Evening Telegraph

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1864.

SPIRIT OF THE NEW YORK PRESS.

Leading Editorials from the New York Papers This Morning.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

From the Times.

The President's Message is brief, yet very comprehensive and explicit. It presents a satisfactory view of our foreign relations and of all the great departments of our internal administration. The exhibit thus officially authenticated, may well inspire the people with new confidence, though they were already prepared for its general outlines.

The President shows in a very forcible way the undiminished strength of the country in respect to adult males, the first necessity in war. In spite of the havoc made by battle and camp diseases during this mighty war, the number of voters at the last election in the loyal portion of the country, he declares, is greater than was the number in 1860, by 145,000, without including the ninety thousand soldiers who could not vote, or the largely augmented population in the Territories.

This is a remarkable fact. Nothing like it, we believe, can be found in the previous annals of the world. Of course this supply of the drain made by the war has come largely from foreign immigration; but this does not make the increase of strength any the less positive. How different, in this respect, is the condition of the Confederacy, as presented in the late message of Jeff Davis! The Rebel leader directly admitted a most serious diminution of fighting material, and made this a strong point in his bold suggestions respecting the expediency of obtaining soldiers from the servile population. The prime want of the Rebellion—that which, if nothing else, must in due time bring ruin to it—is the want of able-bodied men whereby to keep its armies up to a capacity for resistance.

The Richmond correspondent of the London *Times*, though committed to the Rebellion by every prejudice, and writing under all the restraint of the Rebel Capital, did not hesitate, in one of his late letters, to declare that this deficiency, if the war should continue, must sooner or later bring the South to a condition of helplessness. What a volume of meaning is contained in this simple showing by the President that the North is growing stronger, while the South is thus confessedly growing weaker! What stronger incentive could be presented for our perseverance in the war until the Rebellion shall sink, and the National Government, with its invigorating power, be re-established throughout the length of the land!

The most salient feature in the Message is the emphatic declaration of the President that he recognizes but one single condition for peace—and that, the return of Rebels to their allegiance. He says:—"They can at any time have peace simply by laying down their arms, and submitting to the national authority under the Constitution." The President neither insists upon, nor looks for, any stipulation in advance in respect to the abandonment of slavery. His only claim is for an abandonment of armed resistance.

This makes good precisely what we have contended was the true construction of the famous missive, "To whom it may concern." It puts beyond further dispute the President's absolute singleness of purpose, and his determination to maintain the war solely on a Constitutional basis for Constitutional ends. It is true, that he takes occasion here to repeat that he will not attempt either to retract or modify the Emancipation Proclamation. Yet in this he is perfectly consistent. That proclamation was a war measure, authorized by the war power involved in the duty prescribed to the Executive by the Constitution, to enforce the laws. Its operative force must continue while the war lasts.

When the war ceases, itself must cease as a war measure. It can have no further continuing effect, though the effect already consummated, whatever the courts may decide that to be, cannot be undone, and must remain unchanged. The President holds to the Proclamation in just the right manner. He treats it as an instrument for war, but in no way interposes it against peace. The Rebels can get peace at any time without touching it. All that is required of them is that they shall in good faith bow to the Constitution.

But the President, nevertheless, holds to the civil necessity of purging the nation from the evil which has been proved so damaging to its security. He strenuously urges a constitutional amendment prohibiting slavery throughout the land, and making a fervent appeal to the minority in the present House of Representatives to permit the question to be submitted to the States for such action upon it as their legislatures may see fit to take. We most earnestly hope that this appeal will be received in the same liberal spirit in which it is made.

Though the minority of the present House may not personally like the proposed amendment, yet it is only the initiative they are asked to join in. The Constitution makes it the part of Congress only to *propose* Constitutional amendments. The final responsibility concerning their adoption or rejection does not rest with it, but with the State Legislatures. All that is asked is, that these immediate representatives of the people should have an opportunity to carry out the will of their constituents, one way or the other, upon this mighty question. Surely, nothing could be more anti-Democratic than to refuse the people this opportunity to declare their will in the way provided by the Constitution. This refusal would have no permanent effect, for the next Congress would be sure to propose the amendment. The only effects of the refusal would be to make injurious delay, and to bring new popular odium on the party whose representatives should thus seek to baulk the popular will.

