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AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 17.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, July 14, 1861.

CONGRESS.

The session has dragged its slow length along to near its end. It has been a great session, however, considering it in all its labors, and looking back upon the thorny and rugged path over which the rebellion has led it or driven it. The Tax bill is in itself alone, a herculean task—the condensed labor of years. It marks the new era in our national existence. We have danced many a year, along our course of national prosperity. Roy-wreathed has been the round of our gambols. The groans of God's poor have been unheard among our shouts of revelry. We have gilded their chains perhaps, and decked them with flowers. White bearded hypocrisy has quoted the case of Onesimus and sunk back in silken couches purchased with the toil of groaning bondmen; jubilant majorities have voted the great charter of our liberties a self-evident lie; Congresses have sat in wide-eyed delate upon the case of the irrepressible skeleton with its omnipotent sceptre; votes and speeches of the reputed wise and great have declared that two and one must be *four*, or at least ought to be, and then cannon have been brought to the front and the great discovery saluted and toasted and bespeached all over the land; party caucuses have been held and resolutions adopted and "grand rallies" made and the Honorable Member from Bunkum spoken in "his usual eloquent manner," and a thousand other things of the same sort been done, when, lo! it is all come to this!

TRUTH MIGHTY.

Build your party platforms, gentlemen! Dig up, if you will, and burn the bones of the prophets. Vote and cheer and caucus, and resolve that God's great truths are lies; that even the poorest of His poor may be trampled in the dust with impunity, but the *truth*, though, as now, through cannon, thunder, and strown fields of bones and bodies, and garments rolled in blood, *must* prevail. The dance of rosy joy being over, we now come, *all, all* come—to pay the piper. The tax bill is passed, and the paying era begins.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

This event is hoped by the members to be hidden in the coming: hours of rest next Wednesday. But there is a little whisper on the breeze that the President may even yet have something to propose which may require a week after that. Since his return from the army on the James river, he has been evidently deeply considering all matters. It is said that he has declared some further step in his scheme of emancipation as proposed in his 6th of March message. I think he has had, within a couple of days, another constitution, or something in that nature, with the border men.

It is said that he called them all together, and said in substance to them that the time for temporizing is past, and that having done so much for them, they must now come up to his support or suffer the consequences for which he would not be answerable. He then advised them to go home at the end of the session and take the field for emancipation. It is also said that on Saturday night the borderers held a caucus and could agree on nothing. For my-own part, as the President has made them one fair offer to buy if they would sell; as he indeed reiterated it when he reversed the order of Gen. Hunter, and has in various ways asked and almost coaxed for a bid, but receded from the slave drivers nothing but jeers and contumely, I trust he may now reconsider, close up the strong box, throw away the key, and declare the pay day for slaves over and the day of jubilee come. "To that complexion it must come at last." The boneless men in blue field, so that we cannot see in the signs of the times the incoming of the full day of liberty. God speed it!

But the *adjournment*! as it approaches, what of "Congressmen," so called, is still left with its pollutions upon the two Houses, to begins to get aboard its bad rum and uncover its latent malignity, and, throwing overboard for a time the little prudence and decency which policy demands it should ordinarily assume, strutt forth to curse and swagger and blustar and fight.

A SCENE IN THE HOUSE.

No word-painter could justly depict the scene that occurred in the House, on Saturday evening, under the direction of the stage directors aforesaid, to wit: Rum and Democracy. The facts appear to be these:—The House being in Committee of the Whole, there were a dozen or twenty members present, and Allen, of Ohio, was reading a speech which I think had been read in the House two or three times before during the Session. Voorhees,—twin of Vallandigham and Benedict Arnold, first got it up; Richardson subsequently used it; the New York *Herald* added "Bennett's foot notes," and Allen resuscitated it. It's a great thing. The subject has even attracted the attention of the "great Cow-ling," as one learned Senator is sometimes called. It is all about the "Administration keeping a nigger boarding house"—as Duff Green's Row is called by these men.

Well, as Allen was reading away at his thrice told tale, Mr. Blake, of Ohio, took occasion to controvert some statement in it, and in so doing, referred to something which Richardson, of Illinois, had said when he had read the speech before the House. Richardson was not in his place, but one of his colleagues hurried out and brought him up from a side room or from the catacombs of the Capitol. He lurched into the House, leered forward over a seat, and in a hurried and inarticulate jabber denounced what Blake had said when he (Richardson) was out, as "false," as "pretained lyes as false."

Blake responded in the most determined manner, when Richardson went lurching and wildly steering across the chamber towards his foe. The Sergeant-at-arms here interfered, and caught the maudlin member, but Blake beckoned him to come over, and Gen. Moorhead, whose broad shoulders and large frame are always seen in his place near Blake's, cried out, "let him come on; don't stop him; we'll take care of him over here."

While this was going on, Holman, of Ind., who had evidently been where Richardson was found, came in, and seeing Allen on the floor, with whom he had had some colloquy about the tax bill a few days ago, thought, or seemed to think, the same subject was up again, and so he broke in with a wild speech on this imaginary theme, astounding the whole House at the new apparition and promise of a double-headed fight. Meanwhile, poor Allen stood with his "little old speech" waiting the subsidence of the storm. At length somebody moved to adjourn, and that brother Allen be permitted to publish his speech. So if you will look carefully to it, the press will shortly give to the world this great effort, worthy the columns of the New York *Sunber*, and the renown of Jefferson Brick. So ended the scene, and half an hour afterwards I met Richardson leading a couple of his brother members and friends down the avenue, rosy, smiling and dirty as one could desire.

THE CONTRABANDS.

