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AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 15.

Gen. Banks and the Contrabands.

A resolution of inquiry passed Congress some days ago, inquiring of Gen. Banks whether blacks were allowed to go in the government wagons on the retreat from Strasburg. He replies, saying, that no person, white or black, were allowed to occupy government wagons during that memorable march. He says:

If any instance occurred, it was, with one exception, not only without authority, but against orders, and has not yet come to my knowledge. Citizens, traders, refugees, and fugitives were protected in the occupancy of their own wagons, and allowed to move with the Government train in order, and no further.

The rear guard, infantry and artillery, halted in the rear of Martinsburg from 2 o'clock till evening. When at a considerable distance on our march, we overtook a small party on foot. My attention was attracted by a little girl, about three years of age, who was toddling over the stones by the wayside, and I asked her how far she had traveled. "From Winchester," she said.

We were then about twenty-seven miles on our march. I requested the cannoneers to give her lift, and the gallent men who had hung upon the rear of the column for its defense the greater part of the distance, answered with alacrity.

No successful efforts were made to ascertain her complexion, but it is not impossible that she belonged to the class referred to in the resolution, and that her little limbs had been strengthened by some vague dream of liberty, to be lost or wok in that hurried night march.

It is a pity, however, says the New York *Post*, that it did not ask, also, whether horses and wagons belonging to blacks were seized and used for the transport of government troops. Such, we are assured by an eye-witness, was the fact. At Winchester, where a number of the colored people own houses, lands and teams, a black man was in the act of loading up his family and a few household goods in his own wagon, when a quartermaster came along and seized it for the use of the United States. It was surrendered meekly and without a complaint.

We can answer for one escape by a government wagon which did not happen to fall under the eye of Gen. Banks. It was that of a black teamster to whom was entrusted a wagon load of stores, with four horses. He was in the midst of repeated charges of the rebel cavalry, but instead of following the examples of many a white teamster, cutting loose his best horse and galloping off with his hat in the wind like another John Gilpin, he hid in the near bushes or behind a tree, and returned to his trust when the raid was repulsed. In this way he was charged upon and driven off three times. Yet he delivered his four horses and wagon load of stores safely at Hagerstown, and thence made his way to Pennsylvania. His name is George Washington. He had been in the Government service for six weeks, and had not received a cent of wages. We venture to say that there is more of a man under his black skin than under the white epidermis of the member of Congress who moved the resolution of inquiry referred to.

Democracy in Ohio.

The Crawford County *Forum* says of the present Administration:

"It has put arms in the hands of outlaws, thieves, murderers, and traitors."

The late editor of the Circleville *Watchman* said of Gen. Butler,

"Why don't the men of New Orleans shoot the infamous wretch like they would a reptile or a dog?"

The Government stopped his paper.

The Ashland *Union* says:

"This is a damned Abolition war. We believe Abe Lincoln is as much of a traitor as Jeff. Davis."

This editor, whose name is Jacobs, lately got a flogging. It appears that he was belching forth some of his secession opinions in the presence of a lieutenant of one of our volunteer regiments. The officer listened patiently until J. J. J. was through, and then said "the Government paid him $120 a month for licking such miserable cusses;" and then turned in. When the lieutenant got through there was an editor sadly damaged.

These are a few specimens of Democratic utterances in Ohio. Some of the Democratic papers in this state are not much better, but they are more under cow. Ropes on the lamp posts had a very quieting effect upon them.

New Orleans.

There is the usual quiet in New Orleans. The papers are very restless under the censorship. The *Picayune* is publishing a biography of the apostle Peter, and gives articles on Xenophon. The real monarch of New Orleans just now is corn. The people are paying twenty-five cents for a loaf of very indifferent bread, and very scarce at that. The *Picayune* says:

While the country, nay, the whole world, abounds with flour, this hitherto great depot of that article is entirely bare of this essential of life, or, if there is any here at all, it is entirely monopolized by the United States soldiers and by one or two bakers, who have for sale a few forbidden-looking loaves, at fabulous prices. A very few citizens have a little flour remaining of the large stores laid up by them some time ago, but even this is in danger of souring.

Arrival of the Great Eastern.

The Great Eastern arrived off Flushing yesterday, having been successfully piloted through the Race and up Long Island Sound as far as Sands Point, by pilots specially sent to meet her. The pilots who guided her through Hell Gate were Zobles and Lockwood. She is the first ocean steamer that has made this trip.

The Great Eastern was boarded in the Sound by a small party from this city, consisting of R. F. Andrews, Surveyor of the Port; A. W. Palmer, private secretary to Mr. Barney, and others, who sailed out to meet the vessel in the Surveyor's new steamer (the G. W. Winants.) The trip on the huge vessel was delightful, and the Great Eastern did herself great credit in her new character as a "coaster." All along the route small sailboats, and even row-boats, put out from the Connecticut and Long Island shores to greet the ship with their cheers.

