

Senator Cowan on Emancipation

This gentleman has pursued a conservative and patriotic course in the United States Senate to the manifest disappointment of the radical Republicans who expected that he would prove a servile echo of Mr. Wilcox.

During the present session he has given ample evidence that he entertains no sort of sympathy with the Abolitionists, and that he is a man of decision and firmness of character.

On the 4th inst., Mr. Cowan addressed the Senate against the confiscation or emancipation bill. His speech is too long for publication in our columns, but the following extract will give some idea of its character and spirit. It will be seen that like the great statesman who addressed the Senate a few years since—Webster, Clay, Wright and Benton—he takes the Constitution, which he has sworn to support, for his guide, and eloquently pleads for its observance.

Our Western Pennsylvania Senator stands like a rock, against whose flinty ribs the waves of fanaticism lash themselves into foam, without moving it from its solid base and centre.

Mr. McDougal having concluded his speech, Mr. Cowan said:

I agree with the Senator from California in considering this one of the most important bills before Congress, and as one upon which the fate of the American Republic may depend. We are now standing squarely face to face with questions which are most pregnant with results for the future. Shall we stand or fall by the Constitution, or leaving it, enter for the future upon the wide field of revolution?

Shall we attempt to go back to those doctrines which marked the middle ages, and introduce now into this country those like those which intervening centuries have not sufficed to remove? These are the great questions which are in this bill—every one of them. This bill proposes to go forward and strip the whole population of the South of their property, and reduce them to poverty—and while yet 400,000 of them have arms in their hands.

If there is anything calculated to make that entire people our enemies always, it will be the proposition of such an act as this. Will they yield to us sooner in view of such a destruction? What would we ourselves do under any such circumstances? I need hardly ask that question of men who have descended from siree who refused to pay a petty tax on tea, and from grandaiores who raised a revolution rather than pay twenty shillings ship money—that I think was the amount demanded from Hampden—a revolution which cost King Charles his head. No such sweeping measure as this has ever been enacted. Even in the days of William the Conqueror, the great Norman and his barons were content with the fields and castles of the Saxon leaders. They did not dare to strip the people of their property, nor even much increase their burdens. They knew that, victorious as they were, they would have involved themselves in a far more dangerous struggle, in which every peasant would have been a principal combatant. The English, in their contest with, and bills of attainder against, the Irish never attempted to touch the property of the noble people, but only the property of the nobles.

This bill goes further, and attempts to confiscate another species of property, which cannot be put into the coffers of the conqueror. I mean the property in slaves.—I don't intend to stop to discuss the question of property of this kind. It is enough for me to say that all the people of the South seem to agree as to this kind of property with wonderful unanimity, and to resent any interference with it. This bill proposes to liberate 3,000,000 of slaves—truly the most stupor for liberation in the world. Indeed, I think it virtually liberates the whole 4,000,000. What is to be the effect of this upon the war? Shall we be stronger, or shall we find that we have only doubled the number of those in arms against us? Will not this bill furnish them one? Let the loyal men of that section, who know them, answer this question. I submit again that no deliberate assembly in the world ever before sanctioned an act so stupendous an issue. Yet, as if to blind us still more, this bill has a proposition of still greater magnitude, and, if possible, of still greater difficulty; that is, to take these millions and to transfer them to some tropical clime, and to protect them there with all the rights and guarantees of freemen. And this is all provided for in a single section and in a single sentence of nine lines. Truly we must have sensibly and ardently ourselves from the practical domain of facts, and set down in the romantic regions of Eastern fiction. Do the advocates of this measure propose to confer upon the President the gold making touch of Midas? Nothing short of the ring and lamp of Alladin, with their attendant genie, would insure the success of such a scheme, unless it is believed the Treasury Note possesses the magic power. And even under that supposition, I think that the owners of those Southern slaves, and the Transportation Companies, ought to be compensated in regard to the legal title of their property. It is not supposed that this modern exodus will be supported on the way by quails and manna; and yet I am free to say that it will require some such miraculous interposition as that which favored the Israelites in their journey out of Egypt. But, Sir, is it not strange that this scheme should be so coolly presented for our consideration, and that no objection should be made to it? Is it not surprising that any one should oppose it? Is it not surprising that we ourselves, and due to the country that we should not make haste to engage in such gigantic schemes. Then, again, there is a further consideration involved in this bill, and one of greater moment, which is that it is in direct conflict with the Constitution of the United States, requiring of us, if we mean it, to set aside and ignore that instrument in its most valuable and substantial provisions, those which guarantee the life and property of the citizen, and those which define the limits and boundaries of the several Departments of the Government. Pass this bill and all that is left of the Constitution is not worth much, certainly not worth this terrible war which we are now waging for it—for be it remembered that this war is waged solely for the preservation of the Constitution. I am aware that some point upon the Constitution as a restraint upon the conduct of the nation in the conduct of this war, which they say could be carried on in a more efficient manner without it. I have no objection to that, but I think that the Constitution is a restraint upon the conduct of the nation in the conduct of this war, which they say could be carried on in a more efficient manner without it.

