Pittsburgh Gazette.

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PITTSBURGH:

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 22, 1861.

THE ACMME OF THE CRISIS.

One of the New York aldermen named Boole, has a contract for the building of forty gun boats for the Southern Confederacy. They are to be low scows, and are designed to guard the mouths of the Mississippi, and *points above*. Each scow, says the New York *Leader*, is to mount one central ten-inch pivot gun, and two 24 pound carronades. They are to be anchored in the mouths of the Mississippi, and at various exposed points up the river, thus guarding alike against attack from the sea, or a descent from the North-western States. With their full armament on board, they will draw thirty-six inches of water, thus presenting but a very narrow target to the enemy. The plan of these boats, as a cheap institute for a Southern navy, is due to Commander Hartstein, and they are to be completed for $3,200 each—the armaments to be furnished by the Richmond Foundry. Twenty of these scows are to be delivered on or before the 31st of next July, and the balance by the end of October. Three of them are now in progress, to be called respectively the "South Carolina," "Mississippi" and "Georgia," and Mr. Boole is confident that he can easily complete his contract within the time specified.

Is there no way to put a stop to proceedings like this? Will the government tolerate such engines of destruction in the greatest inland channel of commerce on the continent? Is not the filling out of such vessels in New York, an act of treason? If pases exists between the general government and the seceded States, why place such vessels in the Mississippi? If war exists, then Alderman Boole is guilty of treason. Or is it to be all peace on our side, and all war on theirs? This position of affairs will not do. If we are to have peace, let it be peace; if war, let it be war. This quasi peace and quasi war—this activity on one side, and inaction on the other, will not do. It will require but a short continuance of such a state of things to render our government an empty name, a contemned and powerless thing; and the people of the great Central Valley will be obliged to take measures to rid themselves of these lower Mississippi pirates. *The federal government must govern the whole Union or none of it*

Foreign goods are now in the warehouses and stores of St. Louis which came in through the port of New Orleans *free of duty*, and those scows are intended to render that state of things perpetual. What is to be done about it? Will the government assert its authority in this imperious commercial inlet at all hazards or shall it succumb to the clamor of *no coercion?* Something must be done, and that quickly, or our whole revenue system is swept away, and the government with it; for it is plain that if the importer at New Orleans may receive his imports without the payment of customs, the importer at New York may claim the same privilege.

Let the seceded States manage their own postal system if they please; let them dispense with United States courts if they please; let them remain unrepresented in Congress if they please; for on these points it would be folly to attempt to coerce them; but they must not be permitted, if there is power enough in the government to prevent it, to usurp the most important and vital prerogative of national sovereignty—the remission or collection of customs on foreign imports. To concede this would be to lay the government dead at the feet of traitors. It is now manifest that we have reached the acme of the crisis.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

In the Alabama State Convention on the 16th an ordinance was passed altering the free banking act, and substituting the stocks of the Confederate States for those of the United States. Neither foreign citizens nor corporations are allowed to hold these stocks. What a currency this will be!

The Louisiana Convention, on Saturday, voted down an ordinance, submitting the Constitution of the Confederate States to the people. Secession has a great contempt for the people.

The Southern Congress has adjourned until the second Monday in May.

The Mobile *Advertiser* states that the Collector of that port was officially notified on the 6th instant, of the discontinuance of the lights at the entrance of Pensacola Bay. It is not stated by whom or for what purpose the lights have been extinguished; apparently, however, by order of Col. Forney, then in command of the State troops.

They have stirring times in Richmond. On the 15th, there were two great meetings, one of Union men, and one of Secessionists. At the latter the Hon. R. A. Pryor made an ultra Southern speech, advocating secession, immediate, absolute and eternal. Mr. Lincoln he characterized as a "mishapen ape, occupying the pedestal where once stood the proud Washington." He declared that he would rather be dragged at the tail of South Carolina than led in chains after the triumphal car of Massachusetts. Much excitement was created during his speech by the advent of 300 delegates from Petersburg, bearing the banner of the C. S. A.

In the Virginia State Convention, on the 19th, the Committee on Federal Relations reported the proposed amendments to the Constitution. It changes the expression "held to service or labor" to "involuntary servitude;" the rights of owners of slaves are not to be impaired; the Missouri Compromise line is adopted for the Territories; the Slave trade is prohibited; the negro freedom is denied to persons of color, and provision is made against future amendments interfering with the Slavery protection clauses. The Convention is engaged in debating the taxation question.