The Great Eastern entered the Sound about nine o'clock Friday morning, and, sailing under full headway, anchored inside of Throgg's Point about seven in the evening. No accident occurred on the passage, and the Sound is likely hereafter to become a favorite route for ocean steamers.—*N. Y. Evg. Post, of Saturday.*

ANOTHER IMPORTANT DEBATE.

Mr. Cowan Compared to Jeff. Davis.

On Friday, the debate in the Senate on the policy of employing colored soldiers, was continued. The Senate passed the clause to arm slaves, when Mr. Browning moved to amend, by saying that the wives and children of such soldiers should not be freed. This was voted down:

Mr. Browning, (Rep., Ill.) offered, as a further amendment, "that such mother, wife, or children shall not be freed unless they owe services or labor to the rebels."

Mr. Cowan, (Rep., Pa.) spoke in favor of the amendment. He said the country had prospered under the Constitution, and we are bound to observe it.

Mr. Howe, (Rep., Wis.) said there seemed to be some difficulty as to how we should support our generals. There are too many delays and controversies.

Mr. Cowan asked—Does not the Constitution exist? Are we not bound by it?

Mr. Howe—We are bound by it. Yes, we are bound by it, and bound to do battle for it, and not stand here higgling about the force we are to send into the field. I would bring all the force into the field I could, not caring what the color of it might be. Bring the negroes into the field in the name of God, if we cannot do it in the name of the Constitution.

Mr. Cowan responded, contending that delays were caused by Congress trying to bring in measures outside of the bill, and force the President to adopt measures which he had heretofore thrown aside.

Mr. King (Rep., N. Y.,) did not recognize the authority of the Senator from Pennsylvania to speak for the President. He (King) thought that when the President wished to express his opinion to Congress he would probably do so. Our wounded and sick men have been crying to us from the marshes of the South, and now there is a call for more of our young men to come forth from their Northern homes, while there are thousands of negroes at the South ready and willing to do the labor of our army, and save our brave men; and shall we refuse their service from mere quibbles and technical difficulties? He had not so much fear for the soldiers from the cannon ball and bayonet as he had from disease. He had no fear for the country if Congress would do its duty. If Congress will be recreant, then the people will come together and reinstitute the glorious institutions of the country. Our young men will come forth to defend the country, but he (King) would be ashamed to look them in the face, if we did not do all we could to preserve them from disease and death. Dark as were the clouds that had risen from this "Pestilential swamp" of Virginia, we should yet see a bright and glorious sunshine for the country.

Mr. Cowan continued the discussion at length.

Mr. Wilkinson, (Rep., Minn.) referred to the raising of negro regiments in Rhode Island, and to the fact that Washington did put such men into the ranks, and found no difficulties in the way. He objected to the young men of Minnesota being wasted and worn out by digging trenches and making roads while there were negroes plenty and ready to do that work.

Mr. Harlan (Rep., Iowa) thought that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Cowan) used very much the same arguments as had been used by Jeff. Davis. He (Cowan) had argued that if the majority of the people of a State chose, they could go out of the Union. He (Harlan) entirely disagreed with any such doctrine. No State had a right to destroy the Union. A citizen of one State, according to the Constitution, is entitled to the same rights and privileges of citizenship in every other State, and further, he (Harlan) did not believe the idea put forth by stump orators that eight or ten millions of Americans could not be overcome. History is full of denials of such assertions, in such examples as Potandt, Bunker Hill, Mexico, and even France. There can be no practical difficulty in twenty-four loyal States crushing out a rebellion in ten States. The rebellion has already been practically crushed out in Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Western Virginia, and the Mississippi river is open to its mouth, and many of the principal cities on the river are in our possession. The whole coast and most of the fortifications on the coast are already garrisoned by our forces, and the Rebel fleet is destroyed, so that there is hardly a sail left. If we have made such progress in the first year of the war, who can doubt the success next year? The practical power and strength of the nation has not been reduced one iota. Providence never inflicts on a people more than one plague at a time, and when we have war Providence will not inflict upon us pestilence and famine. He (Harlan) believed that Slavery was doomed by this war, and he believed that the Almighty permitted this war that it might develop this truth to the world. There were but two civilized nations on the globe that tolerated Slavery. In regard to the argument that States cannot die and cannot go out of the Union, he said that a State is a political organization as a Government worthy to exist as an independent Government. Does any such state of things exist in South Carolina? There is no Governor or Judges there that we can recognize; and he submitted that if South Carolina is really a State, then she is out of the Union; or else her form of government is such that it cannot be recognized by the United States Government. The existence of South Carolina as a State has been destroyed by the people of that State. In fact, the United States Government had treated the Southern States precisely as if they were Territories, by appointing Governors for them, and raising troops without any commission from them. Can anybody, then, doubt the authority of the President to call on all the loyal people in these Territories to come to the defense of the loyal Government, and aid in the suppression of the rebellion? In this way he believed a mighty nation would beset free, but this nation can attempt to thwart the will of the Almighty and have a divided nation, and thus leave it to some other nation to carry out the will of God. These colored people were not savages, notwithstanding the speeches of many gentlemen in Congress about the horrors of insurrection if they should be set free. In this District there had been no trouble with the negroes. They had gathered together in the churches and thanked God for the great boon of freedom. These colored people were not paupers, for while he had been in the Capital of the nation, he had never seen a negro beggar. If we should organize an army of these people, giving freedom to them, and their wives and their children, as the result of their success, no matter what may happen to other armies, they will never be put down. If this nation will not free these people, it will afford a suitable pretext for the intervention of foreign nations, who, in the name of humanity, will set free this oppressed race. He (Harlan) believed there was no real difficulty in freeing these people. The rebel Toombs, when a Senator here, had told him (Harlan) that there was no practical difficulty in the liberation of the slaves; that it was all a pretense to say so; that they who did so were demagogues, and that he (Toombs) defended slavery because he thought it to be right.

