



ALTOONA, PA.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6, 1864.

DEAD.—Archbishop Hughes died at his residence, in New York city, on Sunday last.

REBEL RAID.—There are rumors of a rebel raid down the Shenandoah Valley. The Federal pickets have been driven in to Hunter Hill, and dashes of Rebel cavalry have been made as far as Winchester. It is supposed to be a command, numbering about 6,000, under Early, who are attempting an offset to Averill's great raid on the Southern Virginia Railroad. Our officers appear to be prepared for them, and should they attempt to interfere with the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. they will receive a warm reception for cold weather. Gen. Kelly is said to be posted in reference to the force of Rebels approaching and has made proper disposition of his command.

THE CONSCRIPTION LAW.—The draft which was ordered for the 5th inst., has been postponed until the 15th. This was done, we presume, in order to give Congress an opportunity to amend or alter the present law. Previous to the adjournment of that body, to spend the holidays, quite a number of amendments were offered—some good, some otherwise. Congress met again on the 5th inst., and, we presume, the first business will be to dispose of the amendments referred to. Whether there should be any alteration of the law, or whether it should be entirely remodelled, are questions considerably debated, but we think the desire is to let the matter alone until the present draft is made, then get up a law, improved by the knowledge gained from the imperfections, injustice and failures of the present law, as exhibited by its workings.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The Legislature of this State met on Tuesday. The National Union members of the Senate met in caucus on Monday afternoon, and nominated John P. Penny, of Allegheny, for Speaker, and G. W. Hammersley, of Philadelphia, for chief clerk. The National Union members of the House nominated Henry C. Johnson for Speaker, and A. W. Benedict, of Huntingdon, for chief clerk.

In the House the National Union party has a majority, which secures the election of the caucus nominees.

The Senate is a tie, in consequence of the absence of Senator White, of Indiana county, who is a prisoner in Richmond. Unless there be a division of the officers of this body, between the two parties, an organization need not be looked for inside of a couple of weeks, perhaps not until a successor to Senator White is elected.

We hope, however, that there may be no difficulty in this respect, but that both Houses will organize at once, and go to work as they should, get through with their business, and go home like respectable men.

P. S. Since the above was written, we learn from the Harrisburg Telegraph that business in the Senate is at a dead lock, in consequence of the refusal of either party to yield, in order to effect an organization. How long this state of affairs will exist, depends upon the obstinacy of the members.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.—"Going into winter quarters" is the distinguished news from the main armies of both sides to the fight. We have nothing from Chattanooga, the Rapidan or Knoxville. Gen. Gillmore sent the citizens of Charleston some forty or fifty Christmas gifts, early on Christmas morning, in the shape of some forty bomb shells, which are to be fired in several places, causing congratulations which raged nearly all day. Report says that Gen. Seymour has cut the Railroad line between Charleston and Savannah, by capturing Pocotaligo bridge. A despatch from Leavenworth says that Col. Phelps, of the Indian Brigade, with six hundred men, met Quantrell with one thousand men, in the Cherokee country, and after a fight, lasting several hours, completely defeated the Rebels, who scattered in all directions, leaving fifty killed and wounded on the field.

THE LADY'S FRIEND.—This is the title of a new candidate for public patronage, in the Magazine line, published by Deacon & Peterson, Philadelphia, and edited by Mrs. Henry Peterson. It is essentially a lady's magazine, and well stored with fashion plates, patterns, and instructions well calculated to please all who may receive it. Among its contributors it numbers some of the best literary writers in the country. "Gabriel Wilke's Bazaar" is a beautiful well engraving. The fashion plates are models of their kind. We are entirely pleased with the whole affair and believe it must soon become popular. Price \$2 per annum.

Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

From the report of the Secretary of the Treasury we learn that our exports of domestic produce, during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1863, amounted to \$249,856,649, and that our foreign imports, during the same period, were \$282,287,587. These imports and exports are, of course, exclusive of the ports and territory held under the Rebel rule. The following tables show the imports and exports since 1860, inclusive, before the war commenced—

Table with 2 columns: Year ending June 30th, and Amount. Rows for 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

