The Pittsburgh Gazette.

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THE AGGRESSIONS OF SLAVERY.

The fullest and most carefully compiled statement of the curtailment of the right of suffrage, as enjoyed by one class of our people, that we have seen, is in the *Armstrong Democrat* of last week. Had we room, we should like to transfer the whole of it to our columns; but must content ourselves with a few general facts.

In these colonies, prior to the revolution, no distinction was made among freemen on account of color. After the revolution, both under the confederation and the national constitution, up to year 1817, no State, except South Carolina, excluded free colored men from the polls. It is a singular fact that Connecticut was the first State to follow the bad example of South Carolina in 1817; Virginia followed in 1830; Delaware in 1831; Tennessee in 1834; North Carolina in 1835; and Pennsylvania in 1838.

In New York the colored man's right of suffrage is shackled by a property qualification, while the white man's is not. In Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island no distinction is made. In no State in which the right was ever taken away has it been restored. Colored men vote in Ohio and in some of the other North-western States; but in most of them they never had the right.

In the old constitution of South Carolina the words were, "Every free *white* man, and no other." At a subsequent date a property qualification was imposed, which changed that state to a mere oligarchy.

The franchise was taken away from colored men in this State and some others at the time when it was the fashion to mob men who attempted to discuss the subject of slavery, and when State Conventions met to save the Union by assuring their Southern brethern that they would stand by them in upholding their darling institution. It was with this view, and to mollify the wrath of the masters of slaves, that colored men were disfranchised. There was no other object, and but for this it never would have been proposed or even thought of. The object was two-fold—to put a ban, a badge of degradation, upon them as a servile and inferior race, and also to weaken any party which might make opposition to slavery a part of its platform. Had negroes continued to vote, it is very probable that the old Whig party would have swung round to that side, and, with these negro votes, it might have become the ruling party of the country. It that case the struggle with slavery—which was inevitable, sooner or later anyhow—might have been brought on sooner; or it might have been overcome, and its power broken, without a war.

The disfranchisement of colored men in the free States was a mean, dastardly and most unfortunate concession to the insolent demands of men who were as much traitors in heart then as they were when they fired upon the flag of the country, and who, for a long series of years, carried every point they wished by persistent threats of dissolution. From the time Pennsylvania committed that act of shame and injustice up to the time she cast her first vote for Mr. LINCOLN, the arrogance of these rebels continued to grow, and concession to follow concession, until these exactions became absolutely insufferable; then the people once more asserted their manhood by the organization of the Republican party.

When the spirit of Slavery undertook to seize the territories, Kansas became the arena of the first struggle. The slaveholders, calculating upon the old craven spirit of the North, went in confident of an easy conquest, but meeting a new and unwonted opposition, they became furious, and committed all manner of outrages. This brought on the conflict; this created the Republican party, for it opened the eyes of the people to the fact that Slavery was not only a moral evil but a dangerous enemy to the country. Subsequent events have taught us how malignant, how strong, how wicked and barbarous this enemy, which we fed and nourished, and warmed and petted through so many years, really was. To propitiate it we laid our freedom, our manhood, our consciences, and the rights and citizenship of a portion of our people upon its insatiable altar; but all in vain; and at last we had to give the best lives of the land, the precious blood of our children, to redeem us from the fathomless perdition to which it would have dragged us as a nation.

We dis ranchised the colored man at the bidding of men who had proved themselves traitors. We did it that thereby we might strengthen the fetters in which they held their bondmen. But, *to our surprise*, we have been obliged to break those fetters. In this work colored men assisted us. Shall we permit in that injustice now, when even the poor original apology cannot be offered for its continuance? Shall we acquite the patriotism and fidelity of these our fellow countrymen by dooming them to perpetual alienage and political degradation? As sure as there is a God of truth and equity ruling over the affairs of men we dare not do it—at the peril of our national life and peace we dare not. A clearer case of justice and injustice, of right and wrong can scarcely be imagined than is involved in this question.

A NATIONAL DEBT.

