THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1786. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1861. VOLUME LXXIV--NUMBER 81.

Commission, &c.

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Attorneys at Law.

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Pittsburgh Gazette:

PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY BY S. RIDDLE & CO., FIFTH STREET, ABOVE SMITHFIELD.

PITTSBURGH: TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 5.

The Fatal Question at the South.

In the Savannah *Republican* we find a long editorial article on the arrangement for the postal system in the cotton States. As it is important, we quote the material passages:

"It will be found a difficult, if not an impracticable task, provided the people of the confederate States are expecting no abridgement of the facilities heretofore enjoyed. We think they should prepare themselves for a reduced service, for a time at least, and until the new government shall have recovered from the financial pressure that must necessarily attend the changes through which we are passing. We cannot accomplish everything in a day, and must be reconciled to the inconveniences incident to our condition. We think the people are prepared to forego much, and to sacrifice much. For a time at least, we do not see how the country post offices can be maintained. Except on main lines, where the large mails have necessarily to be carried, one post office to a county, and that at the capital, will probably be the extent of our mail facilities. The deficiency will have to be supplied by neighborhoods clubbing together and establishing a regular communication with these central points by means of a private mail, to be brought to some convenient place for distribution.

"Another probable change is in the matter of postages. It seems to be generally understood that the rate on single letters will be raised from three to at least five cents, and in like proportion for heavier matter. We are not prepared to advocate this increase as the true policy of the new confederacy. While all other public burthens are to be increased, it is questionable whether or not an increase in the amount of postage would result in a corresponding augmentation of the revenue from that source, or even in any increase at all. This is a day of cheap things, and most people would rather write two letters at six cents than one at five. On the other hand, habits are not readily changed, even when they are unnecessary, and habits of business, prompted by interest, are apt to continue even in the face of an additional expense. Many wise heads are inclined to the opinion that the revenue would be materially increased by fixing the rate at five cents.

"These things may be regarded as hardships, and will undoubtedly be the subject of numberless complaints; but they will be borne cheerfully by the great body of the community, under the reflection that they are necessary to maintain the south in the independent position she has assumed among the powers of the earth.

"It is stated, we presume upon authority, that under the late administration the cost of the postal service in Georgia amounted to, in round numbers, $358,000, and that the receipts into the treasury from the same source were $168 000, leaving a deficit, to be met by appropriations, of $190,000. Should these figures be anywhere near the truth, it is evident we must, for the present at least, forego many of the advantages we have heretofore enjoyed, or retain them at a cost which we are wholly unable to bear.

"The abolition of the franking privilege among public officers, which seems generally to have been agreed upon, is a good measure, and will save the postal service of the new government from one great embarrassment. It should be done by all means; nor is it a necessary consequence that the burthen of postage on a heavy correspondence on other people's affairs should fall upon the mercantile community.

"Before long the people of the new confederacy will be in a fair way to ascertain the hardships of the great Union. Only one postoffice to a county, and the abolition of daily mails except on main lines, coupled with trebled taxation, increased cost of goods, the cessation of their credit, and an embargo upon their commerce, will be fine improvements upon the glorious rule of the Union.

Whipping Them In.

The Richmond *Enquirer* says the task of whipping the Union men in the Virginia Convention, after the manner

"From present indications there can be predicted upon the people of that State as great unanimity in favor of [illegible] Virginia seized the [illegible] and [illegible] can, few fears are prepared to advocate this increase as the true [illegible] and the [illegible] pledges made [illegible] who were understood as pledged against secession, it is hinted, will be found in [illegible] Convention maintaining, *that collecting the revenue and retaking the forts is not coercion.* Should the rumors that have reached us prove true, we shall endeavor to tear the mask from the deceivers.

"And put a whip in every honest hand,
To lash the rascals naked through the land."

There is nothing better calculated to exasperate the people to acts of outrage than deceptions which inveigle them of their [illegible] and defraud them into disgrace. Mr. Seward may have many comfortable places at his disposal —the ermine of Chief Justice Taney may be purchased by the sale of Virginia, but the transfer and delivery cannot be made peaceably. The people of Virginia will not be sold in the shambles of Seward. That man who would deceive the people and deliberately betray his State, is not fit to hold the scales of justice between man and man. We may speak in parable now, but we will hold no doubtful language as to whom we, refer when the hands of certain members are shown."

The State of Feeling in Texas.

A Red River Valley correspondent of the Missouri *Democrat*, writing on February 9, represents that the secession of Texas has created a panic in many parts of the State. Numerous persons in which he has conversed state that thousand of families are already to sell off their property and emigrate to California. Many of the most enterprising farmers, formerly from the Northern States, have determined to go back to their old homes. "Valuable farms and town lots," says the informant of the writer, "can now be bought for a song." Negroes will scarcely sell for half as much as they would bring eight months ago. And I will venture a prediction," continued he, "that not more than a year will elapse before whole sections in Texas are in a state bordering on prosperous and flourishing, will be entirely depopulated, unless this mad attempt at secession is speedily stopped." The same writer says that the secession feeling among the Choctaws and Chickasaws has been excited by the fear that, in case of disunion, the North would claim all the Territories, to which course they would be opposed, since many of them are slaveholders.