The President renews his liberal offer of amnesty to the Rebels, but this time accompanies it with a significant intimation that "the time may come, probably will come, when public duty shall demand that it be closed." The public mind of the North will receive this language with satisfaction. There is a limit beyond which clemency loses its character of magnanimity and sinks into weakness. That limit is nearly reached, in the dealings of our Government towards persistent Rebels. The time has nearly come when expedients which have not yet been applied in any serious way should be visited upon the seat of the Rebellion in all their rigor. There is no lack of human precedent, and, what is infinitely more, there is an unquestionable divine one. The first man who made fratricidal war was stripped of his possessions, and made a vagabond on the face of the earth. It would be a fit retribution for all men who persist in the same crime.

THE CHIEF JUSTICESHIP.

From the Tribune.

That the appointment of Salmon P. Chase to the chief seat in the Supreme Court of the United States would be received by us with more than ordinary pleasure, it is hardly necessary for us to say; for the high estimate in which we hold his intellectual and moral qualities has never been concealed. In that pleasure a very large proportion of the people will sympathize, we know. On this point we are not left to conjecture, nor to the ordinary deduction that inasmuch as Mr. Chase has for many years filled positions of high responsibility and trust, always with honor to himself, and with the popular approbation, that therefore his further advancement must be looked upon with favor; for we know from the testimony of men impartial, peculiarly fitted to form a correct estimate of the popular judgment, and who have recently traveled widely over the Northern States, that it was a universal and foregone conclusion among thoughtful and loyal men that the vacant Chief Justiceship should be given to Mr. Chase. That the President has thought fit to so bestow this office is therefore properly a matter of public congratulation, and Mr. Lincoln will receive the thanks of the country that his judgment is so perfectly in accord with the popular wish.

Mr. Chase was known for his eminent legal attainments and his high standing at the bar long before he rose to any political distinction. From this, indeed, his course in early life cut him off completely, for he so identified himself with the Abolitionists of a quarter of a century ago and more, that political advancement was then impossible. But it was not merely the humanitarian aspect of the question that induced him thus early to identify himself with the Anti-Slavery party; he discerned that in the growth of the slave power, and its constant encroachments upon constitutional liberty, lay our future danger, and that out of this little cloud, seemingly then not bigger than a man's hand, was to come the tempest that was to try the strength and endurance of our republican form of government.

In the course of time political parties came to him, and, while his early principles have never been forgotten nor denied, he as a popular Representative, as Governor, Senator, a powerful candidate for the Presidency, and as a Cabinet Minister, has led the advanced column of the steady progress of popular love of liberty, and true republican Government, which has so far carried the nation triumphantly through the most trying and terrible war the world has ever seen, waged on the clearest issues ever accepted by any people. To no man in the country, probably, has constitutional law, its relations to the absolute rights of the citizen and the reserved rights of States, been a subject of severer and deeper study than to Mr. Chase. The natural bent of his intellect and the habits of his life have alike fitted him for judicial position.

In the coming events, when the civil and military powers have done their par, there will still remain an important work for the judiciary to do in the reconstruction of the Union, and in settling upon a sure foundation those great principles upon which the Republic is to be rebuilt. To no hands could it be so safely entrusted as to those of Mr. Chase. It was not merely proper that the new Chief Justice should be a man learned in the law; it was absolutely essential to the perpetuity of the Government that he should also be a statesman of wide and comprehensive views, and one whose mind is habituated to the contemplation and study of the new order of events which are crowding so thickly upon us.

Never since the Union was formed has the office of a Chief Justice required more varied or more eminent qualities of head and heart; never has the appointment to that distinguished position needed more careful consideration, or demanded a wiser adjustment of all the relations involved in the selection. In the choice he has made, Mr. Lincoln has bestowed it upon the man who, among all his compeers, stands out, by common assent, as best fitted by nature and education to fulfil its duties.

General Stanley.

The telegraph reports among the casualties of the battle at Franklin, Tennessee, a severe wound in the neck, received by General Stanley. The prominence given to the man by conduct which brought him this wound, justifies a brief sketch of him. David S. Stanley (major-general of volunteers, and captain in the 4th Regular Cavalry) was born in Cedar Valley, Wayne county, Ohio, June 1, 1828. He graduated at West Point, July 1, 1852, standing eighth in a class of about one hundred and twenty.

Among his classmates were Major-Generals McCook, Hartsuff, Slocum, and Sheridan; and Brigadier-Generals Hascall, Crook, and Woods. Shortly after graduating, young Stanley was breveted Second Lieutenant in the 2d Dragoons, now the 2d Cavalry. At the outbreak of the Rebellion, having previously been promoted to a captaincy, he was stationed at Fort Smith, Arkansas. Here he rendered inestimable service to the Government by assisting in the successful abandonment of Forts Smith, Wachita, Arbuckle, and Cobb. Captain Stanley joined General Lyon at Clinton, Mo., and participated in the affair at Dug Springs and the battle of Wilson's creek.

