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THE WEEKLY GAZETTE,
TWO EDITIONS,
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The Pittsburgh Gazette

GEN. FRANZ SIGEL has written a letter to Mr. John Rubm, editor of the Nashville *Staats Zeitung*, and Secretary of the German Immigrant Association, accepting of the New York Agency of the Association. He is also being urged for the position of New York Agent of the Tennessee Board of Immigration.

THE *Village Record*, in response to a paragraph that recently appeared in these columns, says:

"Mr. Hickman was at Washington on business entirely private, but not political. He is not for Hancock, or for any other man, for President, who is not fully identified with Republican principles; and so far from lowering the platform of the Republican party, he is in favor of elevating it still higher. Mr. Hickman will go to Harrisburg in obedience to the call of the people of Chester county, and will be found the advocate of honest legislation, public economy, and high-toned Republicanism.

THE Wheeling *Intelligencer* of yesterday, after referring to the suspension of operations in some of the iron mills of that town, remarks:

"We are informed that the reduction of wages, of which they (the workmen) were notified a week or two since, has been assented to, but that the notice given by the proprietors of similar establishments in Pittsburgh, would not expire until next Saturday. The employers here are waiting to see what course their fellow workmen will pursue in that city, and if they also assent, operations will be resumed next Monday. We learned further, that they had concluded to go to work at the reduced rate, and if this information be correct, we may expect that on the date named, or immediately after the holidays, all the establishments here will be going as usual."

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

—In the Virginia Reconstruction Convention yesterday the Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the resolution instructing the Auditor to suspend payment of any interest on the State debt until the Convention was satisfied there was enough in the Treasury to pay the whole, reported adversely to any action on the subject, having received assurances from the Treasurer that no Scats will be due to pay all demands expected. The report was adopted. The following resolution was referred: "For incorporating a provision in the Constitution that immigrants to this State shall not be sued in Courts for debts incurred before immigration, and exempting a certain amount of real and personal property of such immigrants from seizure for debt, and for changing the system of State laws relating to prevention. The preamble to this resolution refers to prostitution of the liberty of speech and the press for the punishment of attempts to intimidate a radical election, and for preventing citizens being distressed by distrained tax collectors for tax levied years ago. A colored delegate offered a resolution prohibiting distinction on railroads, or other public conveyances, on account of color. Referred. A resolution to adjourn over the holidays, and twice or thrice to pay during adjournment, was laid over.

—The Grand Jury and citizens of Chicot county, Arkansas, have petitioned Congress to station troops there to protect them and their stock against negroes. Accounts from there state that the election of stock by negroes is distressing. Great uneasiness is felt by the whites in regard to an insurrection.

—Colonel Jacques, during the war a commissioner to Richmond, and who is now planting in Arkansas, passed through Memphis yesterday *en route* to Washington, to represent matters to the government officials. He says no man's life is safe, no matter whence he hails.

—Several democratic members from the West, whose choice for the President has heretofore been Pendleton, declared themselves for Hancock. Movements in this direction acquires every day more strength and significance. A number of prominent Democrats have discussed the merits of various places for holding their National Convention, and a majority of them favored Boston.

—The Senate Finance Committee, it is said, will report any financial measures as to allow a tax of about one per cent to go to the States, and at the same time fix the internal revenue at such a rate as will not compromise the value of the bonds as a source of investment. This, it is thought, will satisfy the Republicans throughout the country, and secure their united support.

—In the Georgia Reconstruction Convention, yesterday, no resolution of a legislative character was adopted. A resolution was introduced to prevent discrimination by common carriers on account of color, also a resolution recommending the removal of Governor Jenkins and the appointment of Mr. Bullock, of Richmond county.

—The Spanish Minister, while not denying the reported offer of Cuba to the United States, says he has not been notified by his government of the tender. There are five treaties now under consideration by the Committee on Foreign Relations, none of which will be reported to the Senate till after recess.

—Finness' carriage factory, Leonard Bros.' hardware store, and a grocery, in the suburbs of Vicksburg, Miss., were destroyed by fire Monday night. Loss, $25,000; insurance, $10,000.

—Benj. Branch, an old and highly esteemed planter on Wolf river, near Memphis, was stabbed fatally on Saturday by a negro named Adam, in a difficulty about the division of a crop.

—The City Councils of St. Louis yesterday passed an ordinance authorizing Gamewell & Co. to erect a police telegraph throughout the city, at a cost of $20,000.

