THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

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Commission, &c.

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Pittsburgh Gazette.

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

PITTSBURGH: SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 16.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1861.

A Cabinet meeting will be held to-day for the final determination of the question of Fort Sumter. All the high military and naval officers at Washington agree in opinion that Major Anderson cannot be re-inforced with the means at present at the disposal of the Government. It is said that the garrison, if withdrawn, will be treated with civility at Charleston, and allowed to proceed to the North without opposition.

The President sent for Mr. Corwin, this morning, to say that he had appointed him to Mexico, believing that he was better qualified for the place in the present condition of our relations, and understood the policy that was adopted to them more clearly than any other man in public life. He considered it the mission of the first consequence at this time. Mr. Corwin gave no definite answer, but will confer with Mr. Seward, and understand the practical views of the Administration before declining. His personal inclinations are against going, but they will be yielded if he considers that the public interests are to be promoted by his acceptance.—*N. Y. Tribune Cor.*

Cassius M. Clay will not accept the Spanish Mission. He does not state the reason for declining the offer, but probably does not desire to leave the country for the present. Neither would he accept the Mexican Mission. Mr. Clay is a live man and does not desire to ostracize himself during the present crisis of political events in this country. The Spanish Mission is therefore open to some ambitious aspirant.

LATER.—Cassius M. Clay has just consented to accept the Madrid Mission, under the pressure of his friends.—*Times.*

Friends of Carl Schurz, Esq., state the Brazilian Mission has not been tendered to that gentleman, and assert very positively that he will not accept it if offered. His ambition looks to an European Mission, and it is said that he has Mr. Lincoln's pledge of some one of them, given before the President came hither from the West.—*Times.*

Cassius M. Clay refuses to accept the mission to Spain. He prefers that to Russia, and will probably be gratified his choice. Mr. Corwin is not inclined to accept the mission to Mexico, but has not positively refused it.—*Tribune.*

There is a divided feeling here in favor of early appointments to the European missions, with a view to counteracting the movements in favor of the recognition of the Southern Confederacy. There can be no doubt of the wisdom of this policy; and probably one of the first matters of business attended to by the Executive after filling existing vacancies, will be to fill these missions.

There seems to be a decided scarcity of applicants for the missions in Central America, which (or the tropical climate) have killed off a number of men in a few years. It's a good country to which to send some of Mr. Lincoln's most pertinacious but less tactful friends, as they would never, in all human probability, return to plague him. Mr. Buchanan tried it with considerable success, and it is well understood at the State Department that his last appointee to the Central African mission is duly preserved in whisky, administered internally and constantly.

There will be a pretty time when the Administration comes to determine upon the Federal appointments for California. Strange to say, some of the best appointments in the State are sought to be obtained for men whose fidelity to Buchanan Democracy was never suspected until after Lincoln's election, or for others who, instead of bearing the heat of the day, entered the Republican ranks only when it became apparent that Republicanism was to be the winning side.

There are many who confidently anticipate that Jeff. Davis will yet resort to some means by which he will be revenged on General Scott, and further plunge the Cotton States into revolution.

The desperation of a double defeat seems to be fast hastening upon them, and we may expect some rash movements. These are not idle conjectures, say those who ought to know.—*N. Y. World.*

The feeling gains ground to-day that an extra session of Congress is inevitable. The sudden changes in public affairs and other causes which will daily arise, all seem to point to the necessity. The subject has been discussed to-day in influential circles.—*World.*

In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Fessenden moved that the names of Senators from seceding States, who have declared themselves no longer members of the Senate, be stricken from the roll. This motion will supersede the motion of Mr. Foster, and while ridding the Senate of Mr. Wigfall, will head off Senator Mason, who is aiming to make himself a martyr by declarations similar to those for which Mr. Foster proposed to expel the Texas buffoon.

The news from Texas is important. Governor Houston refused to acknowledge the authority of the Convention, and maintains that the Legislature is the supreme authority in the State. He is opposed to Texas joining the Southern Confederacy, and is said to be raising troops on his own account. If let severely alone for a while, it is probable that the seceded States will fall to fighting among themselves.—*Tribune.*

The latest advices from San Antonio show that the Union men carried that town after all, at the late election, notwithstanding the presence of Ben McCulloch's 800 rangers, to overawe the people, and to swell the disunion vote. The issue of Union and Secession were squarely made, each party parading with flags, banners, &c. There need be no doubt of the overwhelming strength of the Union sentiment in Western Texas.

The flag-ship Cumberland and the Pocahontas left Vera Cruz on the 25th of February, for Hampton Roads. The latter has arrived. The Powhatan had also started for New York. The Sabine, St. Louis, Brooklyn and Wyandotte are still off Pensacola Harbor, and will remain there until replaced, as long as Fort Pickens is held, which there is no present intention to abandon.

