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PITTSBURGH:

TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 16, 1861.

THE CULMINATION.

From Friday afternoon until Sunday our community was kept in most perplexing anxiety and excitement by the extravagant and often contradictory and absurd accounts of the bombardment of Fort Sumter. At last, however, the fact had to be admitted that it had fallen into the hands of the rebels. This general fact is all that is reliable; for the details respecting the fire in the fort, the damage done to the walls, and many other stories of the same kind are so manifestly absurd as to be entitled to no consideration. For authentic details we must wait for official and epistolary reports. In the mean time it is but just that judgment should be suspended upon the conduct of Major Anderson, in yielding before a breach was made or a man killed. He may have had good reasons for doing what he did.

No act on the part of the Secessionists has been more reckless, mad and ill-advised than this attack upon a weak and exhausted garrison; for it possesses at once all the abhorred attributes of meanness, cowardice, barbarity and treason. It has had the effect of exasperating the people, and awakening a sentiment of national patriotism which, like a deluge, overwhelms and obliterates all party lines. Democrats and Republicans are now brethren of one faith, and that is devotion to their common country—one platform, and that is the Constitution—one banner, and that is their country's flag. With irrepressible ardor the young men of the country are pressing into the service of the nation, while the treasures of the wealthy will be thrown open to supply its wants. Never before was there such a putting forth of power as we now behold.

It is well. The long accumulating power of Slavery—a power which has kept us in turmoil and confusion for many years—has at length had the audacity to put on the livery of treason, and strike its fangs into the bosom which had, with mistaken kindness, nourished its life and strength. Now, until this treason manifested itself, suspected its malignity; but now all see it in its true character, and are inclined to deal with it accordingly.

Every hour is bringing us accounts of the popular enthusiasm throughout the North and Northwest, which only add intensity to the feeling here. If the secessionists are flattering themselves that the capture of Sumter has dampened the spirit of the loyal States, how fatal is their mistake! The effect is the very opposite. It was just what was needed to arouse and unite them. They are exasperated, but not in the slightest degree discouraged. They feel that the victors are far more dishonored than the vanquished; and are resolved that the shouts of savage triumph now ringing throughout the broad camp of the traitors at the paltry victory of 7000 men over 70, shall be changed to supplications for mercy and peace. There will be no half-way measures now. The day of forbearance is past. Treason has thrown down the gage of battle, and it is taken up. It would have war, and it shall have it.

This is a fearful ordeal for a great nation to pass through; but fearful as it is, we find no man now who is disposed to shrink. But let us hope that it will be short, and that it will have a purifying effect—that it will awaken a new and better patriotism—a sterner devotion to the principles of genuine Freedom—a more hearty union, and a truer and more heart-felt dependence upon Almighty God, without whose blessing all human wisdom, and power, and strength are nothing.

The tone of popular sentiment, so far as it falls under our observation, is eminently hopeful and auspicious. There is no outbreaking passion, no bravado, no bluster, but every man expresses in countenance, words and actions a stern and resolute determination to do his duty to his imperiled country.

SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

We dislike to obtrude our private matters upon our readers, or to be drawn into any statements which may seem like boasting. But justice to ourselves and to our readers demands that we should make a plain statement of facts, to refute the envious assertions of the *Chronicle*, which they have iterated and reiterated as well as the little dogs put forth by the *Dispatch*—all arising in the same petty rivalry and fear lest our enterprise should damage their respective circulations.

Our readers will bear us witness that we have not sounded forth our own praises in any extravagant terms. Since the present proprietors purchased the *Gazette* and *True Press*, our course has been onward and upward. The public have responded to our efforts in the most liberal manner, and the circulation of all our editions is now much greater than our most sanguine expectations had led us to expect, and much greater to-day, as we verily believe, than that of *any paper in this city*, or between Philadelphia and Cincinnati.

Furthermore—and this is the point we desire to state, explicitly,—*the Gazette is the only paper in this city which has now, or ever had, a special Telegraphic correspondent in Washington city*, the statements of the *Chronicle* and *Dispatch* notwithstanding. We have paid more money for Telegraphic news, since the first of January last than *all the other papers, on the city combined*. If our "enterprising" (!) contemporaries desire a verification of this statement, our receipts are at their disposal—or Mr. Colgan, the gentlemanly Superintendent of the Union Telegraph office, might corroborate our assertion.