From No. 10. A correspondent of the Chicago Times whose letter is dated March 28th, says: The progress of our plans for surrounding and hemming in the enemy, with which you are already acquainted, is satisfactory, and we expect a speedy denouement. When it comes there will be desperate fighting, for the rebels rightly regard the place a stronghold of immense importance, and besides all that, they have had a lesson in the Fort Donelson affair, which shows very plainly what the disposition of the Confederate authorities is towards surrendering officers. The disgrace of Pillow and Floyd will be a talisman of warning to rebel officers, and, if I judge the consequence aright, we shall have but few bloodless victories hereafter.

Burnside Reinforced. New York, April 2nd.—The steamers Ericsson, Fulton and Star of the South, had landed a strong reinforcement for General Burnside. The 8th Connecticut and 9th Rhode Island Regiments were within four miles of Beaufort. The town Goldsborough had been strongly fortified. It is represented that Fort Mena will soon be stormed.

News

WINCHESTER, March 30.—Only a few of the detailed regimental reports have been as yet received. Owing to the distance and scattered position of the regiments, three or four days will elapse before a full list of names can be had.

Dr. Kerney, Medical Inspector of the Army, has been engaged looking into the condition of the wounded here, in connection with the Medical Director, Wm. S. King, of the fifth army corps.

Notwithstanding the great scarcity of tin, crockery, and hardware for hospital purposes, the deficiency has been in a great measure supplied. The wounded are now contained in two hospitals and are under the immediate charge of Dr. H. Bryant, Medical Director of Gen. Shields's division.

About two hundred and thirty sick and wounded have been sent to Frederick, and sixty rebel wounded have been taken from the hospital and placed in the houses of their friends, on parole, to report on their recovery to the nearest commanding officer. Our wounded are generally reported as doing well. They number about 300.

The statement that Major Perkins, of General Banks's staff, was mainly instrumental in planning the recent battle, is contradicted, although his presence and advice were of great service to Col. Kimball, who commanded in the field, under the direction of Major Gen. Shields, Medical Director King, of the corps, and Surgeon Jackson, of the 29th Pennsylvania, were present as volunteers, and rendered efficient service in cleaning the field of the wounded.

Gustav Arnheim, of the Zouaves d'Afrique, who acted as aid to Col. Baum, Chief of Gen. Shields's artillery, was severely wounded in the leg. Col. Annisander, of the 1st Virginia cavalry, rendered great aid to Col. Kimball, and was in the hottest of the fight. He has just been informed of his acquittal on the charge of cowardice instituted by the late Gen. Lander. Our cavalry to-day brought in two guerillas from Hampshire, one of whom belonged to Sheets's mounted militia.