IMPORTS.—Year ending June 30th, 1860, \$362,166,254; 1861, 205,819,823; 1862, 205,819,823; 1863, 262,287,587. EXPORTS.—Year ending June 30th, 1860, \$316,242,423; 1861, 389,920,111; 1862, 181,875,988; 1863, 249,856,649. The imports, it will be seen, reached their highest figure in 1860, and the exports in 1861. The year 1860 was the first year since 1861 embraced the commerce of the whole country, before Secession had divided the North and South, and brought on the war. The fiscal years of 1860 and 1861 were remarkable for the amount of breadstuffs shipped to Europe, in consequence of the failure of the crops, and the shortage of cotton and tobacco, and during those years the exports nearly balanced the imports. In 1862 the imports exceeded the exports \$123,843,885, while in 1863 the excess of imports over exports was \$12,490,938. But if the value of the exports are estimated upon our paper currency, about one-third will have to be deducted to bring the exports to the gold standard of the imports, which would make the value of the exports, on that basis, \$169,604,429. The balance in our favor is \$95,683,157, but this balance is \$28,160,680 less in 1863 than it was in 1862.

During the whole of 1862 and 1863 to say nothing of the fractional part of 1861) the exports and imports were confined exclusively to the local States, and such parts in the South as during that time came again into the possession of the Government. It will be seen, from the above figures, that during the last year the exports were within \$60,365,774 of 1860, when the exports of the whole country, North and South, including cotton and tobacco, were footed up in the account, and that, too, in a year in which the exports reached the highest figure ever known, except in 1861. This shows the growing prosperity of the loyal States, even during the war, and proves that their domestic exports amount to more than the whole of the country before the war, including "king" cotton and the tobacco of the South, and this, too, when there was no extra or special demand in the European markets. And for the benefit of grumblers in Europe, we must state that the imports show nearly the same ratio. The difference between the imports in 1860, when they reached their highest figure, with the North and South together, and 1863, with the South off, amounts to only \$99,878,697.

The export of specie and bullion during the fiscal year ending June 30th, amounted to \$45,156,610, and the amount imported was \$9,556,648, leaving a balance against us of \$35,600,062.

The following table shows the exports of specie and bullion since 1860, inclusive, and the amount imported, and the balance against us. Year ending June 30th, 1860, \$66,546,239; 1861, 29,791,000; 1862, 36,886,956; 1863, 64,156,610. From the year 1863 must be deducted nearly 10,000,000 imported as above stated. It has been supposed by some people that the increase in the export of specie and bullion in 1863 over export of 1862 and 1861 has, in a great measure, caused the great rise in the price of gold, but when we consider that the increase over 1862 is only \$17,713,966, the amount appears too small to make very much difference, but by no means such a difference as has been ruled in the market during the year. The export of specie and bullion, it will be noticed, was greater in 1860 than in any other year, since 1855 down to 1861; and besides during nearly all that period it was freely used in all our business transactions. The gold mines are within the Union now as they always have been, and the increase in the export appears to keep pace with the products of the mines as heretofore. The years 1861 and 1862 are exceptions, because the war during those years had greatly depressed commerce of all kinds.

The Cold Weather.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 31, 9 P. M.—Thermometer is 15 degrees above zero, and falling rapidly. Barometer 29.25. At 10 P. M. the thermometer stands at 29.30. A severe snow storm, with violent wind from the north-west, commenced at dusk. The thermometer fell thirty-five degrees in five hours.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—The weather is intensely cold. At nine o'clock this morning the thermometer stands at 10 degrees below zero. No trains left for the East or West last night, and no one arrived to-day. All the roads are blocked up with snow.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2, Midnight.—At this hour the wind is blowing a northerly gale, and the thermometer stands at 10 degrees below zero.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 2.—Very little business has been transacted to-day, on account of the weather. Since the heavy snow storm of Thursday the weather has been intensely cold, the mercury having fallen to 24 degrees below zero, which is unparalleled in this region. All the railroads and all of the city are blocked up with snow, and no trains have arrived or departed for two days. The river is closed, and this morning teams passed over the ice. A large number of cattle and hogs have been frozen to death.

BUFFALO, Jan. 2.—Two hundred feet of the Niagara Falls road, near this city, has been washed away. No cars have left the depot here since Thursday. Trains, however, are running from Buffalo to the Suspension Bridge. Business in the city is almost entirely suspended.

THE worst of the storm is now over, although it is still snowing this evening. The weather is intensely cold. The thermometer at midnight on the 31st of December stood at 24 deg. above zero. Last evening it was 0 deg. below zero, and this morning at 9 o'clock it was 9 deg. below. Telegraphic communication with the West is interrupted.

