Pittsburgh Gazette.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1864.

The Right Doctrine.

Senator DOOLITTLE of Wisconsin has recently delivered a speech in the Senate which is attracting some attention. The occasion which called it forth was the offering of a proposition, by Senator WILKINSON of Minnesota, allowing negroes the right of suffrage in the new Territory of Montana. The speech of the Wisconsin Senator did not deal with the abstract question of the negro's *right* to vote in Montana or anywhere else, but with the question whether, with the issue of this bloody war yet undecided, it is wise policy for the party in power to insist upon the adoption of measures of a political character which cannot help to save the Union and which will have a direct and positive tendency to still further divide the public sentiment of the North, which should, if possible, be united in support of the government and in defense of the Union. Upon this question Mr. DOOLITTLE assumed a negative position, holding that, until we have saved the Union, all such minor and exclusively political questions as that under consideration should be held in abeyance. We quote a portion of his argument:

"We have," says he, "upon our hands issues enough. The single issue of this great war is enough. It is all the human mind can grasp, and more than any yet have been able to resolve. This gigantic struggle is to determine whether Republican government shall live or die; whether a constitutional form of government, resting upon the people for its support, can be maintained, or must perish forever; whether the union of these States is to be continued or broken; whether we are to maintain our own rights and liberties as free citizens of this great Republic under the Constitution of the United States, or succumb to rebellion, conspiracy, and military despotism. From the course of events, from military necessity in the prosecution of this war, and, as it seems to me—I say it with reverence—by Providential dispensation—the existence of Slavery has become involved in this contest. The prosecution of this war to a final triumph on the part of the United States will of necessity destroy Slavery within all those States in rebellion against the Government. *These issues are large enough and broad enough to demand all our time and all our energies, all our means, our whole might, mind and strength to accomplish that great purpose. In God's name let us first save the Union; let us crush the rebellion; let us give freedom to the negroes as a necessary result of the prosecution of this war, and secure it by constitutional amendment.* But let us postpone the discussion and action upon this and all other issues, *which can only tend to distract, divide and weaken the energies of the loyal people in this great struggle.*"

We endorse and approve the position of Senator DOOLITTLE. This is not the time to go out of our way in search of issues which can have no influence for good upon the solution of the war problem, and which will certainly vex and weaken the only true Union party of the country. The one issue—the one steady purpose—of subduing the rebellion and crushing the cause of it, demands all the energies and all the strength of the loyal masses. To suffer ourselves to be diverted from that issue when the nation is trembling on the brink of dissolution—to give Copperheads another opportunity to appeal to a well known prejudice—is to our mind foolishness. What is to be *gained* by such a policy? Suppose we allow a few dozen men the right of suffrage in Montana, and by the adoption of that policy lose fifty thousand votes at the elections next fall, where is the gain to the cause of the *Union?*

Is a reader of the *Gazette*, who is in favor of the negro's right to vote, may object to Mr. DOOLITTLE's position. He may say that, if the negro has *earned* the right to vote, he should be allowed to do so, for, in his opinion, it is always good policy to do right. Granting, for argument's sake, the assumption that the negro has earned his vote, we deny that the conclusion is a correct one. A wise man has said, "That which is lawful is not always expedient." For the President not to have issued his emancipation proclamation early in 1861 would have been a national disaster, but it would have been just as lawful and equally as just to issue it then as in January, 1863. Besides, GARNIL OR ROUTER, or some other German writer, has said that we should always "do the duty that lies nearest," and unquestionably the duty nearest to every American patriot to-day is, to *save the Union.* To this duty every other duty should be made to yield. After the ship is saved, we can air the hammocks.

The Cattle Famine in the West.

A writer in the New York *Tribune*, who dates his letter at Dongola, Ill., April 25th, gives a doleful account of the cattle famine in that State consequent on the scarcity of last summer's hay crop and the backwardness of the grass this spring. He says the loss of stock from starvation has been quite large. Horses, cows, hogs, and even sheep have died for want of fodder and grass. The following passage from his letter will be interesting to our farmers:

"Often on going out in the morning a creature is found lying down, and unable to get up. When food is brought to it, it will eat well. If it is not a heavy animal, the farmer and his boys and girls—sometimes the wife—come out, and by lifting and twisting they get the poor thing on its legs. But it shows signs of falling over, and the boys will spread out its feet so that it may have a broad base, or when they would have it walk they lift up its legs. Sometimes it is so weak that it will give a plunge forward, or will stumble down upon its legs, when it will helplessly stretch out and vainly kick its eyes. If it is a favorite and valuable beast, it is got into the barn by the help of neighbors, a crowd walking on each side, where he is supported by straps and ropes hung from above, and a plenty of hay and corn and frequently messes of bran are given it. If, however, there is a grass lot containing a few places where the grass is good, it is got thither. It does the company good to see it eat. But it is not unlikely that in an hour or so it will be found lying on its side, unable to stir, and it seems in a dying stage. Again it is raised up, handspikes being freely used, when it loses no eating, and being freely used, when it loses no eating, and being freely used, when it loses no eating, and