The Capture of Rebel Batteries on Skidaway Island. PHILADELPHIA, April 2d.—The following extracts from a letter received in this city gives some interesting particulars of the capture of the rebel batteries on Skidaway Island:

U. S. STEAMER SEMINOLE, Warsaw Sound, Georgia, March 25.—To-day at half past 12, m., signal was made for the squadron in Warsaw Inlet to get under way and follow the Seminole. We proceeded in line of battle up Wilmington River very slowly, not knowing the channel very well. Capt. Gilles being on board the Norwich, which drew the least water, when the Norwich fired a rifle shell in among a party of horsemen near it. The round seemed to stagger them, for the horsemen curvetted about in confusion and fled.

Proceeding up a little further, the Norwich let the rebels have another shell in an encampment that was near the battery, when the whole party fled, leaving the battery and the whole place deserted. Giving them several more doses, right in the earthworks, we cleared them out entirely, and the manned the boats, went on shore and took formal possession. Captain Gilles planted the old flag upon the highest rampart himself, and Acting Master Steel ran up with a picket guard of eight or ten men, and planted the old gridiron—the glorious stars and stripes—on the rebel headquarters, amid salvos of musketry, at the same time carrying away the miserable, worn-out, secession dish-cloth that was flying there. The rebels left little behind them worth having, but their dinners, which were still cooking over a wood fire.

Capt. Gilles then ordered that the whole work should be destroyed, as we did not wish to hold it, having no soldiers with us. The batteries were then fired in the interior, and soon burst into a fine blaze, carrying everything before it. Skidaway Fort is now among the things that were. The rebel houses and private property were humanely spared, but were afterward destroyed by the rebel soldiery.

The works on Skidaway were very well built, and had the enemy remained and fought they could have given us some trouble. It is evident that the Port Royal fight is still ringing in their ears, or else they would not be put to such an ignominious flight, every time they see a Federal gunboat. The success of the achievement is great, and Skidaway, as well as the channel of the Wilmington river, this side of Thunderbolt, is now in our hands. Our glorious cause is still blessed, and our arms victorious.

After all the works were completely destroyed, the squadron, consisting of the Seminole, Wyandotte and Norwich, steamed back to its anchorage in Warsaw Sound.

We have a rebel prisoner on board, who says they are in a bad way at Savannah for food. Gov. Brown has stopped the distilling of whiskey, as they want the grain for bread, which will be entirely out in July.

Fort Pulaski, has not yet surrendered, but must do so before long, as the batteries intended for its bombardment are nearly completed.

A Gallant Deed. General Milroy writes of a gallant act of thirty-five scouts of the Third Virginia Regiment, who were out on a reconnaissance to Huntersville, and were surrounded by two hundred and fifty rebels, and cut their way out, losing one man.

News

Tenth Regiment Injured.—An Unsuccessful Reconnoissance.—Panic at Charleston.—The Rebels at Fort Pulaski.—The Rebels at Fort Mifflin.—The Rebels at Fort Mifflin.

The building was a one story frame, located on a lot about one hundred feet square. The edifice itself was about fifty feet square. A portion of it occupied as an office was substantially built of brick, and most of the walls are still standing. Prof. Jackson was engaged in filling a heavy order for cartridges for the United States Government, and he had about fifty girls and about twenty-four men working for him.

The cause of the explosion is yet unexplained. Its effects were terrible. The edifice was scattered in ruins; at least four or five of the work people were killed instantly, and two or three of them were to minute fragments. The adjacent property also suffered. Nearly every window pane for a square around were broken, fences were demolished and fragments of human flesh were flung on tops of high roofs and scattered over the walls. A head, probably that of a man, was blown nearly a square up town, landing in Ellsworth street. A policeman gathered nearby a barrel full of arms, entrails, legs and other pieces of bodies, just after the explosion. One or two females were blown into Tenth street, with their clothes all in a blaze. The policemen and citizens immediately rendered all the aid possible, and the ruins were examined at once. The dead and wounded were carried out and placed in various neighboring dwellings, drug stores, &c., while some of the injured were taken to the Pennsylvania Hospital. We saw a policeman lift from the roof of a three story house in Tenth street, a horrible mass of flesh and blood, which had been blown to that elevation. Other sights as horrible we forbear to speak of in detail.