—A mass meeting was held at Louisville last night, at which resolutions were adopted urging upon the government to take some action for the security of its foreign born citizens abroad.

—The principal of a large provision house at Havana, called the San Sipriun Company, has absconded, leaving liabilities to the amount of $700,000; assets small.

—The session of the Louisiana Convention yesterday was short. The report of the Committee on Printing was adopted.

—The New York *World* of yesterday has a marked leading editorial upon the abilities of General Hancock, setting his judgment above that of Gen. Grant.

—The toy factory of L. P. Hill, in Williamsburg, N. Y., was destroyed by fire on Monday evening. Loss, twelve thousand dollars.

—United States officers have brought up several manufacturing concerns for frauds on the revenue in the Concord, N. H., District.

—John Jones, of Mankato, Minn., was killed on Friday last, by falling from a heavy load which passed over him.

—John P. Hale, Minister to Madrid, it is said, will be nominated Minister to Austria.

Weather Reports.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

CINCINNATI—Mild and thawing, with indications of rain.
CLEVELAND—Cloudy and indications of rain.
CHRISTLINE—Drizzling rain, mild.
COLUMBUS—Cloudy; mild; indications of rain.
CHICAGO—Cloudy, cool.
HARRISBURG—Cloudy, cold, appearance of rain.
PHILADELPHIA—Cloudy, mild.
NEW YORK—Cloudy, mild; indications of rain.
ST. LOUIS—Cloudy, mild.
LOUISVILLE—Cloudy, damp.
OIL REGIONS, PA.—Drizzling rain, mild. The prospects for a rise are good.
BROWNSVILLE, PA.—Weather moderating; snow melting.
GREENSBORO, PA.—Weather warm and thawing.

River Items.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette per F. & A. Telegraph lines.]

BROWNSVILLE, Dec. 17.—River stationary with seven feet in the channel.
GREENSBORO, Dec. 17.—Seven feet of water in the channel and stationary. Weather warm and thawing.
LOUISVILLE, Dec. 17.—River rising steadily, and five feet in Canal.

$500 Reward in Baltimore.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

BALTIMORE, Dec. 17.—General Howard made an address last night, before the Society for the Education of Freedmen.

FIRST EDITION.

MIDNIGHT.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Bill for Funding the National Debt.

Conversion of U. S. Notes.

Report from Senate Finance Committee.

The Cotton Tax Bill Discussed.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1867.

SENATE.

Mr. MORTON presented a petition from the Society of Friends in six States in regard to the dealings of the Government towards the Indians. Referred.

FUNDING NATIONAL DEBT, &C.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Finance Committee, reported a bill for funding the national debt and for the conversion of notes of the United States. He said, while the Committee was satisfied the leading idea of the bill was right, they should accept all suggestions so as to get every possible means of information.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue registered or coupon bonds, of such denomination as he shall prescribe, payable, principal and interest, in coin, and bearing interest at six per cent, such bonds to be payable forty years from date, redeemable in coin at the pleasure of the Government after ten years, to be hated to an amount sufficient to cover all outstanding or existing obligations of the United States, to be disposed of for such terms, not less than par, as the Secretary of the Treasury may deem best; said bonds shall be used in taking up the existing securities of the United States; the expense of issuing and disposing of the bonds not to exceed one per cent thereon in gold.

Section second provides for the entire exemption of these bonds, to be known as the consolidated debt of the United States, from taxation, whether by state, municipal or other authority, and the same and the interest thereon and the income thereupon shall be exempt from payment of all taxes and duties to the United States; but in consideration of such exemption the Treasurer of the United States shall reserve one-sixth of the interest accruing on them, which sum, in lawful money, shall form a special fund, one-half to be distributed among the several States in proportion to their population, and the remaining half to be applied to the payment of the national debt in the manner afterwards provided in this bill.

Section third substitutes for the sinking fund, as provided for by law now in force, the plan of appropriating yearly from moneys not otherwise appropriated in the Treasury a sum which, including the amount necessary for the payment of the interest and maturing debt, and one-half of the reserved tax as aforesaid, shall amount to million dollars, which sum during each fiscal year after the current fiscal year shall be applied to the reduction of the public debt, in such manner as may be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, or as Congress may direct.

