

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 21, 1861.

THE WEEKLY GAZETTE, of this morning, contains much important intelligence from nearly every quarter. The Affairs of the West; The News from England; The State Finances; The Late Fight at Fort Pickens; South Carolina's Natives; Great Fire in Charleston, S. C.; Letter from Milton Head; Foreign News; Congressional; Commercial, Miscellaneous and Religious Intelligence, etc. For sale at our counter at five cents per single copy.

The Tone of the British Press. A surprising change seems to have taken place in the British press in reference to the Trent Affair. We, from our cooler position, are filled with wonder, that men usually calm and judicious, should have been so completely thrown off their balance. We expected when the able and dignified weekly press made its usual appearance, that the Editor, and the Spectator, that the subject would be dismissed in a moderate and reasonable tone, but we are disappointed. They are just as wild as the dailies, and such as are ready to plunge the two kindred nations into a bloody war on such a shallow pretext. The Examiner denounces the act of Commodore Wilkes as lawless, and says: "No civilized Government can be supposed capable of defending corsair practice like this."

The Spectator accuses Mr. Seward of endeavoring to provoke a war with England, and rebukes Northern Americans without stint, and winds up with this bit of extravagance: "National pride and long-continued disgust do but strengthen the resolve to see right enforced, without irritation as with dissent." The Free Press calls it the "max of American arrogance," and announces the end of all sympathy for the Federal Government.

The American press, with some rare exceptions, presents a most agreeable contrast to that of the British, on this question. It is calmly collected, calm and prudent, and yet firm and dignified. It wishes to avoid war by any concession short of national dishonor, but if the war is thrust upon us it is ready to meet it with unflinching courage and unwavering truth in the final result.

Napoleonic Energy. On the 21st of February, 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte wrote to Augereau in the following terms: "What! Six hours after receiving the first troops from Spain you are not in the field! Six hours of rest is quite enough for them. I have destroyed the six battalions from the brigade of dragons coming from Spain, who from Bayona had not drawn rein. Do you say that the six battalions from the Nineteenth division and equipment, which are untrained? Augereau, what miserable wretch! I have destroyed 30,000 enemies with battalions of conscripts, scarcely clothed and without cartridge boxes. The National Guard are plentiful. I have here 2,000 from Angers and Breuges in round hats, without cartridge boxes, but with good weapons; and I have made them tell, there is no money, do you say! But you are not you expect to get money but from the pockets of the enemy? You have no money! But I will tell you in ten minutes I order you to get yourself in the field twelve hours after you receive this letter. If you are still the Augereau of Castiglione, keep your command. If you are not, you are too much for you, relinquish it to the oldest of your general officers. The country is menaced and in danger. It can only be saved by daring and activity, and not by such delays."

What would Napoleon say if he were alive now! Is our country not in danger? Can it be saved but by daring and alacrity? While the British Lion is showing his teeth, shall uttering low growls, is this a time for delay? Ought we not to be daring, bold, and stern vigor of our General, crush the viper of secession before we have complications on our hands.

The Black Flag to be Raised in Kentucky.—The following extract is from the Memphis Advertiser. We presume our soldiers are as ready to meet war in such a savage form as the rebels, however much they regret such a terrible necessity. If the rebels inaugurate such a horrible mode of warfare they will meet severely by the sword of the South. The South can afford no longer to be the victim of the war of the North. The war of the North is a just cause, and will then have the additional and fearful incentives of passion and desperation.

John Bull in a Passion. The New York Tribune illustrates the contention between John Bull and his practice, by the following anecdote: The transition from the peace-prescribing to the war-threatening Bull is very sudden, and in spite of his fury, gives him rather a ludicrous aspect. It is the old story of the person who was perpetually beating his good wife on her last temper, and entreating her to think of Job and imitate his long-suffering meekness. At length the preacher of patience happened to visit a horse's nest in his garden, and was surprised by the lady of his choice indulging in all manner of assembly antics and imprecations. "My dear," said the astonished dame, "you should think of Job and imitate his invincible patience in adversity." "Job be blessed!" retorted the tortured and wrathful diabolical, slapping and jumping with all his might; "Job never had a handful of horse in his breeches in all his life!"