He afterwards served with General Fremont, and was appointed a Brigadier-General on the 28th of September, 1861. When General Rosecrans was assigned to the command of the Army of the Cumberland he applied for General Stanley's services. At the battle of Stone river, and in numerous other affairs, he won great reputation for his skill and daring. Of his conduct at Stone river, General Rosecrans thus speaks in his official report:—

"Brigadier-General Stanley, already distinguished for four successful battles—Island No. 10, May 27, before Corinth, Iuka, and the battle of Corinth—at this time in command of our ten regiments of cavalry, fought the enemy's forty regiments of cavalry, and beat them whenever he could meet them. He ought to be made a Major-General for his services, and also for the good of the service."

A Poetical Idea Realized—Enoch Arden in Real Life.

A correspondent of the London *Morning Post* writes from Brussels as follows:—

"A circumstance has just occurred here which in some points resembles the events out of which the Poet Laureate has made so much in 'Enoch Arden.' About twenty years ago a blacksmith was condemned to an imprisonment of seven months for an assault of which he had been found guilty; and on the expiry of his term of punishment, being unwilling to return to his former employment, he enlisted in the Dutch army, and shortly afterwards, proceeded to the colonies of Holland, in the East Indies, leaving a wife and young daughter behind him. Five years after, a comrade, who had served in the same company arrived here and told the wife that her husband had been killed with a poisoned arrow by one of the natives. The comrade and the wife, having soon come to an understanding, were married, and had lived happily together for many years. Their happiness was, however, interrupted a few days ago, when an individual with white locks made his appearance in the family circle, which included seven children. This was the blacksmith who had been supposed to be long dead, who, seeing how matters stood with his wife and friend, made the best he could of the change; and, after having deposited three thousand florins for the use of the daughter he had left behind—who is now twenty-two years of age—he took his departure for London in the steamer *Moselle*, and has since doubtless safely arrived at his destination, though nobody here seems to have been made acquainted with his future plans or intentions."

The True Origin of the Late Senator Hammond.

To the Editor of the Evening Post:—As a relative of the late Senator Hammond, I desire to correct an erroneous statement in regard to his ancestry, made public through your columns of Friday, December 2d instant, headed "Governor Hammond's Origin," and which error may be repaired, as far as within your power, by publishing the following genealogical data, taken from the family records since the date of 1620, in my own possession. The late Senator Hammond, formerly Governor of South Carolina, is a direct descendant, in the sixth generation, from William Hammond, of London, who married Elizabeth Penn, sister of William Penn, proprietor of Pennsylvania. Elisha Hammond, father of the late senator, born in Rochester, Mass., was a graduate of Dartmouth College, and removed to South Carolina in 1801, where in 1816 he was chosen President of South Carolina College in Columbia. He was never Steward of the College, as represented by your correspondent.

Insurrection in Venetian Italy.—According to the accounts in the English papers by the *China*, there is now an insurrection of some magnitude in progress against the Austrian Government. Several encounters have taken place between the insurgents and the Austrian troops, in which lives were lost. Eighteen districts have been placed under martial law. The Italian Government is attempting to prevent succor reaching the insurgents, and in one case dispersed a body of rebels.

NEWS JOTTINGS.

—A French church is to be erected in Chicago.

—The debt of the city of Philadelphia is $11,032,937.

—The salary of the Mayor of Boston has been raised to $3000.

—Seth Boyden, of Newark, celebrated his golden wedding last week.

—It is proposed to establish a public dispensary and hospital at Yonkers, New York.

—The Washington Home in Boston has received two hundred and twenty-two patients this year.

—The city of New Haven has voted an extra bounty of $300 to recruits, and has appropriated $300,000 for the purpose.

—The merchants of New Haven have just sent to the soldiers of their State three hundred and fifty pairs of gloves and one hundred pairs of mittens.

—The ploughmakers of the Northwest had a convention at Chicago last week, at which it was resolved to advance the price of ploughs twenty per cent.

—There are two hundred and twenty-six boys at the Reform School in Meriden, Ct., the largest number at any one time since the opening of the institution.

—Dr. Mary E. Walker has received the appointment of Acting Surgeon in the army, and has assumed duty as surgeon in the female military prison in Louisville.

—A popular music teacher in East Boston has eloped with a beautiful girl of seventeen, both members of the same church choir. The man has left behind a wife and child.