The bill further provides that the bonds known as 5-20 bonds shall at the expiration of five years from date of issue, at the option of the holders thereof, be changed for the bonds authorized by this act, and such as are now redeemable shall be presented for exchange on or before the first day of November next, and not thereafter, and the residue be presented on or before the expiration of five years from their date and not thereafter, and such exchange shall be made at such places under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

Section fifth provides that the holder or any lawful money of the United States to the amount of one hundred dollars, or multiples of one hundred dollars, may convert the same into a bond for an equal amount of notes so received, to be held in the Treasury as part of the reserve already provided for, and the holder of any of the five-twenty bonds, or of the bonds contemplated by this act, may demand their redemption in lawful money of the United States, and the Treasurer shall redeem the same in lawful money, unless the amount of United States notes then outstanding shall be equal to four hundred million dollars; but such bonds shall not be so redeemable after the redemption of specie payment. And the Secretary of the Treasury, in order to carry out the foregoing provision, is authorized to maintain in the Treasury a reserve of not less than fifty millions of lawful money, similar in all respects to that the United States notes authorized by for summary instalment. They would have put him to death, but the whites interfered and pursuded them to let the law take its course. Shorter was imprisoned in the county jail at Colorado Springs. A letter of Shorter's to the negroes, whom he had drawn off in his government, has been published, showing the nature of the organization he had effected. In this letter he solemnly decreed the death of Jerry, Treasurer of the revolutionary organization. There are other letters of Shorter's in possession of the civil authorities.

Captain Brice, agent of the Freedmen's Bureau at Greenboro, recently took the keys and liberated a number of prisoners who were confined by order of the civil authorities. This action has been severely condemned.

A Sheriff's sale to-day of real estate and railroad stock, they told us, remarkably low figures. Land sold at from five to twenty cents an acre, and railroad stocks at ten cents on the dollar.

NEW YORK.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 17, 1867.

STEAMSHIP SEIZED.

The steamship Atlantic was seized, charged with having brought here liquors valued at nine hundred and fifty dollars not on the manifests.

ADMIRAL FARRAGUT'S BODY.

The body of Admiral Farragut was brought here by the Susquehanna.

ANOTHER VICTIM.

Mrs. Rosana Murphy, another victim of the Tenement calamity, is dead, and three other sufferers are likely to die.

THE TEXAS CASE.

The Bads of the Union of the Fenian Brotherhood, under the Presidency of John Mitchell, is published.

WINE SEIZED.

Internal Revenue officers seized several establishments in New York, where wines in imitation of foreign brands were manufactured.

FROM PANAMA AND SOUTH AMERICA.

Advices from Aspinwall to the 5th state there have been heavy floods on the Isthmus.

Letters from Lima state that revolutionous outbreaks in the North had been suppressed at last, and President Prado has gained a victory of some magnitude at Arequipa, which will probably have important consequences. Prado, since the 10th of last month, has been master of the western part of that city, which contains the strongest positions.

WEST INDIES.

Destructive Fires at Demerara and Guadaloupe—Earthquake at Antigua and Great Loss of Life—Reports from St. Thomas—News Less Satisfactory—Revolution in Hayti Increasing, &c.

[By Telegram to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The *Herald's* Havana special says: We have news from Demorara which states that a terrible fire occurred there the day previous. The report of earthquake shocks at Martinique and Guadaloupe are contradicted. We have the confirmation of a previous dispatch announcing a terrible fire at Guadaloupe. There were several shocks of an earthquake on the island of St. Kitts, on the 15th and 20th of November, the sea rising several feet on each occasion. An earthquake visited Antigua on the 16th of November, causing great loss of life and property.

The reports from St. Thomas are more cheerful. The inhabitants are recovering from their panic, and business was recuperating. The men of the New York Submarine Company were engaged in raising wrecks with great success.

The revolution in Hayti was increasing. President Cabral, of St. Domingo, was marching with an army against Hayti, under the pretence of avenging the death of Monies, but in reality to gain possession of the whole island.

The commercial feeling in Havana is very insecure, and the condition of several merchants is critical. Some bankruptcies may be expected. Great preparations are being made for the reception of the Captain General, Leirzundi.

SECOND EDITION.

THREE O'CLOCK A. M.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Financial Question.

Report of the Senate Committee.

Stanton, Sheridan and Sickles.

Correspondence Concerning Removals.

Grant's "Private" Letter.

Nominations by the President.

Allegheny County Oil Inspection Investigation.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1867.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Senate Committee on Finance, in their report made to-day, remark: It should be the effort of Congress, not merely to declare and obey the existing law, but to adopt a comprehensive policy that will preserve the public faith, restore confidence to the people, stability to our business interests, and yet will impress the sense of justice on the people. If it is unwise to enter into the arena of party financial matters, it ought not to be in any sense partizan, but may become so. Unless Congress can adopt a policy meeting the requisites, the country on these and other difficult questions may be transferred to Lincoln Hustings, where the heat of party strife will be substituted for calm reason.

