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MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 20, 1862

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16, 1862.

When I wrote you from Washington City, the indications of a reactionary policy on the part of the Administration were very strong, and especially the indication of the probability that Holt would go into the Cabinet. Since then, the prospects are much more cheering, and the fears I then expressed are, happily, not likely to be realized.

There can be no question of the fact, however, that the war upon Secretary Cameron became exceedingly bitter as soon as his report was published. The resolutions of the Kentucky Legislature, asking his removal on account of that report, struck the key note of the opposition to him, and the attacks of the Louisville *Journal*, backed up by the clamor of the border States, were but the open manifestations of the bitter war privately carried on against him. The office itself was a burden to him, as it must be to any man; and it was yielding to the pressure of the timid conservatives, whose fears were aroused by the bold stand he had taken upon the slavery question, he was not unmindful of the terrible load of labor and anxiety he would escape by resigning.

Knowing that Gen. Cameron's anti-slavery views were made the basis of the war upon him, it was but natural to expect that his successor had been chosen with reference to his adherence to other views. I am glad to learn however, by the tone of to-day's papers, that this expectation is not well founded.

In my former letter I expressed the fullest confidence in the sound judgment, clear head and statesman-like ability of Mr. Stanton, and that these would lead him, as soon as he comprehended the position thoroughly, to take the same ground as his predecessor on the slavery question. The intelligence to-day confirms me in this confidence. He has no embarrassing record to be afraid of; no former committals to embarrass him; and it is impossible for any man of sense, free from the prejudices begotten of a heated party contests, to look the slavery question in the eye without reaching, as Dickinson and Cochrane did before him, the conclusions set forth in Secretary Cameron's Report.

There is no solution of the difficulty as to what is to be done with the rebellion, short of emancipation. Slavery must go to the wall. The moment the government avows *that*, that moment the rebellion is practically over. We begin, from that moment, to see daylight, and the beginning of the end looms into view. The best statesmen of the country have arrived at this conclusion; both Houses of Congress have adopted it; the people at large concur in it; and hence the dread which spread through Washington, and which I expressed feebly in my last letter, when the fear became general that the government was showing its hand the other way. I confess to a very serious feeling of alarm, not for party reasons; but because the reactionary policy must inevitably bring with it the recognition and triumph of the Southern Confederacy. I am all the more rejoiced, therefore, that the fear has turned out an unfounded one. R.

LATEST FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1861.

THE NOMINATION OF MR. CAMERON TO RUSSIA.

The Executive session of the Senate lasted three hours to-day. The nomination of Mr. Cameron was resisted by an organization of all the elements of opposition. It is understood that Senators Bright, Bayard, Kennedy, Trumbull, Grimes, and Hale, spoke against the confirmation; and that Senators Sumner, Collamer, Wilmot, and other members of the Committee on Foreign Relations, and Senators Fessenden, Doolittle, and Cowan, advocated it earnestly. The answers to the charges brought against the ex-Secretary were triumphant, and the close of the debate left him stronger than he was when the cabal was formed against him.

FRAUD TO BE PUNISHABLE WITH DEATH.

The Committee on the conduct of the war have resolved to advise the immediate passage of a bill to punish with death any person who commits a fraud upon the Government, whereby a soldier is bodily injured, as for instance in the sale of unsound provisions. Also, to punish with imprisonment and confiscation of all property and Government dues all contractors who in any way defraud the Government in the quality of goods sold, or services pretended to be rendered to the Government.

SECRETARY WELLES.

The belief is spreading to-day that Secretary Welles will not leave the Cabinet. The Morgan matter is considered a sad indiscretion, but should not be permitted to set aside the merit and otherwise well administered Department. If Welles remains in, no further changes in the Cabinet are likely to occur.

INSPECTION OF VEHICLES.

There was an inspection yesterday at the West End of twenty-four wagons. Also of two new traveling carriages—the wagons and carriages each being drawn by a team of four horses, designed for the conveyance of the tents, baggage, etc., of Gen. McClellan and staff. The traveling carriages are fitted up for sleeping, eating and writing. The horses are among the finest in the service, and matched in color and size. They are all dark bays. The teamsters for the train have been selected with care. Each wagon has painted on the canvass cover: "Commander United States Army."

A CONTRACT TO BE ANNULLED.

It is understood that the contracts let out by Secretary Cameron, for over a million Springfield muskets, and over a quarter of a million rifles and carbines, will be ordered to be annulled by Congress. They will not be available in the present war, and as they are to cost an average of seven dollars each above manufacturer's prices, they involve a loss of nearly nine million dollars to the Treasury.

SECRETARY CAMERON'S REPLY.

