

Altoona Tribune.



ALTOONA, PA.

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1862.

A Little More Grape.

The old pharisee and hypocrite of the *Whig* changed his publication day from Friday to Saturday, in order, he said, to furnish his readers with Sunday reading!!! The first attempt was a long and prosey article to the "People of Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, and Mifflin Counties," on morality and religion, in which he endeavored to show that he was atoning for his past crimes. We had occasion to touch up his hypocrisy last week, and we are not surprised, therefore, to see in his next issue, instead of an attack on religion, an attack on the "great corporation."

He went to Harrisburg during the winter of 1861 as a bore in favor of the Bill regarding the Tonnage Tax. Notwithstanding this, all this winter has favored its repeal. When the Senate placed a general tax on all Railroads in the State, and the House, influenced by the general Railroad interest, refused to concur, the talk was knocked out of all the persons who sought to make personal and political capital by a warfare against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Brotherline, among the rest, was dumb. In his last issue, however, the fellow appears in favor of a specific tax on the great Pennsylvania thoroughfare, and against the general revenue measure. His is the only paper, save one, in the State we have seen that pretended to justify the course of the House. If a tax is right, why shouldn't it be general? If a revenue is needed, why not levy off all the Railroads? This same chap, Brotherline, has been threatening of late, we hear, that he intended to make the company do what was right with him. Will he be kind enough to answer, with the other questions we propounded to him, what he meant by "right"? What wonderful influence he has!—How the Railroad Company must "fear him!"—Does the old shylock mean that it must assist him in collecting double rents and compel the tenants to pay the taxes besides? We hear that one of his "rights" is this. It seems that in one of his recent horse contracts, at Washington, he sold out for one-fourth of the profits and the person he sold to didn't "ante up." J. B. brought suit, but the contract not being in his name (why didn't the body see this) he couldn't recover. He now insists that the Secretary of War shall compel payment of his share of the steading, and we hear that he threatens to turn out the Secretary, and have the House censure the President, unless this is done within thirty days. This said Mr. Stanton is wonderfully stirred. Just so. No doubt of it. Now, we can't say whether all this is true or not. It may be the contracting editor's *matrix*. That he has one, no one will dispute. Will J. B. tell us, is this the cause of his recent rage at the Pennsylvania Railroad, or is it the genuine "hard cash" he wants? Dance up to time, Mr. Brotherline, and tell us if this is the way you intend to make your "paper pay." If so, please furnish us a statement of receipts and disbursements up to this time. We mean the receipts in "hard cash."

A Southerner's Opinion of Pillow, Tighman, Davis and Polk.

Mr. Damer, of this place, now a member of the "Anderson Body Guard," serving under Gen. R. E. Lee, while accompanying a flag of truce across the battle-field at Pittsburgh Landing, immediately after the battle, to look after the wounded, picked up a great many letters, company rolls and orders, which had been thrown away by the rebels on their retreat. Some of them are quite rich specimens of literature, orthography and chirography. From one of them, which is well written, we extract the following opinion of the writer in reference to Gens. Pillow and Tighman. The letter is dated Bessemer, Miss., March 9th, 1862, and is from James Patterson to his son Willis J. Patterson, who is in the rebel army. After speaking of the account given by the Northern papers of the battle at Fort Donelson, he says:

"There seems to be no doubt but that our men fought bravely and desperately all three of the days, and especially on Saturday, nor is there any doubt in my mind that General Gordon Pillow was as deficient in judgment at Fort Donelson as was Bellemont, and it is a pity he was not captured with his command, then he could not, by his bold hardy, have caused others to be captured or slain, as he perhaps will if he is not easily defeated and taken prisoner. I am informed in the belief which I entertained in regard to General Tighman, that he was a fool or a traitor, because no sensible man could believe that he could hold the two forts with the soldiers there at that time, nor could he hold them with three times the number; but I am now more than ever inclined to the belief that he was a traitor."

In another part of the letter he discourses as follows:

"The times look gloomy at present. Missouri is overrun, Kentucky is overrun, Tennessee is almost overrun, and the enemy is, or has been, on Mississippi and Alabama soil, all for the want of a little management on the part of the Government. It should have strengthened these two forts on the Cumberland and Tennessee, and have thereby saved the State of Tennessee, and with all the commands stored on the river, and saved some 12,000 soldiers from capture. By the time of the loss of the two forts with the soldiers there at that time, not much could be held with three times the number, and if it must have been neglect or gross ignorance, and if the latter, all should be turned out of office."

LAWYER FROM MEXICO.—Advice from Vera Cruz to the 24th ult., states that the French have opened hostilities and taken possession of Orizaba, Veracruz. Cordova has declared for Almonte. The British Minister was holding a private interview with Dahlblad at Puebla. The Mexicans had received reinforcements of 9,000 men, and General Zaragoza would dispute the march of the French.

THE MINERS OF POTRILLO.—The miners of Potrillo are on a strike, and the miners of Philadelphia have been called on to quit the disturbance.

Southern Humanity.

Since reading the report of the Congressional Committee on the conduct of the war, we confess that our mind has undergone considerable change in reference to the character of the people who inhabit some of the seceded States. We have been entirely deceived in them. From representations made to us, coupled with what we had seen of them, previous to the inauguration of the rebellion, we were wont to look upon them as human beings, equally as good as the people of the North (barring their institution of slavery) in point of honor, humanity and all that adorns a civilized people. But also! how we have been disappointed. It seems that their ruling passions were only restrained by the strong arm of the law, and no sooner is this cast off than we find them perpetrating atrocities, the most horrible, such as leave us in doubt as to what class of beings they belong, whether the savages of the forest, the Sepoys of India, or the inhabitants of the Cannibal Islands.—Of one thing we are sure, a portion of them at least do not possess the first characteristics of a civilized people, and the other portion is but little better, else it would not have permitted the outrages to be perpetrated.

In another column will be found a few extracts from the testimony adduced before the committee. We can hardly conceive of beings so low and degraded, so entirely lost to all the sensibilities of human nature, as to be guilty of such atrocities as were perpetrated upon the wounded and dead Union soldiers after the battle of Bull Run. We blushed to think that they were ever considered citizens of the United States. Some of their deeds are so damning that the darkest devil would close his eyes ere he performed them. The tallest imp of darkness could not have invented more exquisite modes of torture than did these human devils.

To have at once despised the wounded and then made food of their flesh, after the manner of the Cannibals, would have been a merciful act compared with the amputating processes through which they had to pass, under the hands of their inhuman butchers. The Sepoys of India, from want of education, could not have invented the terrible tortures to which our wounded were subjected, and the savages of the forest, who burn their captives, would have been considered humane benefactors. But it remained for the enlightened, chivalric, honorable soldiers of the Southern Confederacy, in the middle of the nineteenth century, to invent and carry into effect the most hellish modes of dealing with wounded and dead adversaries. The Cannibal seeks for food when he picks the bones of his fallen foe, but the high-bred Southern gentleman who robbed the graves of Union soldiers at Manassas, have not the cannibals plea to enter in extenuation of their conduct. Would they had. Can they complain of us? 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