MR. JAY COOKE, the eminent banker, who has engendered our national loans so skillfully, is out in a pamphlet with the title, "A National Debt a National Blessing." It is written with ability and a spice of enthusiasm, something after the manner of the tapper, who exclaimed, when some people were discussing the merits of materials wherewith to fortify their town, "There is nothing like leather." To Mr. COOKE'S position in this matter the New York *Evening Post* takes vigorous exception, and altogether the controversy is a very spicy one. Mr. COOKE argues that the advantages or blessings of the national debt are found in the immense and substantial basis which it affords for an abundant and stable circulating medium, in other words, its utility as banking capital. The *Post's* line of argument is seen in this not very logical nor pertinent illustration:

If Mr. Cooke's position be just, the way to get rich, instead of the slow process of adding profit to profit, is to add debt to debt. The man who is over head and ears in debt swims in an ocean of riches. A huge debt suddenly cast upon him is an avalanche of wealth."

To our minds both the banker and the editor are in some measure right and both in about the same measure wrong. A national debt is not a mere dead weight and impediment, like an individual debt; nor is it, as Mr. Cooke argues, unmixed good, but is at once a burden and a source of strength, provided the bonds are kept at home and made to act, as they can be, as a spur to national industry, and as a means of developing the latent energies and resources of a nation. But if we permit these stocks to flow abroad in exchange for things that perish in the using, the benefits and blessings will be gone, but the burden and the curse will cling to us.

The Monroe Doctrine.

Mr. John Bright's organ, the Manchester *Examiner*, came to hand with our last mail. It contains the following, which may be regarded as a significant hint to the French Government, and an honest, impartial, and outspoken estimate of its conflict with regard to Mexico:

The sudden close of the American war has warned the Emperor Maximilian of the necessity of putting his house in order. He has not taken the alarm a minute too soon. The "migration movement," as it is called, but which might more truly be called the "spontaneous invasion movement," has unbolted in New York; he represents a sentiment deeply rooted in the American mind, and which, if repressed to-day, may spring up again to-morrow with all the stronger force. The downfall of the Confederacy has inspired James with fresh hopes. His partizans are exerting themselves in the northern provinces of Mexico, where they have lately achieved some successes. The defeat of Maximilian's Belgic allies, at Taccambarb, has spread a painful impression among our neighbors. It is clear that if the new imperial throne is to be maintained, fresh levies must be raised in Europe, while Marshal Bazaine and the French army cannot be allowed to leave just yet.

Meanwhile, the Mexican question is one which exposes us to some danger. If the United States Government should show a disposition to enforce the Monroe doctrine, we shall hear again of the arrogance and insolence which characterize democracies; and as we have, unfortunately, an unsettled misunderstanding with the United States on the Alabama claims, it is just within the range of possibility that circumstances may arise in which an attempt would be made to resuscitate the Anglo-French alliance, and make it available for transatlantic objects. Mad as such a project would be, it is not mad to open our eyes betimes to the chance of having it put before us as a sound piece of statesmanship. Earl Russel has said some injudicious things during the last four years, and not the least injudicious was his intimation that Great Britain and France were agreed in the policy to be pursued on both sides of the Atlantic. The Emperor Napoleon has tried hard to inveigle us into the pitfall of joint action on American affairs, and the time may come when our active support will seem to afford him the last hope of escaping without dishonor and damage from his Mexican adventure. Against this peril our best safe-guard is that the people should be well informed upon the facts and the principles which relate to the Mexican question.

At the threshold of this question lies the Monroe doctrine, respecting which the prevalent views are somewhat hazy. In the course of years that doctrine has become an article of faith with the American people. The New York papers invoke it rather wildly in support of all sorts of pretensions; but, as understood by the government, and by all who pretend to any political influence, it has not changed from what it was declared to be by the authority whose name it bears.

The Monroe doctrine is the doctrine of non-intervention, as defined by Mr. J. S. Mill; but, instead of applying it to all the world, as Mr. Mill thinks we ought to do, the Americans confine its application to America. On the platform of that doctrine the Americans declare that if any European power shall interfere in the concerns of any people on the American continent, "for the purpose of oppressing them or controlling in any other manner their destiny," such act of interference will be regarded as "unfriendly" towards the United States.

