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PIANOS. | and moderate in price, I have dealt in for

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> TVENING BULLETIN. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1866. A MATTER OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

There seems to be considerable contradiction in the statements of several parties, each of whom professes to "speak by the card," concerning the present views and feelings of President Johnson regarding the Constitutional amendment. The Cincinnati Commercial gives what purports to be a conversation between the President and Mr. Eggleston, one of the representatives rom Ohio. According to Mr. Eggleston-for it is a fair presumption that he furnished the material for the despatch-President Johnson accepts the Amendment as an accomplished fact. He disclaims active opposition to the measure, refers to it as about to become part of the Constitution, and only fears that the admission of the South will not follow ratification. "It is useless now," he is said to have said, "to discuss the propriety or impropriety of the conditions embraced" in the Amendment. "It had been agreed upon, and all he could now ask was the guarantee that reconstruction upon that basis should be faithfully kept by the party that had offered it."

As an offset to this, is the despatch telegraphed from Washington to the New York Times, to the effect that on Monday of this week the President, in conversation with a friend, "expressed his unabated confidence in the final triumph of his restoration policy."

Then again, we have a third statement, which bears upon its face seeming evidences of authenticity and truthfulness. It comes in the shape of a despatch from Charleston, S. C., received so lately as Wednesday last, and setting forth that Colonel Weatherly, a member of the South Carolina Senate, had just returned from an informal but confidential mission to Washington, whither he went apparently, to "see how the land lay," on the restoration question. The President, Colonel Weatherly reports, "gave it as his deliberate opinion that the Southern States, through their Legislatures, should reject the proposed Amendment." "Such action on their part, he believes"-the same despatch asserts-"would be sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States-at least he had reason to hope that it would."

So here we have three distinct stands, which Mr. Johnson is reported to have taken within about as many days, upon this important subject of the Amendment. First, that it was a fixed fact, and was to be accepted as such; second. that he had an unabated confidence in the final triumph of his own restoration policy, and third, a patting of South Carolina on the back, and an encouragement to that troublesome State to resist

to the death. At a glance, these diverse statements might be believed to be the result of the blundering or guessing of careless, or over-zealous newspaper correspondents; but the world knows enough of Andrew capable of this seeming attempt to be all sad remedy for the evil.

things to all men. A President so full of insane self-conceit; so treacherous to friends and principles; so careless as to truthfulness and consistency, and so blind to the temper and spirit of the times, is precisely the man to flounder about in the mazes of just such inconsistencies. In fact, there is not a speech that he made upon his melancholy western tour, that did not contain assertions and sentiments quite as irreconcilable with truth, logic, or common sense. This James the Second of Presidents learns nothing from experience and profits nothing from the bitter lessons he is constantly receiving; he embraces a principal today to desert it to-morrow, and pretends to a new devotion to it the next day, and relinquishes his high pretences under pressure, only to re-assert them upon the slightest encouragement. Like the last of the English Stuarts, whom he so closely resembles in character and principle-or rather in want of both-he is only consistent in one thing-treachery. Fortunately we will not have to

invite a William and Mary from abroad to rid us of this presidential affliction, for we have only to bear with it a couple of years longer when Andrew Johnson will sink into a condition of obscurity and contempt more profound than that which was the fate of James Stuart, John Tyler, Franklin Pierce, or James Buchanan. Strange that he should be so blind to what is so plain to everybody else!

But after all, it is not very important what Mr. Johnson says to Ohio, what he hints to Indiana, or whathe promises to South Carolina. Nobody expects any good of him, and he is almost entirely powerless for mischief with an overwhelming majority in Congress to restrain him, and with the mighty loyal masses of the country to stand by and sustain Congress. In such a condition of things it would seem sensible to adopt the Tootsish philosophy, and say that no matter what Mr. Johnson says or does, "it is of no consequence."

INDIAN MASSACRE.

The telegraph brings the intelligence of another horrible Indian massacre, on the western Plains, near Fort Phil. Kearney. Brevet Colonel Fetterman, Captain Brown and Lieutenant Grumond, of the 18th infantry, with ninety enlisted men of the 2d cavalry and 18th infantry, are reported as having been surrounded by Indians and all massacred. No details of this shocking tragedy are given, and, from the fact that a similar story, a few months ago, turned out afterwards to be untrue, there is a ray of hope that there may be some error or exaggeration in this terrible report. But if it is true, the future treatment of these savage tribes becomes a problem, from the solution of which every civilized mind and heart turns with abhorrence and dismay

The great pathways, now being opened up to the Pacific, are already teeming with emigration, and ere long, a great tide of traffic and travel will ebb and flow across these hitherto trackless Plains, and, at all cost, these avenues of trade must be made safe and secure for all who are to pass over them. The untamed, and apparently untameable tribes that roam at will, over this whole vast region, render life at the Far West almost as perilous to-day as it was when the first pioneers forced their way through the untrodden forests, or hunted across the virgin soil of the rolling prairies. This peril must give way to security, and the right of the American citizen to journey, unharmed and unthreatened, over every inch of American soil must be asserted. not only in the rebellious territory of the South, but across the wide domain which is, as yet, under the control of wild Indian tribes.

How this security is to be achieved is another question. We shrink, with instinctive horror, from the precedents which France has given us in Algeria and England in India, and yet the great law of national and personal self-preservation is involved in the solution of the problem. It is in vain now to go back and mourn over the sins of our forefathers, whose injustice to the aborigines is now bearing its bitter fruits in these scenes of cruelty and blood upon the Plains of the West. The question is a present, practical one and must be so dealt with. Ethnologists deny that the North American Indian is capable of civilization, and all experience seems to confirm the scientific theory. If this theory is not a sound one, then the remedy obviously is to merge these wild tribes in civilized communities and so break down their predatory and nomadic habits, by education and association with the white man. To banish them from these humanizing influences, if they are capable of deriving benefit from them, and to locate them upon the Western territory, is wilfully to perpetuate a state of things, alike unjust to the Indian and dangerous to the white man.

Some of these wild tribes are peaceful and pastoral in their nature and habits, and from these there is, of course, nothing to fear. But there are others, and apparently the greater number, who are hopelessly fierce and warlike, subsisting entirely upon hunting and pillage, treacherous and cruel to the last extreme, regardless of treaties and alike unsusceptible to threats or promises. And in regard to these, the stern question confronts our Government, What shall be done with them? No matter who has been to blame in the past, the Government must deal with the present. The lives and property of its citizens must be protected, even if the last horrid Johnson by this time to believe him resort to a war of extermination be the

THE MARINE CORPS. The Marine Corps of the United States now comprises three thousand men, in a state of the highest efficiency, in all respects equal to the much vaunted Marine service of the British Government, and forming a most important and reliable arm of our national defences. The whole of this force, which from the nature of its peculiar duties is scattered all over the world, is under the command of Col. Jacob Zeilin, an officer of long service and high standing in his profession. The extent of this command, and the wide ramification of its complicated duties demand that it should be placed on a higher grade as regard the rank of its officers. An independent and important arm of the service like the present Marine Corps should be so organized as to be under the command of a Brigadier General thus placing it upon the same footing with commands of similar dimensions and importance in the army. The increase of cost to the Government, and the necessary changes in the organization, would be very trifling, and Congress would only be paying a well-earned compliment to an admirably-managed branch of the public service, and placing it upon a footing of dignity to which its members and the extent of its services justly entitle it, by conferring upon it the additional grade of a Brigadier

General. HAINES BROS.' PIANOS—Moderate in price, and sold with five years' guarantee.

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