The Committee examine at length the provisions of the bill reported, state the condition of the public debt, and then, taking up the question as to whether the 5-20 bonds are redeemable in any other money than in coin, the Committee state, say: The duties on imported goods, and the interest on the public debt, are, by proper revenue laws, made payable in coin. This implies that the principal of the debt is not excepted. The contract made by the United States with the previous loans in gold is answered by the fact that the act under which these bonds were issued authorized declares that a note shall be lawful money to pay as gold, and shall be receivable in payment of public dues. The agreement that a construction was put upon the law by the agents of the United States, is unauthorized, and is not binding upon a mutual construction, recognized by both parties as forming part of the contract, but was rather an opinion based on a misapprehension of a state of facts, which, when the error was corrected, did not actually exist. It is clear that if the bonds are redeemable in legal tenders, they are redeemable after five years from date in the same kind of money. The word "payable" implies a duty or obligation, which must be performed at the time stipulated. The word "redeemed" implies a discretionary power, which may or may not be exercised, but in the same kind of money, in the same mode tendered, will redeem a note or pay a note.

The Committee have deemed it their duty to present the argument in favor of redeemability, but they have not deemed it or it cannot be concealed that this construction has been adopted by many who declaim all measures to secure gold in payment. Still, the admitted fact remains, that these bonds were generally taken up in the depreciated currency, which would be paid in coin; that this was expressly explained by authorized agents of the Government to the purchasers; that such declaration must have been known by Congress and was not negatived; that it was sanctioned by the successive Secretaries of the Treasury; that the faith of the United States bonds have been continually higher in market value than the notes, and public sentiment, both in this and in the Europe, would regard it as a breach of public faith. Public credit is of so sensitive a quality that once impaired it is often impaired. It is better far to forego a doubtful privilege. If in the judgment of Congress it is deemed a right to exercise it, the doubt should be removed. The discussion of the question of liability to taxation of the bonds, if it is settled no new loan can be negotiated. The public mind becomes accustomed to the idea of repudiation in the wildest schemes of paper money worthy of the days of George Law.

The Committee, therefore, been provided by Congress by joint resolution that the Five-Twenty bonds are redeemable and payable in lawful money, settling the question, will only create difficulties and parties, and the resolution when passed will be a subject of agitation and repeal.

These considerations induce the Committee, without deciding the question, to propose a substitution of new bonds, clear and explicit in their terms, for the Five-Twenty bonds as now authorized redeemable. This exchange must depend upon the voluntary consent of the holder, but it is believed that the great body of them will readily exchange and that the government will be able to sell the new bonds at a rate that will redeem or purchase an equal amount of the 5-20 bonds. It is the manifest interest of the bondholders as well as of the tax payer, to have, if possible, clear and definite. That Congress after full consideration, should so settle them that they will not be effected by any construction of the manner of their payment. If this change is refused by the bondholder, it will be time enough to determine whether, by the condition of his bond, he may not be paid in lawful money. The plan proposed establishes the maximum of currency at an amount fixed by law, and it may be diminished by payment for taxes and its conversion into bonds. This process would, if it believed, rapidly reduce currency to the standard of gold, without the severe embarrassment and uncertainty caused by the present system. We have the restored credit of the Government advances to market the value of our bonds to the gold standard, specie payments may be resumed and maintained. This plan is in accordance with the uniform practice of our Government prior to July 1st, 1863, and of Great Britain during the long period of suspension of specie payments, from 1797 to 1823. The holder of paper money paid out was allowed at any time to convert it into a bond or annuity. The note forced upon the people during the suspension of specie payments was never allowed to be at less value than other securities held by public creditors.

The Committee are of opinion that the time is not distant when it will become the duty of Congress to repeal so much of the existing law as makes a United States note a legal tender in payment of debt either public or private. This provision was adopted with extreme reluctance and under the pressure of overwhelming necessity.

The Committee having stated their views upon the different propositions of the bill, add that they do not consider this measure as embracing all the financial measures demanded by the public interest, but they present it in the hope that it may not be embarrassed by other financial problems now exciting general discussion.

REMOVAL OF STANTON, SHERIDAN AND SICKLES—CORRESPONDENCE ADMITTED—GRANT'S "PRIVATE" LETTER.