There can be no question as to the soundness of this doctrine, and none at all as to its falling within the proper competence of the United States government, or, indeed, of any government. When one nation chooses to interfere by force of arms in the concerns of another people, any third nation has the right to step in and say, "We wont permit it." They have not the duty, but the right, to do this if they please. And if ever an occasion arose when this right might be most rightfully exercised, it was when the Emperor of the French determined to put down the republican form of government in Mexico, and set up an empire in its stead; when he determined to drive Benito Juarez, *the freely-elected president of Mexico, from power; to turn the presidential chair into a throne, and to fill that throne with an imperial underling from Europe.* Great Britain and Spain joined the emperor in an armed demonstration against Mexico, but it was for a specific and almost object. The government of Mexico had seen fit to suspend all payments to the national creditors, many of them British and French subjects, and we went to exact payment. As soon as we discovered that the emperor of the French meant to conquer the country, and change the form of government, we threw up our share in the enterprise, and left him to himself. Spain did the same. The emperor's conduct amounted to a shameful breach of faith towards this country, and if we had thought fit to declare war against him on behalf of Mexico—in other words to intervene to put down intervention, however inexpedient such a policy might have been—it would not have been wrong. Our interests did not require this, and, therefore, we simply showed our disapproval by washing our hands of the whole business. *The emperor's conduct in Mexico was utterly unscrupulous and immoral. It was one of those high-handed deeds of power which sometimes cost upon the actors.* The American war was raging. The South made for its object its independence. The emperor probably thought that we might be induced to join him in recognising its independence. The United States seemed surely powerless to prevent the insult or redress the wrong. The emperor was mistaken. His sagacity was at fault. *His ambition and faithlessness were not to go unpunished, and he is now trembling with apprehension.* We know nothing of the intentions of the United States Government. All we want to impress upon the mind of the public is that *the emperor is alone responsible for the great crime which has been done in Mexico, and that, come what may, we should be only be sanctioning that crime if we took any steps to save him from its consequences.*

The Wandering Chivalry.

A large number of ex-rebel officers and soldiers are wandering about our northern cities in a disconsolate sort of way, their occupation gone.

A gentleman met one of them yesterday in the street. They had known each other in the old day, and the following conversation ensued:

Rebel colonel.—"Hallo! Jones, how are you?"

Union gentleman.—"Is that you, Harry? What are you doing here? You've no business here; I'll have you arrested."

Rebel.—(throwing his arms wildly to the air)—Great heavens! where am I to go? There's no North, no South, no East and West for me; where am I to go? I'm subjugated, whipped, conquered—anything you please, but a d——d sight better Union man than you. I'm for Andy Johnson, Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, and in favor of the abolition of slavery and all that sort of thing."

Union—"Well, I'll have you arrested anyhow. You're a rebel."

Rebel—"Arrested! Look a here—(pulling out a package of papers) there's twenty oaths I've taken, besides being paroled. Why, I've sworn myself into another Topic to get out of the infernal Confederacy. Here's my brother, who has always been a Union man, and now furnishes me with the funds for speculation. I am going down to Savannah to see if I can't buy my farm back again. Goodby!"

The Lincoln Medal in France.

The Washington *Chronicle* has the following in relation to a fact already noticed:

"We understand that recently a popular subscription of about two cents a head was set on foot at Nantes, in France, for a gold medal for Mrs. Lincoln. The medal was to bear the following inscription: 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.' To Lincoln, twice chosen President of the United States. From the grateful Democracy of France. Lincoln, the Honest, Abolished Slavery, re-established the Union, saved the Republic, without veiling the Statue of Liberty. He was assassinated the 14th of April, 1865.'

"About the 30th of April, when the number of subscribers had reached 71,139, the subscription papers were seized by the police, who stated that the scheme was to be stopped everywhere in France."

NAPOLEON will not gain any strength by that act of illiberality and tyranny.

Protect the Freedmen!

A correspondent of the New York *Times*, describing a recent trip through portions of Central and Southern Alabama, says that the rebel soldiers on the railroad are openly expressed their sympathy for Jeff. Davis, that the Southerners were as proud and indolent as ever, and that outrages were daily committed upon the negroes.

It is one of the many significant evidences of the change which has taken place at the South, that this correspondent was able to travel with safety through a region which has so lately been in undisturbed possession of the rebels; but it was to be expected that the men who only two months ago were in arms against the government should mutter and threaten like whipped bullies. Nor is it remarkable that men who have always been taught to despise labor should groan when forced to work. We may look for further displays of the old spirit of the ex-slaveowners, who will try to vent their spleen upon the unoffending negroes, who have not yet learned their own rights and do not know the power of their own strength. The loyal state can afford to permit these humiliated people to waste their breath in futile ravings, but the negroes should be protected. In time the white inhabitants of the Southern States will learn to work rather than starve, and in the dignity of labor they will find a saving grace; but this question concerns them more than us, and in the spirit of our institutions we may safely leave them to decide it.