Now we have been led into this statement of facts in order to refute the bold statements which have been made in regard to the matter of our Special dispatches. If we thought that they did not give earlier and more authentic news than those of the Associated Press, furnished in common to all the city press, we should certainly discontinue them at once, and thereby save an expense of some $50 per week. But still we are convinced of this, we shall continue to employ a reliable special correspondent in Washington, through whom we shall receive all items of special interest, not furnished from other sources. And we would volunteer a word of advice to our cotemporaries, in this connection: Instead of trying to discredit all dispatches as bogus and unreliable, save those published by yourselves, adopt our good example—engage a genuine Washington correspondent, and we promise not to steal any of your items without due credit, or to advise the public that the "whole business is humbug," or that you practise "deceptions" by having your dispatches "loaded" or set up in an attractive shape.

WAR.

The country has suddenly passed from a state of *quasi* peace to one of open, fierce and terrific war. Never, probably, in any country on the globe was there such a rushing to arms. The ardor of both sections is up to a height that augurs a tremendous, but not a protracted, struggle. The fall of Sumter will prove a far greater calamity to the South than to the North, for it required that to arouse the peaceable people of the free States to a spirit equal to the crisis.

The President calls for 75,000 men. Had he asked for five times that number he could have had them. But, although the number that shall offer themselves will greatly exceed the President's requisition, we think that all will be accepted. *These rebels have got to be conquered, and true policy, as well as mercy, would dictate the employment of a force that would strike terror, crush out their hopes of success, and thus render very little fighting necessary.* We should rejoice to see 200,000 men mustered into service.

Let every citizen attend the meeting this evening at the City Hall. Its moral effect will be good especially upon the patriotic young men on whose bravery we rely in this dark and trying hour, but it will inspire a much higher spirit in all the people, and in the hearts of the brave and true men upon whose wisdom and firmness we rely as the instruments, under by the All-wise Disposer of events, to bring the country safely through this awful crisis.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Senator Douglas, in an interview with the President, on Sunday night, fully endorsed the war policy of the administration.

Indiana will offer 30,000 men to the Government.

At Cincinnati, a home guard has been formed for city protection.

War is to be declared by the Confederate Congress against the Government, distinguishing between alien friends and enemies.

In Baltimore, the Union feeling is very strong—2,500 Minute Men threw out the Stars and Stripes with the motto, "The Union and the Constitution."

THE WAR NEWS.

The war feeling in our city is intense. The news of the surrender of Fort Sumter, though depressing, has had the effect of consolidating all parties; there is but one voice in the community, and that is for WAR.

But comparatively little business has been transacted in the city this morning, all parties being engrossed in the war news, and seeking for information.

There have been a large number of names added already to our military companies. Over thirty men joined the Pittsburgh Zouaves on Sunday, and the Company now muster nearly one hundred men.

JUDGE WILKINS.

We never felt prouder of our State and our country than we did last night at the meeting in City Hall, when the venerable Judge Wilkins, the President, with his silvery locks, his animated eye, his clarion voice, his patriotic fire, which eighty winters have failed to chill, exhorted his fellow citizens to lay aside all former differences, and rally around the President and help him to crush out treason. His presence and his words had the happiest effect upon the vast multitude.

LOOK OUT FOR TRAITORS.

In this time of peril, at a moment when an attack on this Capital is threatened, and the very existence of this government is at stake, there must be no coldness nor lukewarmness amongst us. He who is not with the government is against it, and is as much to be watched as an openly avowed Secessionist. We cannot afford to have one traitor in the community.

A Glance Ahead.

A correspondent of the New York *Courier and Enquirer* thus alludes to the prospect ahead, in a letter written from Washington on Friday:

"As to the result of the war inaugurated by the Confederates no reasonable man can entertain a doubt. It will stop this Secession movement forever—it will utterly ruin all the States engaged in it—they will find themselves barren of resources, money, or credit; but it will give an impetus to things at the North, where the money, the credit, and the commerce are, to an extent hardly to be guessed now. All the Northern and Middle railroads will for months bring on all the produce to be shipped, and New York, Philadelphia, (as well as Baltimore and Norfolk), if they stay with us, will do the shipping. Families and money will move into their quarters from the distracted South, and grass will grow in the streets of New Orleans. This is no exaggerated picture, it is as true as living words can be, and the leading merchants and moneyed men of the South know it to be true, and have expressed the same opinion. *But we shall have no war.* There may be a skirmish or so before these hot-headed politicians find out what this Government is made of; but so soon as this is found out, then the Conservative men of the South will speak out for the Union, for in Union alone is their safety."