The Speaker laid before the House today a communication from Gen. Grant, enclosing correspondence relating to the removal of Mr. Stanton, as Secretary of War, and also the removal of Generals Sheridan and Sickles. Nearly all the correspondence has been heretofore published, but following is the private letter to the President from Gen. Grant, about which so much curiosity has been expressed:

(Private.)

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF UNITED STATES, *Washington, D. C., August 11, 1867.—His Excellency Andrew Johnson, President of the United States*—Sir: I take the liberty of addressing you privately on the subject of the conversation we had this morning, feeling as I do the great danger to the welfare of the country should you carry out the designs then expressed.

First, on the subject of the displacement of the Secretary of War. His removal cannot be effected against his will without the consent of the Senate. It was but a short time since the United States Senate was in session, and why not then have asked for his removal if it was decided upon. It certainly was the intention of the legislative branch of the Government to place a Cabinet Minister beyond the power of the Executive removal, and it is pretty well understood, so far as Cabinet Ministers are affected by the terms of the Tenure of Office bill, that it was intended especially to protect the Secretary of War, in whom the country felt great confidence. This meaning of the law may be explained away by an astute lawyer, but common sense and the views of the loyal people will give to it the effect intended by the framers.

Second, on the subject of the removal of the very active commander of the Fifth Military District. Let me ask you to consider the effect it would have upon the public. He is universally and deservedly beloved by the people who sustained this Government throughout its trials, and feared by those who would still be enemies of the Government. It fell to the lot of but few men to do as much against an enemy as Gen Sheridan did during the rebellion, and it is within the scope of the ability of but few in this or any other country. What he has done. His civil administration has given equal satisfaction. He has had difficulties to contend with which no other District Commander has encountered. Almost, if not quite, from the day he was appointed District Commander to the present time, his press has given out that he was to be removed—that the Administration was dissatisfied with him. This has emboldened the opponents of the laws of Congress within his command to oppose him in every way in their power and has rendered necessary measures which otherwise may never have been necessary. In conclusion allow me to say, as a friend, desiring peace and quiet, the welfare of the whole country North and South, that it is my opinion the loyal people of this country—I mean those who supported the Government during the great rebellion—will not quietly submit to see the very man of all others who they may have expressed their confidence in removed. I would not have taken the liberty of addressing you on the subject of the United States thus, but for the conversation on the subject alluded to in this letter, and from a sense of duty. Feeling that I know I am right in this matter,

With great respect,
Your obedient servant,
[Signed,] U. S. GRANT.

Among the papers is a letter to General Grant from Major General Sheridan, dated New Orleans, January 2, 1867, in relation to matters in Texas. Particularly referring to the conduct of the Union troops and freedmen in different parts of the state, which he says is really horrible. He says the government in Washington must decide whether the Union men are protected or not, and if not, the sooner they are withdrawn the better. Several policemen were instantly killed and the rest fired on as they escaped injury. The men who were nearest the package were blown to atoms. Both the Sheriff and Surveyor were badly hurt, and are lying in a critical condition.

THE SALE OF CUBA DENIED.

The truth of the report which reached here by the Atlantic cable, that Spain had offered to sell the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico to the United States, is denied.

FRANCE.

NO ENVOY TO MEXICO.

PARIS, December 17.—The *Patrie* indignantly denies the report that there will be no envoy to Mexico.

The Bourse is buoyant, and rentes have advanced.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 17—*Evening.*—Cotton closed steady; middling uplands 7½ d; Orleans 7½d; sales of 10,000 bales. Breadstuffs form 6d. Wheat 10s 2d for white California and 13s 6d for red. Corn 37s. Oats 2s 6d. Peas 43s. Provisions—Beef 112s 6d for western cured. Pork 82s 6d. Lard 57s. Cheese 72s. Bacon 40s. Produce—Sugar firmer at 1s 3d. Molasses 2s for spirits; refined firmer at 1s 3d.

LONDON, Dec. 17—*Evening.*—Consols, for money, 5-20 bonds, 71 1-16; Illinois Central, 69½; Erie, 49½.

FRANKFORT, Dec. 17—*Evening.*—U. S. 5-20s, 78.

ANTWERP, Dec. 17—*Evening.*—Petroleum—standard white 45 francs 25 centimes.

MANUFACTURERS' CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND.