The New York *Tribune* regrets the appointment of Mr. Marsh to the Court of Sardinia, (new Italy,) alleging that he is not such a Republican as ought to be sent to that Court, although it admits his eminent fitness in other respects. If a vigorous and effective advocacy of the election of Fremont in '56, and Lincoln in '60, are good evidence of a man's principles, Mr. Marsh has good claims to be taken for a Republican.

The taxation of slave property in the same ratio as other property is under discussion in the Virginia Convention. It is stated that the value of this kind of property in that State, now exempt from taxation, is $170,054,600, which, if taxed at the rate of other personal property, would realize a revenue of $686,218. Mr. Willey, the true and fearless representative of Monongalia county, declared that although a slaveholder himself, he regarded with mortification a provision which threw burdens upon the great mass of property in the State, from which slave property was wholly exempt. He brought forward resolutions directing an inquiry into this subject, which cannot fail to engage the earnest attention of the people.

New Grenada is in a state of revolution. Mosquera, the leader of the insurgent party, is already in possession of the most important place in the country, and is likely to be successful.

The nice barbarism of secession—or perhaps as Mr. Sumner more correctly expresses it—the barbarism of Slavery, is most signally displayed in the extinguishment of the lights around the entrance of Charleston harbor, thus recklessly endangering the lives of innocent persons.

R. S. Sanford's letter to Thurlow Weed, on a free Cotton League for the promotion of the culture of Cotton in the Central American States, has attracted the special attention of President Mastenbayre, of Costa Rica, who has ordered inquiries to be made on the practicability of Mr. Sanford's Mose, of which—judging from the tone of the letter he has written to a prominent American gentleman—there seems to be no doubt.

The correspondent of the New York *Times* says that a severe frost has killed all the peaches in South Carolina.

The famous floating battery, about which we have heard so much, is to be sent to Stono Island, fifteen miles from the city of Charleston, provided it will float that far. In this way the Palmetto people may be able to improvise a little fort down there; but most likely the thing has become an eye-sore.

The people of Jamaica, in view of the unsettled state of affairs in the Gulf States, are preparing to cultivate cotton. The advantages for that business are said to be excellent.

THE EMPEROR AND THE BISHOPS.—Other French Bishops besides him of Poitiers have come out against Napoleon with a zeal and courageous bedizing the dark ages. The Bishop of Montauban is out in a pastoral letter, in which he denounces, not the Emperor so much, as the democratic principle and the freedom of the press. But Napoleon is likely to prove an overmatch for these angry prelates; for although he has instituted proceedings against the man who called him Pontius Pilate, he allows the utmost freedom of circulation to the offensive missives, and popular indignation is more against the Bishop than against the Emperor. Of course every body reads it; and when the reader knows that the Emperor wishes him to read it, he is almost sure to give him his sympathy. Still it is a formidable quarrel, and one that is likely to damage fatally one of the parties. Those Bishops do not understand the times they live in.

The Secret of Secession.

The leading demagogues along the Gulf cared nothing about the Chicago platform. This was not the mote that troubled their eye. Their grievance was more tangible. The scepter had departed from them. They had failed, by stampede, to drive Mr. Douglas from the field. They had failed, by fanfaronade, in Mr. Lincoln's case, to frighten the people from the first and highest principle of free government—the right of the majority to rule. The secession movement did not come from a sober conviction that the seceding States would better their condition; it was rather like the angry outbreak of a spoiled child, who failing to bully his mother out of all that he wants, flings the bread and butter she gives him away.

For many years, they had far more than their proportion of Federal patronage; far more than their proportion of the public money had been expended in fortifying their coast and improving their commerce; they had had far more than their proportion of public offices in the gift of the President; and, what is more remarkable, since the time of Martin Van Buren down to the time of Stephen A. Douglas, we had not had a Democratic President, or a Democratic candidate for the Presidency, who was not nominated by their dictation. They had been so long masters of the Democratic party, that the revolt of Mr. Douglas and his friends could not be brooked. They saw, in his nomination, what time since been proved in the election of Mr. Lincoln, a determination, on the part of the majority, not to be always dictated to, but to have something to say in the affairs of State. And, if public sentiment should take such a direction, it might postpone the chances of these ambitious men to the Presidency for a long while, perhaps during the lifetime of some of them.