Surrender of Fugitive Slaves by the Army. A resolution, presented by Mr. DENNETT, of Massachusetts, declaring that the army shall not be used to surrender fugitive slaves, was called up on Wednesday. Mr. DENNETT said he had various letters stating abuses of this kind in the army. Brigadier General Stone was adding to his achievements at Ball's Bluff, by having himself in surrendering up slaves. He (Gen. Stone) had made Massachusetts soldiers do this daily. The Governor of Massachusetts had already complained of this. This outrage must be stopped. The resolution was agreed to.

THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN REFERENCE TO THE CONFISCATION OF REBEL PROPERTY.

A Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, who professes to have good authority for his statements, gives the following on an important subject: "I am able to correct the painful impression here noticed with regard to the President of the United States, and I do so with the more satisfaction and gratitude that was deeply grieved, in common with nine-tenths of the loyal citizens of the country, by the countenancing of Fremont's proclamation, and by the application of the check-rent to Secretary Cameron's just and wise instructions. Mr. Lincoln assures his friends, without reserve, in conversation, that he is in favor of measures which shall enable us to deprive every rebel, from Virginia to Texas, of his slaves, and every other species of property, and that the only disagreement which can rise between himself and Congress will relate to the details of the bill which may be adopted. If any such disagreement arises, it will, I presume, relate to the possible involving of loyal masters in the consequences of emancipation to the slaves of their disloyal neighbors. As between two branches of the Government, equally solicitous for the welfare of the country, this ought not to be a serious matter. The number of loyal slaveholders in the rebel States is ridiculously small, and if it be conceded that the giving of freedom to the slaves of the disloyal is of great importance as a war measure, the supposed rights and interests of that small minority must not be allowed to stand in the way. A railroad or canal or other important public work must not be stopped because it crosses lands through my cabbage garden—lawful and harmless as is the practice of raising cabbages, and difficult as it may be for me to find another garden which will produce them equally copiously. And surely no argument can be found to show that Northern soldiers and Northern tax-payers have less claim on the protection and care of the Government than the few loyal slave owners of Jefferson. If emancipation will make the war shorter, less bloody, less costly, than otherwise would be the case, it is a measure which should be demanded that their rights shall not be infringed, while the microscope is being used to spy out the rights of a few planters down in Dixie. Congress will pass a law striking the right and telling blow at slavery, by emancipating or confiscating every negro claimed rebel. Of this there can be no doubt. Such a bill could probably get a two-thirds vote in the Senate, but not in the House. Hence, in part, the anxiety concerning the position of the executive. While all who are in earnest about this war, will be sufficiently grateful to the President for not vetoing the bill, it does seem as though he had lost a palpable opportunity to inscribe his name among the great ones of the earth, by making himself the leader of the inspiring cause rather than its rear guard.

The country is waiting with anxiety for the expression of a definite policy, on this most perplexing of all subjects, must be evident to the President and all of his advisers. What is greatly desired is that this policy should be adopted in a spirit of national concession, and in entire harmony, by Congress and the executive, and that it should be in accordance with that mighty public sentiment which took Mr. LINCOLN from among the people and lifted him to a seat the summit of the highest human ambition. While the rights of the few loyal slaveholders, and the views of the Unionists in the border States should have due consideration, the claims of the millions on whom the burden of this war rests, should not be overlooked. Mr. LINCOLN owes an immense debt of gratitude to those who selected him from among the thousands of our Israel, and they ask from him consideration of the claims of the millions who pay dea regard to those involved in the meshes of an unholy rebellion.

The Great Fire at Charleston. The loss by this great fire is estimated at seven millions of dollars. The following are the only extracts from Charleston papers, which have reached us since the fire: The Courier says the most gratifying incident of the fire was the seal manifested by the slaves in their efforts as firemen and laborers. The entire population, male and female, worked most earnestly. Subscriptions for the poor sufferers by the terrible conflagration had been opened at the Bank of Charleston, and \$2,000 had been subscribed. The Mercury of Friday says: Yesterday was a gloomy day for Charleston. Business was universally suspended, and with one impulse our community united in giving sympathy and aid to the victims of the great public calamity. The Courier says the fearful conflagration that has just passed over our city will cause the 12th of December, 1861, hereafter to be remembered as one of those dark and trying periods which for the moment seem to paralyze all the long cherished hopes and bright anticipations of the future. We have been visited by one of those mysterious dispensations of Providence which cannot be accounted for. Our city has received a terrific blow which will take years of years to repair. Let us never allow us to be overcome by another disaster, and we are still left with the same bold spirit and strong arms, to make a new and perhaps more substantial prosperity for our beloved city.