Assembling To-day—Delegates Expected from Eighteen States—Arrivals in Numerous—Arrangements, &c.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

CLEVELAND, O., December 17.—The National Convention of Manufacturers assembles at ten o'clock to-morrow morning at Cassia Hall.

Delegates are expected from eighteen States, including Kentucky and Tennessee.

The arrivals were numerous this evening, and all the hotels are full.

A preliminary gathering will be strictly confined to the purpose named in the call, viz: Of securing the early removal of taxes upon manufactures and production, except luxuries, and to suggest changes in the mode of assessment and collection of revenue, and the appointment and removal of revenue officers.

Amusements.

OPERA HOUSE.—Notwithstanding the other attractions in the city in the way of amusements, Miss Emilie Melville, the most charming young actress of the day, continues to draw well at the Opera House. Last night the Lady Gladiator produced with good effect. Miss Melville in the role of Esmeralda was particularly clever, defined the character of Humchback of Notre Dame, is seldom if ever equalled. Her entire interpretation of the character, the keen perception and high appreciation of one who had studied it carefully. The entertainment concludes with the very enjoyable burlesque on the "Black Crook." This evening will be presented the "Comical Countess," the "Pretty Horsebreaker" and the "Black Crook" in conclusion.

LAFAYETTE HALL—Mr. Harry Vincent, the eloquent English orator, will deliver a humorous lecture, entitled "Social Follies in English Life," at Lafayette Hall, Friday evening, and on Saturday evening his lecture on John Milton. The lectures are given under the auspices of the Mercharitile Library Association of Pittsburgh, and tickets can be procured of Mr. Appleton, at the Library Rooms, corner of Penn and St. Clair streets.

LECTURE.—Col. J. B. Clark will deliver a lecture at the Fifth U. P. Church, corner of Webster and Washington streets, Friday evening. Subject: "Christianity in Politics."

The Great Original Millionaire Tableaux from London, England.

The Academy of Music will no doubt be the chief centre of attraction to amusement seekers during Christmas week, it being arranged for a series of exhibitions of the great original Anamorph Millionaire Tableaux from London, England, by Professor Hughes, Secretary for Utah. The Poiche district withdrawn the nomination of Daniel Dennett as Collector of Customs for that district. The state of Louisiana, he not being able consciously to take the required oath.

EXECUTIVE ORDER.

The following Executive order was promulgated to-day by the President: "It is desired and advised that all communications in writing intended for the Executive Department of this government, and relating to public business of whatever kind, including suggestions for legislation, claims, contracts, employment, appointment and removal from office and pardons, be transmitted directly in the first instance to headquarters of the Department, to which the care of the subject matter of the communication properly belongs. This regulation has become necessary for the punctual and regular dispatch of public business."

MEXICAN BONDS.

Mr. Mariscal, in charge of the Mexican legation, again cautions the public against buying any other bonds of the Mexican Republic than those issued under the contract signed by Don. Caravajal, with John A. Copliss & Co. of New York. None others are valid.

THE CURRENCY BILL.

The Senate Finance Committee have finally agreed to report the House Anti-Contraction bill, substantially as it passed that body.

Boiler Explosion in Philadelphia.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17.—Early this morning a steam boiler in the distillery of John Haas, in West Philadelphia, exploded, completely shattering the building and severely injuring three persons.

Express Company Election.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

AUBURN, N. Y., Dec. 17.—At the annual election of the Trustees of the Merchants Union Express Co., to-day, the old board of Trustees was re-elected without opposition.

FROM EUROPE.

The "Times," on American Finances.

The Clerkenwell Outrage.

Terrible Explosion at New Castle.

No French Envoy to Mexico.

Salé of Cuba Denied.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE "TIMES" ON AMERICAN FINANCES.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The *Times* devotes a leading article to American finances. It strongly objects to the financial plans proposed by Secretary McCulloch as involving the offer to exchange *six* per cent. bonds for five per cent., and as a violation of the axiom that local taxation should be met by local means. The *Times* thinks the Secretary's plans would simply substitute new evils for old.

THE CLERKENWELL OUTRAGE.

LONDON, December 17—*Evening.*—An inquest was held to-day on the bodies of the persons killed by the attempt to blow up the wall of the Clerkenwell prison. A large number of witnesses were examined, but nothing satisfactory elicited as to the perpetrators of the crime.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT NEW CASTLE.

