Pittsburgh Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1865.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The President, our readers will have seen, has announced that the Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery throughout the United States has been adopted by the requisite number of States, and is now, therefore, a part of the Constitution.

As the President is by law the sole judge of the fact as to whether the requisite number of States has assented or not, his proclamation is final and decisive. There is no appeal from it.

The question as to whether several of the States named in the Proclamation as having accepted the amendment are really States, and qualified to vote in the matter, does not affect the settlement of this problem. If they are not States in the Union, then the number of States required to ratify the Amendment is diminished to that extent, and the Amendment is ratified without counting them; and if they *are* in the Union, their votes are properly counted. Under either view the Amendment is ratified by the Constitutional majority.

And thus endeth the first lesson. What problems are hereby solved in the grand achievement the future will determine. It is enough for the present to know that the great work which so many have labored in so long, for the success of which they have prayed and struggled so earnestly, and for the sake of which they have suffered and endured so much, is at last accomplished, beyond the possibility of a change. The chains have been constitutionally struck from the limbs of four millions of human beings and so long as the form of our government lasts they cannot be replaced. This, at least, is a revolution that cannot go backward.

When, twenty years ago, the writer of this article was striving, in connection with a few others, and almost in vain, to bring this question of human slavery to the public notice, he little thought that in that comparatively short time, slavery would come to an end, or that he or his children would live to see the attainment of the great purpose. It is less than a generation since the anti-slavery agitation began; and many of the men who began it still live to witness the accomplishment of their widest hopes. It was fearfully hard work to stem the tide during the slow, weary years; but that labor was not in vain, as the result shows.

The total abolition of Slavery throughout the nation has been recognized as a fact, for now nearly a year; but the incorporation of the fact into the National Constitution is an event worthy of special recognition, because under no possible circumstances that can now be thought of can that one article be expunged from the Constitution, and all danger of a restoration of Slavery is thus forever averted.

It now remains for the nation to give full force and effect to the liberty thus decreed to its enslaved people. We have given them Freedom; it is now our duty to secure them in the enjoyment of it, and guarantee to them the rights of Freemen. The first step was the most difficult; but that has been taken, and the rest must inevitably follow.

HON. THOMAS WILLIAMS.—The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* says that Hon. THOS. WILLIAMS, from the Allegheny District, has the floor for Tuesday (to-day,) when he will review that portion of the President's Message treating upon reconstruction. He takes ground that it is all wrong, and that the actions of the reconstructed Provisional Governments are worse than a farce.

NEW YORK.—The official result of the New York State Election, has just been proclaimed. The following are the figures on the State offices:

	Rep.	Dem.
Secretary of State	321,076	276,156
Comptroller	322,428	271,826
Attorney General	321,437	272,204
Treasurer	322,245	272,049
Canal Commissioner	323,556	270,790

The average Republican majority is 30,987.

RETURNING REASON.—Mr. Orr, the new Governor of South Carolina, in his inaugural address, says:

"The pursuits of South Carolina have not heretofore been sufficiently diversified."

That is true of all the Southern and many of the Western States. Now that slavery is abolished the South will adopt juster views of labor.

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer*, in its zeal to scare white rebels in the Southern States, says:

"The people of the Southern States—not being represented in Congress, are under no legal or moral obligation to obey the laws, pay taxes, or submit to the authority of the United States."

Well, how about loyal black people in the Southern States? Are they under moral and legal obligations to respect a government in which they are not represented?

MEXICO.—The latest advices from Mexico state that the Emperor, strengthened by the arrival of French reinforcements, and resolved, as far as possible, to be provided against any contingencies with the United States, has ordered a draft for military service throughout the Empire.

DISLOYAL CLERGY.—Missouri's greatest want at the present time is a loyal clergy. This declaration may occasion surprise; but no one thoroughly acquainted with the history of this State for the last few years will pretend to controvert it. It is utterly impossible to estimate the amount of misery and crime the Church in disloyal States, during the progress of the rebellion, is responsible for. We question, however, whether, in any State of the Union, the disloyal clergy have more to answer for than in Missouri. It was our good fortune, it is true, when the war began, to have some thoroughly loyal ministers of the gospel in our midst, who did all in their power to hold the people back from treason; but a decided majority of the clergy of this State gave all their influence to the cause of secession, and, as the war progressed, were often the most successful recruiting agents for the Confederate army.—*Missouri Democrat.*

AN experiment tried by an eminent physician of St. Petersburg, during the prevalence of the cholera there several years ago, serves to illustrate the influence of the mind upon the body. He obtained of the authorities two criminals who had been condemned to death, to do with them as he saw fit. One of these convicts was made to sleep on a bed in which, as he was told, a man died with the cholera but the night before—although such was not the fact. After a restless night, the criminal was taken with all the symptoms of cholera, and died of that disease, declaring that he had caught it from that bed—a victim to his own fears. The other was made to sleep on a bed when in a man had died a few hours previously of the fatal disease. This fact, however, was unknown to the occupant of the bed, who arose in the morning refreshed by his sleep, remaining in perfect health.