EVANS BRIDGE, in the lower part of the city, has been carried away.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—A severe snow storm prevailed on Thursday and Friday, and railroad travel is almost entirely suspended. The weather is intensely cold, the mercury indicating twenty degrees below zero. The Thirtieth and Thirty-first Indiana regiments arrived here to-day, having been re-enlisted as veterans. The Sixtieth New York reached here to-day on route home. Four Rebel prisoners were frozen to death in the cars en route from Jeffersonville to Chicago, on Thursday night.

EXTRAORDINARY FLIGHT OF A LOVER.—We have heard of wonderful fish stories, but the following flying rumor, from the Journal de Constantinople, must, for the present, bear off the banner for excellence in the marvellous: "Two young men, it is said, were travelling in a carriage, and discovered an enormous bird hovering over them. They fired at the strange creature, and on its descent into the water they discovered it was its own enormous pair of wings. They took him into their boat, and found him very slightly injured. His explanation was that he had invented the wings, and was in the habit of flying from Antioch to Ploati, to visit a young lady with whom he was deeply enamored, but whose cruel parents had forbidden him to marry him. After this he had been captured and captured, and the exploit of Byron swimming across the Hellespont is outdone by the flying swimmer of the Bosphorus."

Free Labor for the South.

It may seem a little singular that sentiments like the following, which we take from the New Orleans Era, should be published as far South as Louisiana. Of course it is only very recently that such a thing could take place, but its occurrence now is an unmistakable indication of the direction and progress the sentiment of the South is taken. It is a proof, and with others conclusive to our minds, that a loyal South can only be re-established upon an anti-slavery radical basis, and that the result thence is rapidly tending. There is a great deal of sound philosophy in the extract from the Era, which we give below:

"It has generally been believed, heretofore, that the destruction of slavery would impoverish the South. But this is one of the popular errors which is destined to be overturned by the war. The value of slave property is rapidly falling; for, with the money expended by the planter in feeding and subsisting his slaves, smart business men would have procured as much, and perhaps more work by paid and willing labor. After the slaveowner had paid his fifteen hundred dollars for his negro, he must feed and clothe him; and the expense of this would about balance the work he got out of him. Consequently, the use of this thousand or fifteen hundred dollars was about the same as thrown away; and if the negro died or ran off and escaped, it was gone without a cent's return. The main principles of common sense that hold good the world over; and some of these have been very strangely overlooked by the advocate of slave labor. Nothing is more self-evident than that a man will labor more willingly for a wage than for the prospect of wages that he will under a man who has no such prospect. The negroes do not form an exception to this rule. Enslaved and treated as brutes, possessing neither the feelings, the hopes nor the fears of freemen, they necessarily become sluggish and debased, and as much as possible. Nothing else could be expected; human nature would be false to herself if the result were different. But, treated as a human being, and properly remunerated for his toil, the negro becomes a man, and his labor is valuable. Experience is establishing this truth on the plantations of Louisiana every day. A planter who loses one hundred negroes may complain that he has lost fifty thousand dollars; but he will learn, if he goes to work properly, that he has really lost nothing. His plans and business may suffer derangement for a year; but if he will try the free labor experiment fairly, his supposed loss can work him no further harm."

General Averill's Raid.

The Rebels can't get over General Averill's brilliant raid; like caustic it touched a tender spot, and is still eating into their flesh. They were completely out-witted and out-generaled by Averill, and in considering over the matter at their leisure, they are indignant, furious and ludicrous by turns. A writer in the Richmond Examiner of the 28th holds forth in the following vein:

Here commences the reign of Major-Generals and military science. Major-General Judah A. Early came, Major-General Fitzhugh Lee came, Brigadier-General Walker came, Brigadier-General Thomas came. Their staffs came. They all took a drink, and then Early, Walker, Lee and Thomas, commanding brigades, came. They smiled also. The whole matter is summed up in a couple of sentences. Averill was punned up. McCausland, Echols and Jackson at one gait, Lee and Imboden at another. Some ass suggested he might escape by jumping down the well and coming out in Japan; i. e., go to Buchanan. Early ordered them to leave a gate open and guard the well. He did not jump in.

MEANWHILE the Yankees coolly came up the valley, through Edinburg, New Market, up to Harrisonburg, within twenty-five miles of Staunton—these head-quarters. This was bearing down on the Rebels. Jubal took the field at the head of his army of 12,000 men, and his two regiments of farmers and plowboys, called "home guards." The Yankees got after him, and the "Major-General Commanding" lost his hat in the race. The last hour of him he was pursuing the enemy with his own hands, and the Rebels were being driven to the Potomac towards Maryland, on the occasion of Lee's first raid northward, the young man allied to become exhausted, and fell out of the ranks, and as soon as he recovered, he proceeded on after his regiment, but not finding it, he, being too tired to lose, he fell into the ranks of another regiment, and fought gallantly at South Mountain and Antietam, and was wounded in the last named battle. He was sent to a hospital, which, tact, by the Rebels, he escaped, and returned to his regiment, and the officers of his regiment, and was arrested as a deserter, tried, condemned, and was about to be shot, when, by the interference of the Executive, his life was saved, and a young man, who was condemned to an ignominious death, was suddenly restored to honor.