LONDON, December 16—*Evening.*—A terrible explosion occurred at New Castle-on-Tyne to-day. The authorities last night received information that a quantity of nitro-glycerine had been secreted at that place, it was supposed with the object of the Sheriff and Town Surveyor, with a squad of policemen proceeded to the spot indicated and discovered oil packed in the usual manner. While the men were removing it the substance exploded with tremendous destructive effect. Several policemen were instantly killed and the rest of the party escaped injury. The men who were nearest the package were blown to atoms. Both the Sheriff and Surveyor were badly hurt, and are lying in a critical condition.

FRANCE.

NO ENVOY TO MEXICO.

PARIS, December 17.—The *Patrie* indignantly denies the report that there will be no envoy to Mexico. We do not think this proceeding on the part of the grand jury at all remarkable. Grand juries for some time past have been inclined to the same matter—the jury of the September term talking in terms not a little contrary to the law of the case of the evil complained of arose mainly through the cupidity of the magistrates. True, a grand jury should look upon the poorer and most ignorant classes of society, and it is certainly easily done in the city, people in the suburbs also suffer to a considerable extent from the encouragement of speculation or dwelling on the quicksands of quackery.

The correct diagnosis of disease, however, is not the only advantage derived from our system of practice. It is in the administration of *remedies* in accordance with the "conditions discovered," or the *nature* of the *disease*, that the greatest benefit is obtained, the greatest advantage derived. Here it is, that the superiority of our claims are *demonstrated* to the public in the *cures* that are made by our medicines. Here the patients themselves reap the benefit of our labors, and obtain the reward of our success; many of whom speak in tones of heartfelt gratitude for these benefits.

Hear some of their grateful acknowledgments:

Mrs. —— says, "I thank God and your skill for curing me of the dreadful epilepsy. I have not had a fit for two years."

Mrs. —— says, "You have *cured* me of that dreadful asthma and cough. I feel a thousand times obliged to you."

Mrs. —— says, "I am well. Your remedies cured me as you promised. The liver complaint is relieved, the jaundice is removed, and the dyspepsia is all gone."

Mr. —— says, "My wife is now enjoying well of which you gave her medicine reduced the swelling in three days."

Mr. —— says, "My son is entirely well of that scrofula, thanks to you."

Mr. —— says, "Your medicine cured me of affection of the kidneys."

Mrs. —— says, "Your *remedies* have kindly for the very great relief from that heart disease."

Mrs. —— says, "Your *remedies* have entirely cured me of that female weakness."

Scores of letters are thus pouring in from our patients, giving us the pleasing satisfaction of their grateful acknowledgments of the benefits received from all the different diseases which afflict the human family.

The cures we have performed" the people have a right to know, and as a physician we have a right to the statement of the facts, which are more demonstrative of our systematic course.

Let those try our remedies who wish.

DR. DRAKE'S OFFICE, No. 132 Grant street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Death of Maj. Mellinger.

We regret to hear of the death of Maj. W. S. Mellinger, at Cleveland, Tennessee, on Sunday last, the information having been conveyed by telegraph to his family in this City. Wessling, Jefferson county, on that day. His death is reported to have occurred on Sunday, and although the person telegraphing the fact made inquiry as to the disposition should be made of the remains, he did not mention the subject of sending at once to this city by express it was stated that it had been buried. This circumstance, if true, would be very important in the war against the rebellion, first entering the service as Major of the 78th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and afterwards going to the army in the West, and remaining in the Reserve until falling health compelled him to resign. Subsequently he purchased real estate at Cleveland, Tennessee, where he has been sojourning since the close of the war. A few days since his family, who still reside in this city, received letters from him, in which he spoke favorably of his affairs, and also of paying a visit to his family, which he hoped to see some land he had there purchased. His many friends in this city, old comrades in arms, will learn of his demise with sincere regret.

Who Does Not Need Them?

Benton's Pine tree Tar Troches, a new medicine, compounded by an eminent Philadelphia chemist, tried first in a recent case in Maine by Semple, the well known druggist at the corner of Fifth and Robinson streets, Allegheny, is found to act promptly and quickly and surely relieving every case of cough, cold, hoarseness, sore throat, catarrh, &c., &c. Sold by druggists everywhere, ever ready to make warm all kinds of comfort, at once secured the general agency of this great medicine for Allegheny, Aforesaid enemies of all man and woman kind, and now supplies druggists and all people in this and the adjoining counties. The whole army of coughs, colds, &c., now encamped roundabout these cities—Try them, you who have done so, and again say, try them!