Putting New Guns in Position. A dispatch from Cairo, dated March 29, says: After a lull, the bombardment of Island No. 10 was renewed vigorously yesterday. The rebels appear to have received and put in position new guns of longer range. The army correspondent of the St. Louis Republican, writing under date of Cairo, 29th, says the firing on Friday at Island No. 10 was quite heavy, the rebels opening from a new battery, mounted, it is supposed, with one hundred and twenty-eight pounders. The enemy could be seen cutting away trees and rapidly pushing forward other means of defence. They seem to have no idea of evacuating at present, and are daily getting more cannon in position. Word reached the fleet last night that four rebel gunboats, partly clad with railroad iron, appeared below Point Pleasant, but as Gen. Pope's batteries extend almost in a continuous line fifteen miles, it is not believed they can force a passage.

Banks' Division Skirmishing on Route. Woodsstock, (Court House of Shenandoah county,) Va., April 1.—Gen. Banks advanced from Strasburg this morning towards this point.—When approaching the town Col. Ashby with his cavalry, supported by a force of infantry and a battery disputed the passage of the United States forces, but we passed onward through the town, the rebels frequently stopping and throwing shells to which we responded with effect.—Gen. Banks pursued the rebels to Edinburg, five miles south of Woodsstock. Ashby's men in their retreat burned two turnpike and one railroad bridge. All the railroad bridges between here and Strasburg had been previously burned.

The only casualty that occurred on our side in this movement was the killing of a private of the 29th Pennsylvania regiment. A private of the 2d Massachusetts regiment received a rifle ball on his belt plate, but it was harmless.

Serious Railroad Accident.—Soldiers Killed. CHICAGO, March 27.—An accident occurred to the midnight special train from Janesville, with the 3d Wisconsin Cavalry, five miles from this city, on the Northwestern road. The accident was caused by the breaking of an axle on the sixth car. In the wreck, caused by the cars behind this one running into it, ten soldiers were killed, three seriously wounded, and a number slightly.—The names of the killed are Walter Snell, Wm. Case, E. M. Burns, of Co. G, Charles Briggs, Lucien M. Rossman, Jas. F. Palmer, Charles D. Hatch, Casper Stone and Wm. Davis, of Co. A; also Hospital Steward Sharp, of Wolworth county. Seriously wounded: S. J. Edwards, of Co. G, ribs broken, Byron Wilcox, Co. L, both legs broken and internal injuries in the left side. Col. Barstow says that about 100 are more or less injured, but are able to continue with the regiment.

Skirmishing in Missouri. St. Louis, March 31.—Information has been received at headquarters that a detachment of the first Iowa Cavalry, under Capt. Thompson, overtook the guerilla band of Col. Parker, on the night of the 29th inst., about ten miles west of Warrensburg. There were fifteen rebels killed and twenty-five taken prisoners, among the latter were Col. Parker and Captain Walton. Our loss was two killed and several wounded.

It was stated in our paper a day or two since that Judge Taney was eighty years of age on Monday. This is a mistake. The venerable chief justice is eighty-five years of age, and in the enjoyment of most remarkable good health for a man of his great age.

News

Terrible Explosion and Loss of Life. A Cartridge Factory blown up in Philadelphia.—We copy from the Philadelphia Bulletin the following details of the explosion of the pyrotechnic works of Prof. Jackson, corner of Tenth and Reed streets Philadelphia:

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News

Interesting from Manassas Battle Field.—Terrible Fight between Three Rebel Regiments. An officer of our army, just returned from Manassas, called last evening and gave us an interesting account of his visit to Manassas, and the battle-field of Bull Run. A farmer, residing near Centerville, told him that in January last a number of regiments were quartered near his house, one from Kentucky, at the expiration of their time of enlistment unanimously resolved to return home, and so accordingly stacked their arms and were preparing for a start, when their further progress was arrested by the appearance of an Alabama and a Tennessee regiment, who were ordered to reduce the Kentuckians to submission, and compel them to remain. The Kentuckians seized their arms and a desperate fight ensued, in which many were slain on both sides, and their bodies were buried where they fell, the graves being yet visible.