Mr. Hale (Rep., N. H.) said that Mr. Toombs had told him that anybody who said that white men could not work where negroes did, said what was untrue.

The High Price of Specie.

The Philadelphia *North American* thinks there is disloyalty at the bottom of the sudden rise of specie. It says:

There is, in fact, great reason to believe that a practical disloyalty gives point to this specie speculation. If the Confederacy has agents in New York, and a small secret service fund to operate with, they could not employ the money better. To carry half a million in specie for a month needs but three per cent. on this amount as capital, and this sum can be made in advance of the premium. Dexterous buying and selling can carry rates up first, and keep them up after they get there. Fools may be gulled into purchasing the most of the half million used for such a purpose at one or two per cent. commission from the highest rate yet reached, and the operator for the Confederacy makes political and pecuniary capital at the same time. Who will inquire into the secret springs of this sudden rise in specie prices, and report whether its origin is indirect disloyalty, or, in a criminal purpose, to speculate, which is next in guilt?

GOV. YATES TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

PATRIOTIC AND NOBLE LETTER.

Illinois in Earnest About the War.

SPRINGFIELD, July 11.—Gov. Yates has addressed the following urgent letter to the President of the United States:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
SPRINGFIELD, ILL., July 11.

President Lincoln, Washington, D. C.:

The crisis of the war and of our national existence is upon us. The time has come for the adoption of more decisive measures. Greater animus and earnestness must be infused into our military movements. Blows must be struck at the vital parts of the rebellion.

The Government should employ all available means compatible with the rules of warfare to subjugate traitors. Summon to the standard of the Republic all men willing to fight for the Union. Let loyalty, and that alone, be the dividing line between the nation and its foes. Generals should not be permitted to fritter away the services of our brave men in guarding the property of traitors, and in driving back into their hands loyal blacks, who offer us their labor and who seek shelter beneath the federal flag.

Shall we sit supinely by and see the war sweep off the youth and strength of the land, and refuse aid from that class of men who are at least worthy foes of traitors and the murderers of our government and of our children?

Our armies should be directed to forage and quarter on the enemy, and to cease paying traitors and their abettors exorbitant exactions for food needed by the sick or hungry soldier.

Mild and conciliatory means have been tried in vain to recall the rebels to their allegiance. The conservative policy has utterly failed to reduce them to obedience and restore the supremacy of the laws. They have by means of sweeping conscriptions, gathered in countless hordes, and threaten to beat back and overwhelm the armies of the Union. With blood and treason in their hearts, they flaunt the black flag of rebellion in the face of the government, and threaten to butcher our brave and loyal armies with foreign bayonets. They arm negroes and merciless savages in their behalf.

Mr. Lincoln, the crisis demands greater efforts and sterner measures. Proclaim anew the good old motto of the Republic, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable," and accept the services of *all loyal men*, and it will be in your power to stamp armies out of the earth—irresistible armies, that will bear our banners to certain victory.

Illinois, already alive with the beat of the drum, and resounding with the tread of new recruits, will respond to your call. Adopt this policy, and she will leap like a flaming giant into the fight. This policy for the conduct of the war will render foreign intervention impossible, and the arms of the Republic invincible. It will bring the conflict to a speedy close, and secure peace on a permanent basis.

RICHARD YATES,
Governor of Illinois.

General Mitchel.