The government, however, is bound by every sentiment of honor and humanity to protect the unfortunate freedmen. They are leaving their former masters by thousands, and are swarming into the towns and cities of the South; and while all their exultant consciousness of freedom, they are still helplessly ignorant of their new privileges and of the duties that will be required of them. Plans of reconstruction and all political questions should be deferred until our government and the people have taught the negro what it is to be free, and how to provide for his wants in the transition state. The black man of the South must learn that he is a citizen of the republic, and he must feel that its flag in turn is ever ready to shelter him from injustice and outrage.

Letter from Wendell Phillips.

The following clear and decided exposition of his opinions by Mr. Wendell Phillips ought to set at rest the controversy which the imperfect reports of the press have excited:

"*To the Editors of the Evening Post:*

"I thank you heartily for the generosity with which you have treated me the last ten days. For your satisfaction—publish it or not, as you please—I submit this statement, covering all I have ever said on the subject of repudiation:

"Half a dozen times during the last two years I have said that if the rebel States were reconstructed on the basis of white suffrage, their representatives in Congress, allied with our copperheads, would attempt to repudiate the whole national debt, unless their relative power was adjusted. In order that the subtlest of every town and section of the country may be afforded facilities for taking the loan, the National Banks, State Banks and Private Bankers throughout the country have generally agreed to receive subscriptions for gold bonds, and deliver them to agents, in whom they have confidence, and who only are to be responsible for the delivery of the notes for which they receive orders.

JAY COOKE,

Subscription Agent, Philadelphia.

Subscriptions will be received by the

First	National Bank,	Pittsburgh,	Pa.
Second	"	"	"
Third	"	"	"
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Citizens'	"	"	"
Farm'rs & Mech'rs National Bank,			Pittsburgh, Pa.
Pittsburgh National Bank of Commerce,			"
Iron City	"	"	"
Tradesmens	"	"	"
Farmer's Deposit	"	"	"
Manchester	"	"	"
Union	"	"	"
Allegheny	"	"	"
Peoples'	"	"	"
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The Company offers a limited number of shares at the subscription price.

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS PER SHARE.

Maps of the property, together with all information regarding the property and organization of the Company can be obtained at the office of

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This company was organized on the 9th inst., under the Pennsylvania Mining and Manufacturing Laws. The territory of the company adjoins the lands of the Dunkard Creek Union Oil Company, of this city.

Capital Stock.....$250,000
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Rope, Leather and Gum Belting,

all of which I have constantly in store.

my24:3m

OFFICE COMMISSARY OF PURCHASES, C. S. A.,
(Corner Penn street and Garrison alley)
PITTSBURGH, PA., June 19, 1865.

SEALED PROPOSALS IN DUPLICATE, will be received at this office until 12 M. on MONDAY, 10th day of June, 1865, for the supplying and delivering at this Post, at such times and in such quantities as the undersigned may require, for the (1) month from the date of contract, such less time as the Commissary General may direct, the following named articles, of a good and standard quality, (the quality of the specimens to be submitted to the Inspector):

Prime Mess Pork.
Thoroughly Smoked New Dutch, clear sides.
First quality sugar-cured Hams.
Prime White Beans, well seasoned and dry.
Clean, dry Brown Sugar.
Best quality of Adamantine Candles, 18 ounces to the pound, in sizes.
Hard and Soap, well dried before packed.
Good clean, dry, fine Salt.

All the boxes, barrels and sacks, containing said articles must be best in use, and included in the bid for each.

The name of contents, with weight, gross and tare must be plainly marked on each package, all old packages rejected.

A printed copy of this advertisement must be attached to each proposal, which, when made by firms, must name all the parties thereof, and must be specified in complying precisely with all the terms.

Each bid must be accompanied by a guaranty for the execution of a contract in case the bids be accepted, and good and sufficient security will be required for the due performance thereof.

Bidders must prepare for all of the above named articles, and no person whom the bids are opened the right to reject all the bids being reserved.

Payments to be made in Government funds, at the expiration of the time for which the contract is made