THE POOR OF THE CITY.—Multitudes of poor white people in this place are in a deplorably destitute condition. An unusual number of poor women and girls, thinly clad and pinched and wan with hunger, are going about from house to house, begging for food and clothing. It was rumored yesterday that several persons perished of cold and hunger on Thursday night. The city officials have as yet done nothing to relieve these people. The rich county of Davidson has done nothing out of its vast resources. —*Nashville Press.*

A DISPATCH to the Chicago *Tribune* conveys the intelligence that Col. Wm. A. Barstow, of the Third [illegible] Cavalry, and formerly Governor [illegible] State, died at Leavenworth on the 13th inst., of chronic diarrhœa, contracted while in the service. The Colonel held several civil positions of trust and responsibility, and was, up to the time of the breaking out of the rebellion, a member of the Democratic party. He was about sixty years of age, and was for a time on General Fremont's Staff, and was highly esteemed and respected at the West.

POSTMASTER GENERAL DENNISON has written a letter to the presidents of the different railroads upon which the United States mail is carried, in which he states that during last winter the delivery of the mails was very irregular, and that many unsatisfactory excuses were offered, the principal one of which was that the length of the trains was so great that it was impossible to run upon schedule time. The Postmaster General now demands that the length of the trains be lessened, as the public demand that the mails should be regularly delivered.

LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA.

EDITORS GAZETTE:—The American Home League, Hon. Wm. D. Lewis President, as organization national in its character, and designed to promote the great cause of protection to American industry, met in this city this week. Its chief object is to counteract the baleful efforts of the Free Trade League of New York to place our workshops in direct competition with the cheap labor of Europe. Among the participants in this meeting the names of Frederick Fraley, Simon Cameron, John Covode and Benjamin Bannan, all veteran protectionists, stand very prominent. A declaration of principles was adopted, in which the objects of the Association were set forth with admirable distinctness. The only individual from the rebel States present was the irrepressible and the inevitable Duff Greene, or his ghost, for he has been reported dead some two or three times within the last four years, who seemed, (whether in flesh or in spirit,) bent on a sensation. In the course of a discussion, he (Greene) that he heard somebody use the word "rebel," and he therefore made it the text for a homily in conciliation and magnanimity. "I have been a rebel," said Duff, "but I have taken the oath and intend to keep it." He then asked "why do you call us rebels?" "Because," said a voice in the room, "*you are rebels.*" It is proper to remark that Duff Greene is here on a visit for the purpose of getting off his small talk, as no allusion was made to the insurgent States by any member of the League, although it was composed of loyal men exclusively. Perhaps like the old gentleman in the "Pickwick Papers," he thought some one *wished* to say it and discharged his guns accordingly.

The gentlemen who compose the League are actuated by a laudable desire to give the organization a national character, but, notwithstanding Duff Greene's protestations to the contrary, there is very little reason to fear for any aid from the South. That unfortunate section of our country is in sad need of liberal-minded and large-hearted statesmen to assist in restoring it to anything like a decent condition. Moreover politicians, who take counsel from prejudice and hate, have the ear and the confidence of the people, and they are not to be driven from unprincipled and delusive courses, in operating their most efficient laborers, and in driving from their borders capital and capitalists, to work in concert with men whom they have been taught to hate, from their very infancy. The preacher is of precisely the same character, which is true of all of the rebel states to bloom as the rose, with as little probability and its chief opponents among the large slaveholders and their northern allies. Oh! that a Moses would arise in the south, who would conduct its people from their wilderness, Egyptian bondage of passion, and ignorance and pride, leaving behind, buried in the depths of perdition, the false teachings of their politicians and priests! Then a new life would have dawned upon the land, and the ruined homes, and houses of mourning would be hailed by its survivors as a blessing in disguise. But alas! it has no Moses, and we fear the war and its necessaries be followed by a severer discipline ere the work is accomplished. In the meantime, the South is completely lost and others instead of men and wise North need not, on that account, pause in the great work of making this country the workshop, as it is the asylum, of the world.