So says Judge Johnston, of Cincinnati. It is the truth exactly. By the aid of a pliant democracy they have long ruled the country; and now to deprive them of that rule is in their view an invasion of their *rights*, an intolerable outrage. Any concession short of a restoration of their domination would fail to satisfy them.

VERY BEAUTIFUL.—Here are the closing words of an address by Judge Wm. Johnston, before the Literary Club of Cincinnati:

"It is over half a century since my venerable father threaded the gaps of the Alleghany mountains, and took up his abode in Ohio. I first found myself in a log cabin in the wilderness, where night was made hideous by the howling of the wolf, and the paths of the woods dangerous by the prowling of savage beasts. I have seen and felt all the poverty, privations, hardships and trials of backwoods life, when eighty little pack-horses did the work of commerce now performed by canals, steamboats and railroads. There were in those days no cities, no crowded marts, no splendid feasts and stores, to dazzle the vision of poor boys. We had but two wonderful things to gaze upon and admire: the Sun shining in the heavens above, and the FLAG OF THE UNION floating over our heads. As I grew older and more thoughtful, I still associated these wonders. I pointed to the sun and said: This is the lamp which God in his power has hung out to the universe. I pointed to the National banner and said: This is the beacon-light which God, in his Providence, has hung out to the struggling, bewildered, and faint hearted votaries of freedom throughout the world. I hoped that their lights would last forever, or be relumined together, and blend harmoniously in the tissues of the 'new heaven and the new earth.'

"I am not now without hope. We shall still see brighter days. The tempest and the darkness which deform the face of our country, will blow over, and in a brighter sky we shall see the morning sun and the National banner both arising to their meridian splendor."

FROM HARRISBURG.

[Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

HARRISBURG, March 20, 1861.

Eds. Gazette: In the Senate, to-day, Mr. Penney called up the "Act relating to Allegheny county," which was materially amended in Committee of the Whole, and passed finally. The most of the amendments suggested by the Republican County Committee were engrafted upon the bill, and one or two new sections added. The alterations are as follow:

The City Controller is to be appointed by the Judges of the Common Pleas, to hold until the first Monday of December, 1863, and his successor to be elected by the people at the election in 1862.

The Auditors are to continue in office until October, 1861, and their office is then to be abolished; but the Auditors are to be paid at the rate of $200 per year, each, until the expiration of their respective terms.

The County Solicitor is to be appointed by the Controller and Court of Common Pleas, and to hold his office for three years, at a salary of five hundred dollars.

The granting of licenses is reserved to the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions.

The tax payers are to have a deduction of 5 per cent. on taxes paid to the Treasurer, when he visits the different districts, before the 1st of July, or when paid at the Treasurer's office before the 1st of October, and taxes may be paid at the amount assessed, at the Treasurer's office, between the 1st of October and the 1st of November. On the 1st of November, the duplicates of unpaid taxes are to be issued to the Collectors, with 5 per cent. added.

These are the main alterations from the original bill, and the bill as amended embraces all, or nearly all, the suggestions made to that end by various persons throughout the county. The bill is now in the hands of our members in the House.

The only other bill passed, of interest to the west, was House bill, to extend the time for completing the Butler & Freeport turnpike.

The Senate set aside Monday evening next for the special consideration of the Bank bill. The bill has not yet been printed.

The House, at its morning session, had up the Appropriation bill, in which considerable progress was made. All efforts to reduce the appropriations to our western institutions were voted down.

In the afternoon the Private Calendar was taken up and the following bills were passed:

An Act to incorporate the Clearfield Creek bridge company.

An Act relative to the Cumberland road, in the county of Fayette.

An Act to incorporate the Jefferson turnpike road company.

An Act to define the location and boundaries of certain lanes, streets and out-lots adjacent to the city of Erie.

An Act to change the compensation of road supervisors in Spring Creek township, Erie county.

An Act extending the time for completion of the New Castle and New Wilmington plank road.

Supplement to an act to incorporate Saint Mary's cemetery in Allegheny county, approved the 11th of March, A. D. 1850.

E.

THE WHEAT CROP IN ILLINOIS.—The farmers of Illinois have every reason to be satisfied with the appearance of the wheat crop at this time. We have reliable information from more than twenty counties of Southern Illinois, giving assurance that during the past few years the wheat fields in March have never appeared so promising as now. The growth is admirably well set, covers the ground well, is healthy and strong, encouraging large expectations of full granaries at the close of the season. The unusual corn crop, last fall was uniquely large, and 1861 bids fair to be as distinguished in Illinois for the efficient wheat harvest as was 1860 for the plethoric corn crop in Central and Northern Illinois.—*Missouri Republican.*

ALL PAUPERS.—The Vice President of the United States, the last Postmaster General, the present Secretary of the Interior, the present Secretary of War, were all printers.