Hon. Garrett Davis. A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune speaks in the following warm terms of admiration of the newly elected Senator from Kentucky: "It is a matter for profound gratulation that Garrett Davis came to the Senate as the latest exponent of the popular will in Kentucky. Mr. Davis, is one of those thorough-going and uncompromising Union men who care not what becomes of slavery, provided the rebellion be promptly put down. Green Adams, a well known member of the late House from Kentucky, and an intimate friend of Mr. Davis, affirms that this is his position. He is even more earnest in the patriotic work than Mr. Holt, and he was probably elected, instead of that eminent gentleman, for that reason. You will hear of no Crittenden resolutions, or other patch work, from him. He is a man of undoubted courage, and in his acts and speeches, neither timidity nor irresolution have any part. The Government will not have to stumble over, in the work of saving the country. His own shoulder will be at the wheel all the time. Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, is another gentleman from whom we may expect no strenuous opposition to the emancipation policy. I saw him yesterday at Mr. Chaney's church, listening to that fiery and anti-slavery sermon. Probably all that he heard did not meet his approval, but he admitted, in his intercourse with his fellow members, that he had no reasons for withholding assent. All his own energies were long ago consecrated by the rebels, and himself hunted like a wolf from his home."

Gen. James H. Lane. It is a notable fact, that the Senate of the United States, by a unanimous vote, confirmed the appointment of Gen. JIM LANE as a Brigadier General. This event took place while his able speech in reference to the conduct of the war was still ringing in the ears of the country. The New York Tribune says the confirmation was made with the distinct understanding that it should not operate until Gen. Lane should signify his acceptance. Gen. Lane keeps his seat all then, Mr. Stanton's claim under the Government's appointment falls to the ground. It is said that Gen. Lane has an overwhelming majority in both the House, and that the bill will be kept open for him during the campaign which he is determined to make. If the Administration will cooperate with him.

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PITTSBURGH YOUNG MEN'S CHURCH, will be held at the Rooms of the Association, corner of Fifth and Market streets, on FRIDAY MORNING, 15th, the 24th inst., at 7 1/2 o'clock. All those desiring to join the church constitutionally provided for the election of officers, it is important that their names should be presented.

PROFESSOR SERVICES BY BISHOP J. H. BROWN, at St. James' Church, corner Penn and Mechanic streets, on FRIDAY MORNING, 15th, the 24th inst., at 7 1/2 o'clock. Sermon to commence at 10 o'clock. In the afternoon he will preach at St. John's Church, Lawrenceville. Service to commence at 7 o'clock. In the evening the Bishop will preach in Trinity Church, 24th street, in behalf of the Ladies' Prayer Book Society. Service to commence at 7 o'clock.

THE FIRST CONGREGATION OF A. B. GRIFFITHS meets regularly at APOLLO HALL, Fourth street, between Market and Wood, preaching every LORD'S DAY, at 10 o'clock a. m. and 7 p. m. The public are respectfully invited to attend. The public are respectfully invited to attend.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE PITTSBURGH RAILROAD COMPANY, for the year ending on the 31st of December, 1861, will be held at the Office of the Company, on FRIDAY, the 27th day of December, at 10 o'clock a. m. To take into consideration the affairs of the Company.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS. Unequaled Display OF BOOKS AND FANCY ARTICLES, SUITABLE FOR Holiday Presents, Which for quality, style and cheapness are unequalled by ANY ESTABLISHMENT IN THE WEST. All New and Fresh from the East.

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DRY GOODS.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AT J. M. BURCHFIELD'S. GREAT INDUCEMENTS TO CASH BUYERS. DRESS GOODS IN GREAT VARIETY. SPECIAL HOLIDAY NOTICE. GREAT BARGAINS IN EMBROIDERIES AND LACE GOODS.

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DRY GOODS.

GREAT ATTRACTION AT CHAS. GIPNER'S. NO. 78 MARKET STREET. Having very recently returned from the East, I am now happy to inform my customers and the public generally that I am now prepared to offer them the Handsomest and Cheapest Stock of Goods IN THE CITY.

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