A Dirty Bid for Patronage.

The publishers of that humane, truthful and moral "Journal of Civilization," known as *Harper's Weekly*, finding that the South was losing confidence in its "soundness," has made a desperate effort to regain its lost character in that section. This effort is concentrated upon a wood cut, containing two scenes. The first represents Henry Ward Beecher administering the sacrament; by his side stands the ghost of John Brown, pointing to a Higher Law symbol. In a group are Seward, Lincoln, Greeley and others, in a devout attitude, preparing to partake of the elements, while Washington kneeling at the table, is ordered to stand aside as unworthy, because of his relation to Slavery. The second scene represents Mr. Lincoln in a drunken frolic, with an empty wine glass in one hand and a mutilated bust in the other. Upon the whole, this is the lowest and most outrageous publication that has ever disgraced the pages of a journal making the least pretensions to respectability, and it should scour for the paper and its publishers a position beneath the contempt of decent people, North and South.—*Cin. Gazette.*

Military Decline to Participate in the Buchanan Reception.

The Lancaster Fencibles have declined an invitation to parade at the reception of ex-President Buchanan upon his return to that city. A majority of the members of the company object that the slight thrown upon them by Mr. Buchanan at Baltimore and Washington, when they escorted him there four years ago, released them from all obligations to go him honor. All that unanimity manifested Democrats as well as Oppositionists, declared most emphatically that they would never again join in a similar demonstration in his behalf. From present indications the Buchanan reception parade will prove a magnificent failure. Nobody feels disposed to do honor to a man who has dishonored himself and will high ruined the country by aiding and abetting treason.

Assassination.—We do not wonder that the Democratic press exerts itself to ridicule the numerous stories of the intended assassination of Mr. Lincoln that are constantly promulgated. It would be idle to expect them to admit that their former most intimate associates, the men whose battles they have fought, and whose cause they often have defended, have sunk so low as to even resort to such measures to carry out party the designs, in full. Yet it is nevertheless true that this depth of debasement has been reached. The revelations daily published even from the most reliable sources, and not based upon rumor, which is beyond the shadow of a doubt.—*Buffalo Com. Advertiser.*

Letter from Lieutenant A. J. Slemmer to his Brother.

FEBRUARY 20, 1861.—*Dear Brother*—As a special messenger will leave here for Washington to-morrow, I will ask him to carry some private letters, with his public ones, and let you know some little about Fort Pickens and the inhabitants thereof. I only wish it were not so much of a one-sided arrangement, as we send letters down here more than you fortunate people up North can. The papers come through sometimes, but letters never. It quite surprises me to see my name figuring so extensively in the newspapers. I have simply done my duty; but I suppose the doing it, under such a pressure of opposition, makes it appear creditable. The troops are leaving the opposite shore, disgusted at playing soldier, I suppose. They say there are only about 300 remaining, and these are regulars, having enlisted for one year. My messenger to the yard, this morning, said they were afraid we would attack them now. We could do so, and get possession again of everything in an hour, if we were only permitted to take such a course. I have now mounted nearly all the guns—that is, all that are really necessary to enable the work to be defended by a force of five hundred men. We have worked like horses to accomplish this, but great things can be done by small means when one knows how. This small command has done more than Chase or Lomax could have done with their two thousand men, and they know it.

Having seen our guns go up so rapidly, they swear we have had reinforcements. In fact, the papers say nothing else could be expected—that we have smuggled in men from the vessels. It is true we could have done so, and they be none the wiser, but not a man has been added to this command from them. In fact, no particular are we, that not even an officer has come ashore, with the exception of Captain Vodges, and he only once, when the vessels first came.

These Southern papers are publishing all sorts of false reports about me. One is that I was heard to say that if they had attacked the fort any time during the first fifteen days, I would have surrendered it without firing a gun. My men stood at the guns every one of them days, and if they had attacked would have learned the definition of one kind of grape.

The people on the opposite shore think we are in a much more defensible condition than when they first came. The moral effect of the guns on top is great. When the move was first made I worked most where they could not see me, and they thought but little was doing; but when my men were put to work on the barbette guns, and they saw them go up almost like magic, as they thought (they could scarcely move their own guns) they began to think troublome times were coming. There are only, as I said before, about four hundred men at the barracks; Fort Carrancas and old McCrea—only enough to garrison them. They are very much afraid that some fine morning they will find the ships in the harbor, with the intelligence to them that they can leave within two hours, unless they prefer to be food for powder.

Colonel Chase and Captain Randolph are both in Montgomery, leaving Colonel Forney in command. He is a West Point graduate, and was engaged in putting up the batteries before that work was stopped.

Colonel Chase was putting up a battery near the light house, and mounting eight inch columbiads on it. This battery would have raked our front, as I wrote protesting against its continuance at present