The Secretary of War, by the authority of the President, had the pleasure of announcing, this morning, to Col. Sumner, his nomination to the Senate as a Brigadier General in the United States army, vice Twiggs, disgraced and stricken from the rolls, for treason to his country. It will be remembered that Col. Sumner was one of the suite that recently accompanied President Lincoln from Springfield to Washington.

Many years ago, when Gen. General Cameron was the editor of a newspaper at Harrisburg, he recommended to President Jackson the transfer of Colonel Sumner, who is the son-in-law of the late John M. Foster, of Harrisburg, from the Infantry to the artillery, and now he has the additional pleasure of being the medium by which his promotion to a higher grade in the service is conferred.—*Phila. Press.*

There are crowds of patriots on duty daily, besieging the doors and anti-chambers, especially of the State and Treasury Departments. Yesterday there were at least fifty waiting their turn at Mr. Seward's door, and to-day the crowd was nearly as large. Mr. Chase's *levee* is, if anything, still more popular, and if I mistake not, begins to look upon the man who "don't want an office" as a natural curiosity. He receives them all kindly, however, listens patiently, and turns them off conscious that the Secretary has given him all the time and attention they have any right to expect. Mr. Seward, it need not be said, is equally at home in the fulfilment of these most irksome duties of an Executive Department.—*Times.*

Hon. Simon Cameron yesterday assumed the duties of his new position as Secretary of War, and looks quite at home in it. He doubtless congratulates himself that he has escaped all complicity in the "War of the Roses" waging by the rival New York factions to which he would necessarily have become a party, had he taken the Treasury Department.

Quite a bitter quarrel is going on between Capt. Meigs, superintendent of the capitol extension, and Architect Walter, relating to the progress of that work, involving, it is said, the interference of the President for the third or fourth time.—*World.*

Captain Hooper, a delegate from Utah, urges the Administration, as a matter of policy, to appoint Brigham Young Governor of that Territory. Brigham has been the Governor, in fact, for twelve years, no matter who received the pay of the position.—*Times.*

A special messenger left here yesterday for Fort Sumter.—*Phil. Press.*

COL. E. V. SUMNER.—The Boston *Journal*, speaking of this distinguished officer, says:

To him is due the cavalry tactics of the United States, he having been sent twice on Military Commissions to Europe, with reference to the organization of this branch of the service. His gallant conduct in the Mexican war, where he was wounded, was specially commended by Gen. Scott. Named afterward Commander of the Southwestern Department of the United States, he brought order out of the administrative chaos of New Mexico. On his arrival at Santa Fe, he found that the expense to the Government for forage alone, was more than ten dollars a head to every man, woman and child in New Mexico. To this abuse he soon put an end, and was rewarded by the attack of discomfited contractors, and then abandoned by Jefferson Davis.

Col. Sumner was born in Massachusetts, and with Jefferson Davis and Floyd, this was sufficient motive to oppose illegal impediments to his advancement, as they did also in the case of the gallant Captain Magruder, for the same cause.

For no other reason, Col. Harney, the junior of Col. Sumner, was raised over his head, to be made Brigadier General, and more recently another junior, without, however, the dishonorable antecedents of Harney, Col. Johnson, was also taken out of the line of promotion and made Brigadier General.

The Truth from Charleston—The Feeling of the Soldiers Who are to Take Fort Sumter.

[From the St. Louis Democrat.]

The following is an extract from a private letter received in this city by one of our workmen, from his brother in Charleston. Those are the men with whom the miserable traitor Jeff. Davis is to march upon the Northern States. We begin to feel perfectly easy about the attack on Fort Sumter:

"CHARLESTON, Feb. 20, 1861.

* * * "Now, something about politics. Here everybody is a soldier. I have been in the field service the past two months. A soldier, *and how?* With shoes without soles, *poor food*, and worse clothing. May God have mercy. Should the North march an army down here, two-thirds of our men would join them. Don't be surprised that all people here seem to be in favor of secession. Otherwise, many a poor fellow would be starving. Whoever refuses to be a soldier must leave the city. Fort Sumter still stands quietly, and the garrison appear to be in good spirits. Our army has not yet attacked it. The ases appear to be too stupid to undertake it. In order to do that they want another Garibaldi, or keep their mouths shut. Rumor has it that it is to be taken next week, without fail. The commander, Major Anderson, I have known in Florida, and believe him to be a brave man

"How do you progress in St. Louis? Write me soon again. Yours, &c.,

X."

Revenue at Southern Ports.

The Secessionists pretend to believe that Lincoln intends to attempt the collection of revenue at the Southern ports by