Simon Cameron very truly said that the great evil which the manufacturers in this country had to contend with is the vast capital, energetically wielded, of the manufacturers of Europe, represented in New York by the free trade press there. In 1846 Washington was filled with our agents, who persuaded the farmers of the west that free trade would benefit them largely.

Since the receipt of our correspondent's letter we have received the following list of the officers of the Home League:

President, Frederick Fraley, of Philadelphia; Vice-President, Thomas M. Howe, of Pittsburgh; Executive Committee—W. D. Gedden, of Cheltenham; B. B. Ward, of Detroit; J. W. Edmunds, of Boston, and B. F. Wade, of Ohio. Vice-Presidents—S. J. Reeves, M. McMichael, D. S. Brown, Charles Sykes, A. D. Jessup, Archibald Campbell, Jay Cook, J. G. Rey ner, all of Philadelphia; and Cyrus Markle, of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania; Chas. Van Benthuysen, of Albany; J. O. Caldwell, of Tennessee; Simon Cameron, of Harrisburg; James L. Bennet, of Pittsburgh, and Mark Watson, of Pittsburgh.

VARIOUS ITEMS.

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.—Mr. Seward is satisfied with whatever course Congress may decide to take in respect to foreign relations, and only begs now that it will notify him in time of its intended policy.

The feeling among some and those influential members of Congress, on the subject of Mr. Seward, thinks that if not in time and under the causes, the Mexican question, and regulate itself, and also that, if we occupied the country in the present condition of its people, and in view of our financial and political complications it would only be an elephant on our hands. There are his latest expressions to his friends and to members of Congress.

Some days since a special dispatch to the *Press* from Washington stated that the government detectives and discovered that certain leading agencies of the city were swindling soldiers, by making false representations to the effect that, for twenty-five dollars, they would procure for them sixty acres of land on the line of the Great Pacific Railroad. It now turns out that the fraud was more stupendous than was at first supposed, the victims numbering two thousand of one hundred.

An English paper states that the accidents that occur caused from cats and carriages, in the streets of London, are greater in number than all those which happen on the railways in the United Kingdom. One hundred and eighty persons were knocked down and killed, in London, by vans, drays, carts, wagons, omnibuses, cabs and carriages between the first of April and the fourth of November.

The Canada papers state, that the right wing of the Seventeenth Regiment, returned to Halifax on the 29th ult., from Jamaica, three companies not being longer required there. They left, on the 12th ult., and the remainder of the regiment was expected soon to follow. Excursions, nevertheless, continued to be of daily occurrence in the island.

The Richmond *Enquirer*, of the 16th inst., says that the report was current in the city that Gen. Terry was about to issue an order prohibiting the sale of liquor until the 15th of January. The streets were alive with men who had "struck the rat," and were busy with their bottles, demijohns and casks, laying in a month's supply.

A RAILROAD DIRECTOR REMOVED.—Hon. Erastus Corning has been removed from the board of directors of the New York Central road, and Hon. Horace F. Clark substituted in his place. Mr. Corning, till now, has been connected with the New York Central from its start, and his displacement causes a good deal of remark.

COLONEL MYERS, son-in-law to Gen. Twiggs, formerly Assistant Quartermaster United States Army, and late rebel Quartermaster General, has been in Washington, supplicating for pardon, but left with a flea in his ear. He is the officer who wrote from rebeldom that "General McClellan was the only gentleman in the Federal armies."

A MAN named Blinour, committed suicide at Chicago, on Saturday, by swallowing laudanum. After taking the poison, he refused all antidotes offered by physicians, saying he wished to distinguish himself equally with Fleming and Corbett, the murderers hanged the day previous, and knew no better way than to commit suicide.

"PRESIDENT" Roberts thus discourses to his Fenian constituents—"If we succeed in our efforts to free our native land from the galling dominion of Saxon tyranny, we will be honored and immortalized to the last stroke, while time shall sound on the dial of eternity."

THE Lowmoor (England) Iron Company now regularly employ three large omnibuses going around an out-district every morning, to collect their workmen, who are thus prevented from dropping in at liquor shops on the way, where by they formerly lost much time, health and money.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has positively declined to accept a carriage made for him by the workmen of the army repair workshop, after their working hours, and it has been purchased by Secretary Stanton.

KANSAS is to have a State University, to be located at Lawrence. It has an endowment of 46,000 acres of land, and $15,000 as an initiatory investment, and its prospects are said to be very encouraging.

IT is reported that the Chicago Fenians have offered to fit out a fleet of privateers for the lakes.

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