From this spot the mutineers retreated a short distance, they threw down their arms, and each drew his bowie knife, made a desperate charge upon the two regiments; the fight was terrific, in which more than a hundred were killed, and they too were buried upon the field of slaughter.

At last the brave Kentuckians were subdued. The battle field was shown to our informant by the farmer who witnessed the fearful contest. In traversing the field he discovered a large bowie knife, which doubtless, had been used in this fearful fray.

Van Dorn and Price Retreating. A telegram from Rolla, Missouri, states that reliable persons just from our army in the South west say that the rebels, some 3,500, under Van Dorn and Price, have entirely retreated across Boston Mountains, and are now at Van Buren and Fort Smith, receiving supplies from Memphis and Little Rock via Arkansas river, which is high. The Texas troops are much disheartened at the death of McCulloch, and Arkansas felt the loss of Gen. McIntosh very severely. The rebels are badly off for clothing and shoes. Pike's Indians have returned to the Indian Nation. They were not formidable in battle, being panic stricken at the effect of our artillery. Price received a Major General's commission in the Confederate service on the 16th.—One regiment of Texas troops reached Van Buren on the 15th to reinforce Van Dorn, and more are expected from Louisiana. The whole rebel reinforcements will not exceed 5,000 in the next six weeks.

Lieut. Col. Herron, of the Ninth Iowa, who was taken prisoner, was in the hands of the rebels two weeks. They were badly frightened and retreated very rapidly, and for the three first days of their flight had nothing to eat. Their cannon and baggage train might have been easily captured. Gen. Curtis's army fell back to Keitsville to secure forage.—Arkansas, North of Fayetteville, is entirely eaten out. Our forces are now encamped at the head of Cross Timber Hollow, where water and forage are plenty. Our pickets extend into Arkansas and the rebel pickets come north to the top of Boston Mountains. Fayetteville is occupied. Very little Union sentiment has been developed in Arkansas.

Moving Towards Corinth. A special dispatch to the Cincinnati Commercial from Indianapolis, dated March 30th, says that Gen. Buell has assumed command of our forces, and at the latest advices was within fifteen miles of Corinth.—Late accounts state that the army under Gen. Smith was part at Savannah and part at Purdy, Tennessee. The last named place is about forty miles Northeast from Corinth. We shall probably hear shortly that Gen. Smith has made a movement with his forces, so that the great battle at Corinth, which will decide the fate of the rebellion in the Lower Mississippi Valley, cannot be long delayed.—The latest received advices from there place the force of the enemy at seventy thousand, and they were making great efforts to fortify the town. Should they be able to complete all their arrangements before the arrival of the Federal forces, the battle at Corinth will doubtless be one of the hardest fought and bloodiest of the war.

Ladies Taken Prisoners. The Washington Republican says: On Saturday afternoon a detachment of Steuart's Virginia Cavalry made a dash at the residence of a Union lady named Tennant, who lives about a mile and a half from Difficult Creek, and about six miles from the Chain bridge. While engaged in ransacking and pillaging the residence of Mrs. Tennant, they were discovered by a portion of Col. Bayard's Pennsylvania Cavalry, who at once charged down upon them, when quite a smart engagement ensued, which resulted in the hasty flight of the rebel cavalry, but not before they had secured Mrs. Tennant and her daughter, whom they conveyed away in Mr. Tennant's buggy, into which they had previously banished the horses for that purpose.

The only casualty to Col. Bayard's Cavalry in the skirmish was the wounding of one soldier, who was conveyed to this city the same night. The loss of the rebels could not be ascertained, although it is supposed some of them must have been hit.—Mrs. Tennant has lost a husband and son, who died fighting for our flag, and now herself and daughter will have to suffer the horrors of Richmond's loathsome prisons, while the insults of rebel soldiers, while their remaining property is exposed to all the devastations of war.