Gen. Cameron, in replying to the resolution of the Senate calling for information relative to army contracts and payment of troops, says:

"I take occasion to state that I myself have not made a single contract for any purpose whatever, having always interpreted the laws of Congress as contemplating that the Heads of Bureaus, who are experienced and able officers of the regular army, shall make all contracts for supplies for the branches of the service under their charge respectively."

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING.

Senator Sherman, from the Commission appointed to examine and report as to compensation of all officers of the Government, reported an important bill, this morning in relation to the printing for the Government. This bill contemplates the following: That a daily paper be printed, under the superintendence of the public printer, to be entitled the *Congressional Record*, to contain the debates and proceedings of each House, in the form and style of the *Daily Globe*. The number of reporters of each have their compensation the mode of selection and duration in office to be fixed by each House respectively. The bill also provides that the engraving, lithographing and binding may be done under the same provisions. Mr. Sherman intends to urge immediate action on this bill, as by its adoption the Government will save nearly a million of dollars.

Secretary Welles' Response to the Naval Committee.

Secretary Welles has made a special report to the Naval Committee of the House of Representatives, in regard to the employment of George D. Morgan, his brother-in-law, of New York, to purchase vessels for the use of the Government, and the amount of compensation paid him. Secretary Welles promises his statement by showing the necessity the Department was under of making purchases of commercial vessels. The mercantile part of the transaction was placed in the hands of a mercantile agent, as the most proper person to make purchases, but the adaptation of those vessels to naval purposes was entrusted to a Board of Officers. The agency was confided to a single person to prevent competition to the Government's disadvantage. This person, it was stipulated, should devote his whole time, attention and ability to the work, that he should in no case make any charge against the Government for his service; that he should deal always directly and exclusively with the owners of the vessels purchased, thus permitting no brokerage fees, or agents' commissions, between himself and the owners; and that, finally, his own commission, payable always by the seller, should in no case exceed the regular mercantile percentage fixed by the Chamber of Commerce of New York, and established by the custom of merchants in that city as the rightful and legal rate of remuneration for such services rendered by any person acting between the sellers and purchasers of vessels.

Mr. Morgan was employed to negotiate and make purchases after the Naval Board had decided on the qualities of the vessel. His purchases were first restricted to New York, but subsequently included the ports of Connecticut. He was also employed to disembarrass and relieve the department from unfortunate arrangements made by a distinguished naval officer who was first authorized to procure vessels for the navy. He succeeded in saving to the Government, by his action in one transaction alone, one hundred and twenty-four thousand dollars. Of the compensation, the Secretary says:

Of course the more purchases that were made, the greater the aggregate of commissions, but the commissions were received by one or more agents. But the brokerage is an incident to the transactions, not the transactions themselves. Each case of purchase is independent of the other, and the question is, has the Government got a fair equivalent for the money in each instance? I am satisfied that such is the fact in every instance where Mr. Morgan has been permitted to exercise his own judgment—that all of his purchases have been judiciously and economically made that his compensation in no case has exceeded the rate established by the Chamber of Commerce—that it has been paid by the seller, constituting a part of the bargain in almost every case—that in many instances such arrangements are made with the seller that full brokerage was not paid—and finally that not a single dollar has ever been paid from the treasury to Mr. Morgan for his services—he having always given to the government the full value in ships of the money paid on his purchase.

I never entered into any arrangements with him to be my permanent purchasing agent, nor did I inform him of my purpose to employ him or any other person permanently in that capacity. On the contrary, I held myself perfectly free to employ any other person when in my judgment the public service might require me to do so. I imposed upon him, whenever employed, the conditions which he states. I paid him no other salary and no commissions, and I limited him to the rate of brokerage from sellers fixed by the Chamber of Commerce. Thus if required to report "the amount of compensation paid to him" by me from the treasury, I must answer "not a dollar;" but if required to report what amount of compensation he has received in the form of commissions from the sellers of ships purchased by him, I answer that I fully believe it to be as stated by him in the following letter, which I make a part of this my report to the Senate; it being, as I personally know, an authentic and correct statement of the facts in regard to "the employment of George D. Morgan, of New York, to purchase vessels," and also to the best of my knowledge and belief as to "the amount of compensation paid to him;" and upon this latter point, and upon any other point in this letter, requiring, in the judgment of the Senate, further elucidation, I concur in asking the fullest examination in the most solemn and stringent form."

It appears by the report that the Government paid $14,500 to one W. R. Harbuck for two old ships (the Roman and Wm. Badger) for which Harbuck only paid $6,500, while acting as the agent of the Government. Moreover and above this, Harbuck was pa