

The Pittsburg Gazette.

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SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1868.

FOR THE WEEK: MAJ. GEN. JOHN W. GEARY, OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

A few weeks ago Europe was threatened with a war that would have involved every one of the larger powers, by reason of a contention between Austria and Prussia, arising principally out of the disposition to be made of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, wrested from Denmark by their united forces, helped by the co-operation of some of the lesser Germanic kingdoms and principalities.

But meaning Italy had been suggesting its army. The prospect a year between Austria and Prussia kindled a hope that the hour was approaching for including the entire peninsula, with the possible exception of the Papal possessions, in the kingdom of Italy. The sentiment of nationality, long apparently dormant among the Italians, or, rather, overborne by adverse fortunes, has lately been greatly quickened, as has been witnessed in revolutionary movements, and in vast sacrifices incurred, to secure national unity.

So long as Italy was strengthening the means of offense against Vienna, Austria could not consent to reduce its army to a peace basis without virtually surrendering that province, which was not inclined to do. Hence, the present condition. It is easy enough to say that this unsatisfactory posture of affairs ought to cease, and that Austria ought to surrender Venice, with its famous quadrilateral, to the Italian kingdom. It is a very difficult matter to make Austria take the view of the case, and act accordingly.

Victor Emmanuel, while supported by the mass of his people in any military enterprise he might undertake to expel the Austrians and to annex Venice. But Francis Joseph counts just as assuredly on the enthusiastic aid of his people in whatever efforts he may find necessary to maintain the possession of that province. Hence it happens that the continuance of a state of war has been witnessed in this territory as a continual menace to the tranquility of Europe. What diplomatic negotiation, offering to Austria an equivalent territory elsewhere, which would be the probable price in money, might avail in the existing hollow of the exchequer of the Court of Vienna, are questions which it is easier to speculate upon than to answer satisfactorily.

But these are not the only powers that are deeply concerned in the pending question of peace or war. It is difficult for France to suppress her ambition for glory in any adventure when an opportunity presents to gratify it, and, particularly, when such a field, as this apparently is, is before her. Next to her, the United States is not simply to augment its influence with other nations, but to extend its own frontiers. Whatever he may say of his policy, the intention of the United States is to be thoroughly unscrupulous. Not in his interpolations, but in the natural fears of the other powers, will most likely be found the elements that shall secure peace. If, indeed, peace shall be maintained.

EXHAUSTION OF ENGLISH COAL FIELDS. Some remarks recently made in the British House of Commons by Mr. J. STUART, on the probable exhaustion of the coal fields of the British coal fields in the course of ninety or one hundred years, has drawn fresh attention to that matter on both sides of the Atlantic. Then that at one time in these remarks, nor was the familiar thought dressed in a novel attire of words and illustrations. But the speaker was the foremost thinker of his time, and his words were not only important to the world, and particularly to England and the United States. British manufacturing and commercial supremacy rests upon the coal. These fields, though underlying a considerable portion of the island, are small when compared to the vastness of the American coal fields. The coal mines in England have been largely worked for a long period. In some of the upper veins are entirely removed. Even admitting that the lower veins are as full and rich as the upper, the cost of mining at the depth of four thousand feet, presents insuperable difficulties to successful competition in manufacture against nations whose coal lies near the surface. When it comes to this, unless there shall be large improvements in the condition of scientific knowledge relative to this subject, the United States may certainly become pre-eminently the manufacturing country of the world.

The Congressional Convention, XXIII District.

Errors & Omissions. I observe from your paper of this morning that Mr. Parviz Phelps, of Kittanning, declines being considered as a candidate for Congress in the XXIII District. Col. J. B. Fidelity, of the same place, it is stated, has expressed his intention to give his influence towards re-nominating Hon. Thomas Williams for another term.

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The solid unity of Congress is not disturbed by delay in coming to a vote on the report of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction. It is better to make haste slowly than to have to undo what has been imperfectly done. Every hour renders it more necessary to be cautious. The men who have shown that the helms of the traitors were not only unsteady, but had been unsteady, and now our friends in Maryland, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi, and in the cotton States, appeal to Congress to secure such guarantees as will forever prevent any repetition of the same.

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GENERAL NEWS.

Gambling prevails in Cincinnati. Stephens, Neal Credit, wants money. Cairo is infested with highway robbers. General Sherman is at St. Paul, Minnesota.

At Janesville, Indiana, a horse-thief murdered a young man named Graves, because he had informed upon him. Gold watches are a scarce article in this country. It is expected that more than half the vessels composing the present Atlantic and Gulf squadrons of the United States will be removed from service, and either laid up or sold.

At Adrian, Mich., a lady saw an eagle soaring with a steeple, and a gentleman attempted to shoot it. The gentleman after reading the sign, "Beware of the Eagle," said: "I guess it must be the Third Baptist."

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WANTED.

WANTED. A COMPETENT STILLMAN. WANTED. BOARDING. WANTED. AGENTS WANTED.

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