There seems unhappily to be room for doubt that the course of this officer in North Alabama has been marked by conduct not only injurious to the government, but disgraceful to humanity. We are assured of this fact on authority we do not doubt, and cannot doubt. The fact is thoroughly attested. We believe it; and believing it, we proclaim it. We proclaim it with emphasis. Gen. Mitchel and a portion of his command have perpetrated in North Alabama deeds of cruelty and of guilt the bare narration of which makes the heart sick. The particulars in the case will be laid before the authorities at Washing in the course of a few days, when, we take it for granted, the honor of the nation and the welfare of the national cause will be promptly vindicated. The case will not brook delay. It cries out for investigation and determination. Let it be investigated and determined at once. We at present forbear to go into the heart-sickening particulars of the case, but, if necessary, we will not hestate to do so hereafter. Meanwhile, we invoke the authorities, as they value the national honor and cherish the national cause, to visit swift justice upon the epaulleted miscreant who has recklessly set both at defiance. Gen. Mitchel is now in Washington, and can answer the charges against him, if they are answerable, without delay. We hope, for the country's sake, there will be in the matter no delay, and no clemency. The matter justly admits of neither. Feeling deeply, we speak strongly, but not certainly without the keenest sorrow. Gen. Mitchel's villanous misconduct is a national calamity. It must pierce with sorrow the heart of every patriot as of every man.—*Louisville Journal.*

The Cincinnati *Gazette*, in response to the above, says:

The Louisville *Journal*, of yesterday, gives editorial prominence to the following extraordinary article, which will excite surprise and inquiry among the friends and acquaintances of Gen. Mitchel. There should be a strong cause to sustain such strong writing; and we suspect it will be found there is considerable exaggeration, at least, about this matter—that an enemy has had the ear of our cotemporary. We hope it may turn out so. We have been aware that General Mitchel had quarrelled with Gen. Buell—and we were also advised of the fact that he had grown exceedingly unpopular with most of the officers and soldiers of his division; but although our correspondent, who has been with that army for several months, wrote us privately of these matters, he did not give us the slightest intimation of the existence of such trouble as the *Journal* charges. A special messenger passed through here yesterday en route for Washington, we understand, bearing the charges against the General. It should be known that he has bitter enemies among the officers in Buell's army—enemies of long standing; and those who know anything of the character of military quarrels will see the propriety of a suspension of judgment on the part of the public until the matter is investigated.

Letter from "Occasional."

WASHINGTON, July 11, 1862.—Hon. Robert J. Walker, now in this city, will shortly publish the first of a series of letters, in which he will sustain at length the gradual emancipation policy of President Lincoln. I have not had an opportunity to read it, but a gentleman who has perused it informs me that it is a paper of commanding and exhaustive power. Mr. Walker is one of those philosophical statesmen who bring to the discussion of great questions large experience, patient research, and entire candor. He knows the Southern people and the institution of slavery as well as any man living. Although born in Pennsylvania, he was twelve years a Senator in Congress from the State of Mississippi, four years a member of the Cabinet of a Southern President, and Governor of Kansas during the most exciting period of the history of that Territory; and his testimony at this time, will, therefore, create a profound impression, and produce the most wholesome consequences. I am told that he will quote from some of his own writings and speeches to show that he has long foreseen the necessity of some such remedy as that suggested by the President. This document will be a most welcome addition to the war literature of the times.

Much interest is felt in regard to the coming State Convention of the loyal men of Pennsylvania on the 17th of July. In a conversation with Secretary Chase, last evening, I was gratified to know that he looked to that movement as one which, if properly and liberally counselled and controlled, will healthily affect the politics of the whole country. He is solicitous for such an organization as will invite into it every sound Douglas Democrat, and, from the frankness with which he spoke, and his willingness that his views should be made known, I have little doubt that he reflected the sentiments of the President and of his associates in the Cabinet.

Dictation to the Almighty.

[For the Gazette.]

EDITORS GAZETTE:—When Sennacharib came up against Jerusalem, and his armies compassed it about, good King Hezekiah took the proclamation of the ruthless invader, laid the writing before the Lord, and recounted all the deeds which the Assyrian had done to provoke the displeasure of Israel's Defender; that God who was regularly and solemnly invoked before the Jewish host ever offered battle; whose ark and tabernacle were carried continually before the armies of Israel in all their marches and campaigns, and in answer to his servant's prayer, that heathen host was annihilated in a single night.

Since the day when He overthrew Pharoah and his chariots in the Red Sea, there has been nothing revealed by inspiration to show that our God is no longer the God of Battles; and yet here we have it advanced that no prayers for one's country—no supplication for success to a righteous cause—no entreaties to the God of Gideon, Joshua and the youthful warrior David, to interfere and save the only government that ever was a friend to Religious Liberty and perfect Freedom of Conscience, should be offered, for that would be "dictating to the Almighty."

One of the Professors in our new bankrupt Theological Seminary—bankrupt, because a patriotic people have wisely discontinued their offerings to an institution where such doctrine is taught and negative Treason holds away—once asserted that so-called new