Rheumatism! Rheumatism! Rheumatism!

It is well known that bathings, embrocations and external applications, only drive Rheumatism from one part of the system to another. It must be taken out of the blood. This simple medicinal Syrian Pill will do more to eradicate the disease than quantities of crude additions, and has cured when all other means have failed. Price 25 cents per box—six boxes for $1.

N. B.—A full set of HUMPHREY'S HOMŒOPATHIC SPECIFICS, with Book of Directions, and twenty-four different Remedies, in large vials, morocco case, $5; fifteen in plain case, $3; case of fifteen boxes, and book, $2. Single boxes, 25 cents and $1.

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No. 562 Broadway, New York.

Sold by H. M. FULTON, Fifth street, second door from the Post Office, Agent for Pittsburgh. mh18:dawly

POLITICAL NOTICES.

☞ FOR SHERIFF.—ADAM WEAVER, of the Seventh ward, Pittsburgh, will offer himself as a candidate for Sheriff of Allegheny county, subject to the Republican Convention. 9:1

☞ SHERIFF.—HARRY WOODS, of Penn township, asks the votes of his friends to obtain the Republican nomination for Sheriff of Allegheny County. His business will not allow him the opportunity of traversing the county and seeking them all. 1d1:mh18

☞ SHERIFF.—JOHN AIKEN, of the Eighth ward, Pittsburgh, will be a candidate for the above office, subject to the decision of the Republican County Convention.

☞ SHERIFF.—JOHN MILLER, of East Liberty, Collins township, is a candidate for Sheriff of Allegheny county, subject to the decision of the Republican County Convention. mh18

☞ FOR SHERIFF.—The friends of Gen. J. R. ROBERT, of Collins township, respectfully urge his nomination. His public services, both to his country and party, well known energy and certainty to meet public respect, entitle his claims to very consideration. At the same time, he resides in the district entitled to this office. 9:17:18

☞ FOR SHERIFF.—HUGH S. FLEMING, of McClure township, subject to the decision of the Republican Convention. mh15

☞ FOR SHERIFF.—HENRY H. LEWIS, of Sharpsburg, is a candidate for Sheriff of Allegheny county, subject to the Republican Nominating Convention. mh15:tc

☞ FOR PROTHONOTARY.—JNO. MORRISON, of Allegheny, will be a candidate, subject to the decision of the Republican Convention. mh15:tc

☞ PROTHONOTARY.—Z. PATTERSON, of Indiana Township, is a candidate for Prothonotary, subject to the decision of the Republican Convention. mh15:tc

☞ PROTHONOTARY.—JOHN G. CUMMINS, of Allegheny city, is a candidate for Prothonotary, subject to the decision of the Republican County Convention. mh15:tc

☞ PROTHONOTARY.—CAPTAIN H. MAYO, of Ohio township, will be a candidate for the office of Prothonotary—commanding the confidence of his friends to obtain the Republican nomination for Prothonotary of Allegheny county—the fidelity of his past life, and the opportunity of serving the country and seeing them all, a stimulus. mh15:tc

☞ PROTHONOTARY.—D. C. HULTZ, of Sewickley township, will a candidate for nomination to the above office, subject to the decision of the Republican Convention. mh15:tc

☞ PROTHONOTARY.—RICHARD DARVAR, of Reserve township, will be supported for the above office, subject to the decision of the Republican Convention. mh15:tc

☞ COUNTY COMMISSIONER.—JOHN MILLER, Esq., of Shaler, will be a candidate for the above office, subject to the decision of the Republican Convention. mh15:tc

☞ FOR CORONER.—FREDERIC BESE, of the Third ward, Pittsburgh, will be a candidate for Coroner, subject to the decision of the Republican County Convention. mh15:tc

Public Notices.

☞ TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.—The School Directors of Allegheny county are hereby notified that a special examination of teachers in Allegheny County in the Teachers' Institute will be held on THURSDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY, April 25, 26th and 27th, 1861.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Wednesday, 9 o'clock, A. M.—First Organization of the Institute; subject: Education. Address by Prof. J. D. Serr, of Pittsburgh; subject: Education. Address by Prof. Wm. F. Phillips, of Sewickley