—A party of circus managers are about leasing the old National Theatre estate in Boston, with the intention of erecting a vast amphitheatre, in which to give first-class circus entertainments.

—The charitable Fuel Society of Providence, Rhode Island, relieved eight hundred and seventy-five families and distributed $2223 worth of coal last year, and the expenses of the Society were only $14·25.

—A Sunday School in Bangor, Maine, has been stimulating its pupils to commit verses of Scripture to memory, and one little girl of ten years has received a Bible for learning nearly 1400 verses in six months.

—Some rascals have mutilated the plaster cast of the Megatherium placed in the State Cabinet at Albany by Charles E. Wadsworth, son of the late General Wadsworth. It is a life-size copy of the specimen in the British Museum.

—The building intended to contain the Watkinson Library of Reference, erected at Hartford, Connecticut, in connection with the Historical Society building, is nearly completed, and will furnish room for twenty-five thousand volumes.

—There is a school district in the western part of York county, Maine, consisting of forty families, of whom three are too poor to be taxed at all, and thirty-three of the remainder are taxed only a poll apiece, and that has to be abated each year.

—Rev. Calvin Fairbanks, of Williamsburg, Massachusetts, who was recently released from an imprisonment of twelve and a half years in Kentucky, announces his willingness to lecture on his imprisonment, his sufferings, and his wonderful escape.

—Mrs. Sarah Thompson, one of the loyal women who caused the rebel John Morgan to be surprised and killed by a scout of Federal soldiers, has arrived in Cincinnati. She is a widow with two children, and is represented to be homeless and penniless.

—Salem is about to add one more to the list of cities in Massachusetts which have provided themselves with an ample supply of water. Worcester and Charlestown celebrated such an event last week. Lynn, Springfield, and New Bedford are engaged upon similar enterprises.

—About one hundred and fifty vessels are now in Boston harbor, and more than fifty are now on the way there from different parts of the world, mostly laden with large and valuable freights. Cargoes from India and distant Pacific ports, so large as those of 1864, have not been received there for many years.

—There are several regiments of the Veteran Reserves on duty in Washington. It is very desirable, says the *Chronicle*, to supply libraries to these regiments in their various encampments. Said an officer in one of these regiments:—"Nothing could accomplish more good than a well-selected library in our camp."

—The Governor and Council of Massachusetts usually celebrate Thanksgiving by pardoning a meritorious convict from the State Prison; but omitting it this year, propose to let out two on Christmas. There are now three hundred and fifty-nine convicts in the prison, of whom forty are for life, and three are in solitary confinement.

—As workmen in Boston, last Thursday, were engaged in digging a deep trench in Kilby street, for the purpose of putting down a boxing to protect the cellars, the remains of the old timbers and buttresses of Oliver's Dock, one of the ancient landmarks of the town, were exposed to view. When the streets were named, on the 3d of May, 1708, this street was called "Mackrill Lane."

—Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Deane, of Gill, Mass., celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage on the 17th November, forty-one of their relatives being present. Only one person now living witnessed the marriage, sixty years ago, Mrs. Sally Chapin, of Gill, and she also attended the celebration. Mrs. Deane has been blind for three years, and during the time has knit thirty-five pairs of stockings for the soldiers.

—A venerable man in Chicago, who is poor, and keeps "bachelor's hall," has been detected in filching sugar from the tables of eating-houses in that city. He gave his name as George Parker, and offered as an excuse for what he had done that he "made his coffee at home, and wanted a little sugar." He is evidently not in a needy condition, yet must have taken, at different times, as now appears, several pounds of sugar. He was allowed to depart on payment of a sufficient sum to cover the value.

—The Emperor Maximilian is gathering about him, slowly, a foreign legation. The Honorable Peter Scarlett has been sent on a mission to Mexico from England. King Leopold of Belgium has ordered Mr. Blondel Coulebront, Belgian envoy to the United States, to proceed to Mexico on a special mission; and lastly, Baron Wetterstedt, successor to Count Piper, as Swedish Minister to the United States, has set out upon a journey to Mexico, even before presenting his credentials at Washington.

—The vintage in Spain this year, like those of France and Germany, is unusually fine, and the wine is expected to be equal to that of 1858.

—Garrotting still flourishes in London. Lately a Frenchman, named Jules Pata, was garrotted near Leicester Square, and robbed of nearly £600, which he had in his pockets. He was left for dead by the ruffians, with only three halfpence in his pockets. The proceeds of the robbery included all the money the poor young man had in the world, and was the produce of some property he had sold prior to going over to Havre to be married.

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