PAID UP YANKEE PRISONERS.

Our readers will be astonished to learn, says the Richmond Dispatch of the 28th, that there are now in this city four hundred paid-up Yankee prisoners, who for some time past have been described as "Stars and Stripes," renounced Lincoln, and taken the oath of allegiance to the Confederate Government. Four hundred men prima facie alien enemies, because natives of the land of wooden shoes and pointed tops, turned loose in the very Capital of the Southern Confederacy, and that, too, upon the mere pledge of their "word of honor" that they will not take up arms against us, or give information to our enemies. Some of them may be sincere sympathizers of the South, but it is not to be expected that the Government would take the chances of having a Yankee command created in our midst, and by its own consent to aid in this striking down our own cause? Most of these men declare they fled, their country to them? Are they to be counted on as reliable? Do they desert our army? Surely, the man that deserts the flag of his own country, will not prove more faithful to the one of his adoption. If they are full of their own conceits, and thus far from being placed in possession of all the secrets of the Government? Surely, not. If the paroled Yankees, now parading the streets of Richmond, were to organize for the purpose, they could seize the President Davis on any night agreed upon, and before resistance could be made, "spirit" him off into the Yankee lines.

THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 4.—General Rosecrank's official report of the battle of Chickamauga, is published to-day, together with the reply of General Thomas L. Wood to a portion of it. General Rosecrank attributes the gaps opened on the line of battle through the day adversely to us, to Wood's erroneous conclusion that obeying the order to close up on Gen. Reynolds, led to withdrawal from the line and pass to the rear of General Brannan. Wood, in reply, shows that Brannan was in line between his and Reynolds's Divisions, and that he could not obey the order to support the latter without withdrawing and passing to the rear of Brannan's Division, and that the order being peremptory and urgent, he had no discretionary power; and simply obeyed orders. The point seems to be clearly made against Rosecrank.

MAMMOTH CHICAGO ENTERPRISE.—The business enterprise of Chicago is truly gigantic. The Chicago Dock Company, incorporated with a capital stock of \$1,000,000 in shares of \$100 each, purpose to erect an immense warehouse, 600 feet by 80 broad, five stories high, situated on the river, with a dock front of 580 feet, and a depth of 600 feet. The lot is 800 feet by 700, and the tracks from the several railroads centre in the warehouse. Cost of lot and building, \$178,000. The warehouse will have storage capacity for 375,000 barrels of flour, and a holding capacity that will lift and deposit 1,400 barrels of flour per hour.

THE GREAT SUICIDE.

We quoted, on Saturday, the singular acknowledgment of the Richmond Whig, which, whether stated in irony or bitter despair, is none the less essentially true—"Slavery has stabbed itself to death." The gods wished to destroy it, and rendered it mad, and in the ravings of its insanity it inflicted its own death-wound. Had the South chosen to obey the Constitution and laws, years would have been added to years before slavery would have been abolished. The Republican party, sitting in Congress, might have kept it out of the territories, and rendered it impossible for spirit back within its own limits; but there it would have been seared from all outward interference, much as the best friends of the South have always thought of the detriment of every State which, by its own fault, admitted rebellion against its death warrant, and slavery, as a system, defied the proclamation of the President, or rather clamorously called it down upon its already devalued head.

Thus, metaphorically, as last, slavery has committed suicide, by falling, as did the Nereus and Caligulas of the Roman empire, upon their own swords, when the great doom had come. They should see it in this light, and be thankful; but the South is not perhaps very remarkable; but the South is beginning to have its eyes opened also. North Carolina is swaying to the great conviction. The Raleigh Standard and the Raleigh Progress came out in favor of the North, and the North Carolina Standard and the North Carolina Times, and the people to accept it. European governments, at first inclined to regard the Rebellion favorably, now give it the cold shoulder. Let us say, in summary, we should see it in this light, and be thankful; but the South is not perhaps very remarkable; but the South is beginning to have its eyes opened also. North Carolina is swaying to the great conviction. 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