Cut His Tailor Bill.—Jacob Eyll made information, before Alderman Mullin, charging Christ Rider with obtaining goods under false pretences. Eyll is a tailor, and Rider, he alleges, obtained goods from him, valued at $26.50, for which he promised to pay the next day, saying he had money in bank. He failed to call at the time specified, and Mr. Eyll made the information as stated above. The defendant was arrested and taken to the Alderman's office, where the matter was adjusted by the payment of the debt and costs by Rider.

Assault and Battery.—Geneva Hildebrand presented made information before Alderman Mullin, charging Joseph Miller and William Heinholzer with assault and battery. The prosecutrix resides in the Fifth ward, this city. She alleges that the defendants came to her house on the evening of the 13th inst., and demanded admission, which she refused, and while standing in the door to prevent them from entering, one of them struck her with a hatchet. The accused were arrested and held for a hearing.

Disorderly.—Joseph Kelcher of the Third ward, Allegheny, went to the house of Nicholas Adrian yesterday, and behaved himself in a very disorderly manner, threatening Mr. Adrian with violence, and using vulgar and obscene language toward Mrs. Adrian his wife. An information was made before Alderman Mullin charging him with having committed a breach of the peace. A warrant was issued for his arrest.

Holiday Gift.—The greatest blessing you can bestow for a Christmas present is a good sewing machine. The Weed is universally acknowledged to be the best. In fact, is still stronger evidence, it has been not to the same house where others had previously been sent; they were sent back and the Weed kept. Call and see it at R. H. Long's, No. 112 Grant street.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

The Grand Jury and Magistrates.

The grand jury came into Court yesterday and made inquiry concerning their powers as to the matter of costs.

The Foreman, Jared M. Brush, Esq., stated that by a vote of the jury he had been requested to inquire whether they could, in certain cases, impose the costs on magistrates. The cases were those of a frivolous character, such as should not have been entertained by magistrates.

Judge Sterrett said magistrates could not be held accountable, or the costs imposed on them, unless there was evidence that they had urged on the prosecution, or gone beyond the line of their duty, which was simply to take the information, issue the warrant, give the party a hearing, &c. A magistrate could not be held responsible for an error of judgment, any more than the Court itself could be, and they (the Court) were some times found by their superiors to have made mistakes.

The Foreman, Mr. Brush, remarked that quite a number of cases had been before the jury—cases which "would not hold water"—wherein the parties prosecuting had been in no fault, except in the fact of their ignorance. These parties attended Court at considerable expense, and in disposing of their cases the jury hesitated to find that they (the prosecutors) should pay the costs, much less that the county should. Many of the cases were for false pretense, the complaints seeking to recover money claimed to be due them in some business transaction. The evidence presented does not justify a criminal prosecution, hence the bill is not found, and the jury must find that the prosecutor or the county shall pay the costs. It seems a great hardship to put the cost on the defendant, and yet he is right in law. The fault rested with the magistrate, and what the jury specially desired to know was, whether they should not be held responsible—by being made pay the costs—and the poor and ignorant thus protected.

Judge Stowe said he had already indicated the powers of the grand jury as to the costs in such cases. He had also indicated they must say whether the prosecutor or the county should pay the costs. He was not prepared to say a change was desired to meet the case proposed. The Legislature must be appealed to.

Jared Bailey, Second policemen were instantly killed and the rest of the party escaped injury. The men who were nearest the package were blown to atoms. Both the Sheriff and Surveyor were badly hurt, and are lying in a critical condition.

THE SALE OF CUBA DENIED.

The truth of the report which reached here by the Atlantic cable, that Spain had offered to sell the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico to the United States, is denied.

Analytic and Demonstrative.

In this age of progress the profession of medicine must be studied in the true scientific spirit and practiced with some kind of systematic *rule* in order to meet the requirements of advancing knowledge.

The system of medical practice that has been the business of our life to study, and the experience of our practice to demonstrate, has been reduced to a *science*, embracing the well settled principles: That all diseases manifest themselves in the blood: That the urine is *secreted* entirely from that fluid, and carries off the *diseased* particles: That these may be definitely ascribed to the parts whence they *came*: In short, that "whatever may be the *disease* the urine seldom fails to furnish us with a *clue* to the principles upon which it is to be *treated*." (Front.)

These propositions are analytic in their character and demonstrative in their conclusions, and cannot be controverted by life speculation.

In fact our whole practice is based upon a systematic special of knowledge which consists of *rule* and *order*, and thereby prevents those who make experience their guide from wandering in the regions of speculation or dwelling on the quicksands of quackery.

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