Christianity is an embassy of love.

News

Latest from Fortress Monroe.—Reconnoissance, and Dispersion of Rebels.—No Signs of the Merrimac, &c. FORTRESS MONROE, April 2d.—The weather to-day is clear and pleasant, and everything is progressing in the most satisfactory manner. The rebels fired several shots from Sewall's Point last night on the transports in the harbor, some of the shells falling within fifty feet of a vessel loaded with horses.

A reconnoissance was made from Newport News yesterday to Watt's creek, a distance of nine miles. The enemy appeared three thousand strong, and opened with cannon on our forces, but the balls passed entirely over them. Our batteries were immediately got in position, and opened on them, when the entire rebel force broke and fled, fording the creek in great confusion and keeping out of range. The object of reconnoissance being accomplished, the troops returned.

The whole country through which they passed, formerly the garden spot of Virginia, has been devastated, and but one house left standing. The houses, fences and trees have been burned by the retreating rebels.

There are no signs of the approach of the Merrimac yet, and from the long delay the opinion is gaining ground that she will not come again. She has a fine field to operate in if she should triumph over the Monitor, and if she waits to come now, it is thought she is afraid to run the risk.

An officer of the Seminole says that he read a Savannah paper of the 23d ult., which acknowledged a terrible rebel defeat at Pea Ridge, and admitted there was no use to conceal the fact.

The English steamer Racer arrived here this morning, and saluted the flag, which was responded to by the Fort, and the same compliment passed between the French vessel and the Racer, occasioning quite a cannonade.

A second reconnoissance was also made yesterday to Big Bethel, when the enemy was found to have returned and occupied the earthworks in force. On seeing our scouts, the rebels threw shells into the woods occupied by our troops on the previous advance, but as they were unoccupied, no damage was done. It not being the purpose of the advance to engage the enemy, no response was made to the guns.

A flag of truce to-day brought down the officers of the French steamer from Norfolk.

The steamer conveying troops to Newport News are repeatedly fired into from the Sewall's Point battery and a rebel gunboat. No damage has been done as far as we could learn.

Casualties to Fayette County Soldiers. A squad of eight Union soldiers, were recently out reconnoitering near Gauley Bridge in Western Virginia, when they were suddenly surrounded by about sixty rebel cavalry, under the notorious Jenkins, and ordered to surrender. This they refused to do, but at once commenced to fight their way out without regard to disparity of numbers.—Three only escaped uninjured, among whom was Harvey Grove, of Mason-town, in this County, and who, in company with one or two others, sometime after the skirmish, returned to the scene of conflict, to look for one of his missing companions, Hamilton Bixler, whom he found dead upon the field, and succeeded in removing his body to the camp, and thence, to his friends, near Mason-town, by way of the boat to Geneva, at which latter place Mr. Grove arrived with his charge, on Monday morning last, having under his care, also, John Mallory of Geneva, another of the gallant eight, who was badly wounded in the shoulder, in the same skirmish in which Bixler fell.—Brownsville Clipper.

PITTSBURGH MARKETS. SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1862. FLOUR—The market continues dull and depressed, with limited receipts and a light demand. We quote Extra at \$4.60@4.70, and Family \$5 to \$5.25—the latter rate for choice.

BACON—Is dull, and prices have slightly declined; sale of 5,000 lbs at 4c for Shoulders and 6c for Plain Hams; 2,000 do Shoulders at 4c; and 1,000 lbs at 4c for Shoulders and 6c for Plain Hams.

DRIED FRUIT—Sales of 25 bushels Apples, (common) at \$1.25. Peaches dull, with small sales at from \$2.25 to \$2.75, as to quality.

Oil—Sale of 50 bbls Lubricating, from Meoca Wells at 20c per gall.

CHEESE—Sales in lots of 35 boxes W. R. at 8c; and 15 do Goshen at 10c.

Lard—Sale of 20 bbls Louisville at \$1.25 per bbl.