed enemies, and of other persons whose destruction is incidentally unavoidable in the armed contests of the war; it allows of the capture of every armed enemy, and of every enemy of importance to the hostile Government, or of peculiar danger to the captor; it allows of all destruction of property and obstructions of the ways and channels of traffic, travel or communication, and of all withholding of sustenance or means of life from the enemy; of the appropriation of whatever an enemy's country affords necessary for the subsistence and safety of the army; and of such deception as does not involve the breaking of good faith, either positively pledged, regarding agreements entered into during the war, or supposed by the modern law of war to exist. Men who take up arms against one another in public war, do not cease, on this account, to be moral beings, responsible to one another and to God.'"

The striking contrast to these teachings and practices presented by our army when invading Pennsylvania illustrates the moral character of our people. Though their forbearance may have been unmerited and unappreciated by the enemy, it was imposed by their own self-respect which forbade their degrading from Christian warriors into plundering ruffians, assailing the property, lives and honor of helpless non-combatants. If their conduct when thus contrasted with the inhuman practices of our foe, fail to command the respect and sympathy of civilized nations in our day, it cannot fail to be recognized by their less deceived posterity.

The message concludes as follows: 'The hope last year entertained of an early termination of the war has not been realized. Could carnage have satisfied the appetite of our enemy for the destruction of human life, or grief have appeased their wanton desire to inflict human suffering, there has been bloodshed enough on both sides, and two lands have been sufficiently darkened by the weeds of mourning to induce a disposition for peace. 'If unanimity in a people could dispel delusion, it has been displayed too unmistakably to have silenced the pretences that the Southern States were merely disturbed by a factious insurrection, and it must long since have been admitted that they were but exercising their reserved right to modify their own Government in such manner as would best secure their own happiness. But these considerations have been powerless to allay the unchristian hate of those who, long accustomed to draw large profits from a union with us, cannot control the rage excited by the conviction that they, by their own folly, destroyed the richest sources of their prosperity. They refuse even to listen to proposals for the only peace possible between us—a peace which, recognizing the impassable gulf which divides us, may leave the two peoples separately to recover from the injuries inflicted on both by the senseless war now waged against us. Having begun the war in direct violation of the Constitution, which forbade the attempt to coerce a State, they have been hardened by crime, until they no longer attempt to veil their purpose to destroy the institutions and subvert the Government and independence of the United States. We now know that the only reliable hope for peace is in the vigor of our resistance, and the cessation of their hostility, is only to be expected from the pressure of their necessities. 'The patriotism of the people has proved equal to every sacrifice demanded by our country's need. We have been united as a people never were united under like circumstances before. God has blessed us with success disproportionate to our means, and under His divine favor our labors must at last be crowned with the reward due to men who have given all they possessed to the righteous defence of their inalienable rights, their homes and their altars.'"

The skill, courage and activity of our cruises at sea cannot be too highly commended. They have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy without suffering a single disaster, and have seriously damaged the shipping interests of the United States by compelling their foreign commerce to seek the protection of neutral flags. I cannot close this Message without again alluding to the savage ferocity which still marks the conduct of the enemy in the presence of the war.