THE REBELLION OF THE SOUTHERN CONSPIRATORS.—Never before was a rebellion so causeless, so wanton, so fiendish. If the Russian nobles were now to conspire to assassinate the royal family, and establish an omnipotent obligarchy instead, in order to prevent the abolition of serfdom, they might make a show of some pretext of confiscated property, of violated rights. But the slaveholders implicated in the secession conspiracy cannot pretend that their detestable dominion over the souls and bodies of their fellow-beings was assailed or even questioned by the Government which they have combined to overthrow—that their legal right (what a monstrous perversion of terms!) to buy and sell men, women and children, was in the slightest danger of disturbance. Misled by ambitious demagogues who have nothing to lose and everything to gain by ambitious demagogues who have nothing to lose and everything to gain by a scramble, they have plotted the overthrow of that Union which was their stronghold, their chief security. Bitter will yet be their curse of the villians who have ensnared them to their ruin!—*N. Y. Trib.*

What Virginia Thinks.

If the Richmond Convention is authorized to speak for Virginia, that State demands, as the condition of her remaining in the Union—

First, that a pacific policy be adopted toward the rebellious States.

Second, that no attempt be made to subject them to federal authority.

Third, that none of the forts situated on the mainland or within the harbors of the seceded States shall be reinforced.

Fourth, that none of the forts, arsenals, mints, &c., that have been violently taken away from the United States, shall be recaptured.

Fifth, that the rebellious States shall not be required to pay customs.

Sixth, that all the forts, arsenals, magazines of those States, although formally ceded by them to the federal government, shall be evacuated and given up to them.

All these demands, in addition to amendments of the constitution proposed by Virginia, are embodied in a resolution adopted by the Convention. If no happens, however, that the game of the secession party in Virginia is now so well understood that what she declares her sons of the authority of a vermillion edict. Union on such terms would be no Union at all.—*N. Y. Post.*

TREASON has put on the horrid front of WAR. The men who cast their allegiance to the winds the moment that their honor failed to serve their selfish interests; who corrupted the government of a great nation that they might find rebellion against the supreme law themselves had helped to make, the easier; who hastened to give up their birthright is the grandest destiny that ever was inherited by a free people, for a sordid semblance of prosperity and power which makes them the scorn and by-word of the world; who have sought to humiliate the flag under which they have enjoyed protection and prosperity, and themselves have marched to victory—these men who first provoked have finally initiated a bloody, fratricidal contest. The occasion which they chose for the commencement of their dreadful work was worthy of their cause—the treacherous provisioning of a brave and faithful officer and a handful of men, who have, for a few months, held inoffensive possession of a fortress which did not even threaten injury to any individual or any interest among them. It would seem as if it must have been that the daily sight of this simple and sincere loyalty to trust was too bitter a reproach to be longer borne, and that that must be exterminated which could not be endured.—*N. Y. World.*

THE CONFEDERATE FORCED LOAN.—If, as seems likely, the five million Confederate loan is divided among the banks in the chief States, it will bring the banks of South Carolina to a speedy stoppage. They have already been pretty thoroughly exhausted by carrying a large portion of the State loan of $645,000. Of the two banks at Columbia, the Commercial Bank has but nine cents in specie to every dollar of liabilities, and the Exchange Bank has but one cent for every dollar of liabilities. The Bank of the State, located in Charleston, has liabilities to the amount of $2,444,376, and owns in the amount of only $87,784. All the banks in South Carolina have not specie enough to take up the share of the five million loan which will be forced on the Charleston banks.

THE thrilling news which flashed over the wires last night, to be read this morning by the mighty hosts of loyal citizens, will fire the great heart of the nation, and millions of men will be found ready if need be to rush to the defence of our flag, for the President calls, and the people will promptly respond.

Our Government is now on trial. Its honor, its dignity and its power is at stake. The question of Government or Anarchy is to be decided—not by a foreign foe, but by domestic enemies. Rally, then, American citizens, to the support of your country; and the stars and stripes, which have never been dishonored, will continue to wave proudly over a free and independent people.—*Cin. Gazette.*

An It Should Be!

The traitors commence the strife. They crown their mouths of insult, aggression and robbery by the act which plunges the country into war. Heaven and the civilized world needed not this last enormity to justify the Government in putting forth its utmost power to crush the men by whom it is assailed. But rather upon the traitors than upon the friends of the Union, be the responsibility for blood which must now be spilt. The most supple apologist for treason is henceforth silenced. This on the part of the Government is to-day, a war of self defence. To-morrow let it be one of quick aggression.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A WHOLESOME CHANGE.—On the wall in the Collector's private room at the Custom-house has been suspended for some time a portrait of James Buchanan. Mr. Barney has substituted for this a portrait—not of Lincoln, but—of Washington. It was a happy thought—this to substitute for the picture of one to whom the government owes so much misfortune and embarrassment the portrait of the man whose memory we shall venerate for all time.—*N. Y. Post.*

SPECIAL NOTICES.

PITTSBURGH FEMALE COLLEGE.—The Spring Session will commence on Monday, April 15th. Pupils received at any time. Circulars at the Bookstores. apl3:3tdw