But there is one fact to which I would invite the attention of your readers. These pilfered secesh, such as Vallandigham, Powell and their compeers, dwell with seeming fast upon the vast sums of money which they allege is paid for the living of the contrabands in Duff Green's row. Now, I had it direct from Quartermaster General Meigs, yesterday, that the Government has not as many of them as it needs to perform the labor calling for hands *right here*. So far from these contrabands being an expense, they are found to be the most patient, steady and willing workers for the Government. Last week an order was sent to Fredericksburg for fifteen more of these despised black men, who are needed now. These fugitives save the Government hundreds and thousands of dollars daily, and there are no persons but sneaks who would attempt to make political capital out of such matters.

GENERALS.

There are here now, Major Generals Pope, Mitchell, Burnside and Wallace. What they are doing remains to be seen. Perhaps they are making and arranging some plan by which the army of the Potomac may be rescued from the position where new it can only defend itself. That army, under its present General, has never yet attacked an enemy, and probably never will. A demonstration from some other quarter than the Chickahominy, upon Richmond, might force the enemy to withdraw from beleaguering our decimated forces on the James river, and in that way the rebel capital be taken.

PESTERNEN'S SPEECH.

I was very glad to see the able and eloquent speech of that great man, in your columns. He is and deserves to be a power in the State. He is a truthful man. One sentence which struck me in his remarks was this: that it is unworthy of countenance—the idea that "it is necessary to conceal from the people the truth as to the progress of events or the policy of affairs." And this is so. Look at the effort now making to convince the people that the disastrous events of the battle week was a "strategic movement" directed by General McClellan. That is all a sham. It was a retreat, and one he was forced to make, and he made it with dreadful loss of men and material, which would have been greater but for the skill of such men as Keyes, Heintzelman, Sumner and others. Things by their right names! We have long enough been fed with shams, shows, and pretences. Messrs. Editors, *the times demand a General*. VISITOR.

GREAT WAR MEETING.

The Voice of New York.

UNION SQUARE OVERFLOWING.

THE ADDRESS AND RESOLUTIONS.

We hasten to lay before our readers the address and resolutions adopted unanimously by the great meeting held in New York city yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon. The meeting was immense; five stands were erected, presided over, severally, by Mayor OPDYKE, PELATIAH PERIT, HAMILTON FISH, FRANCIS LIEBER, and Major General JOHN C. FREMONT.

The address and resolutions ring out gloriously, breathing the glowing purity of American patriotism, and warm with the high resolve of invincible resolution.

ADDRESS

To the loyal citizens of New York, in mass meeting assembled, on Union Square, on the 15th day of July, 1862:

The war in which the United States are engaged is not a war of conquest but purely of defence. We are fighting for that which we received from our fathers; for the Union which was freely entered into by all the parties to it; for the Constitution, which is older than this generation, which was made, in part, by the rebel States, and which every rebel leader has oftentimes sworn to support. We did not realize till our forbearance was imputed to pusillanimity; we did not strike till we had been struck; and when we took up arms we sought only to retake that which had been taken from us by force or surrendered by an imbecile or traitorous President and Cabinet.

The rebellion had no cause or pretext which was even plausible. Misgovernment by the Federal power was not pretended, nor any just apprehension of misgovernment. For, though a President had been chosen whose opinions were hostile to the extension of slavery, the other departments of the government were so constituted that no legislation hostile to the South could have been perfected. The rebels revolted, therefore, against a government which themselves or their fathers had, of their free choice, created for them, whose powers they had generally wielded, and whose offices they had for the greater part filled.

What this rebellion was for is declared by the constitution which the rebels immediately adopted for themselves, and to which they invited the adhesion of the loyal States. That instrument may be regarded as their manifesto. It is for the most part a copy of the Constitution of the United States, with these two important additions—the perpetual servitude of the African race, and the inalienable right of each State to secede from the rest at will. Slavery and secession are the two corner stones of the rebel constitution, the difference between that and our own, and of course the only causes and objects of the rebellion.

Whoever, therefore, either in this country or in Europe, sympathises with the rebels, or shots them, must justify the taking up of slavery and the establishment of the perpetual right of slavery and the perpetual right of secession. The bare statement of the proposition, so far as slavery is concerned, would seem to be a sufficient argument. In this age of the world, under the influence of our Christian civilization, it seems incredible that any set of men should dare to proclaim perpetual human servitude as a fundamental article of their social compact, or that any other man should be found on the face of the world to justify or even to tolerate them. In respect to the assumed right of secession, the argument is short and conclusive. Our constitution established a government and not a league; that was its purpose; the aim of its founders to make it a government indissoluble and immortal, was as clearly expressed in the language of the instrument, and of contemporaneous writings, as it was impossible to express it.

The man must be ignorant of American history and law, who does not know that the idea of a league or partnership is wholly foreign to our constitutional system. The union between England and Scotland is as much a league or partnership as the union between New York and Virginia, and when Englishmen talk of the right of Virginia to self-government, let them ask themselves if they think Scotland has a right to secede from England at will.

So much for the legal right—now for the political necessity. The secession of Louisiana and Florida from Pennsylvania and Ohio can no more be admitted, considered as a question of policy alone, than could the secession of Wales from England, or Burgundy from France; nay, more, it would be possible for France to exist as a powerful empire, without a foot of the old domain of the Burgundian princes; and England might be powerful and respected, though the Welsh in their mountains still maintained their independence. But such is the shape of this continent, and the network of waters which flow through the delta of the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico, that one part of the great valley cannot secede from the other. Providence has written in eternal decree upon the rivers and mountains of our continent, that the northwestern and southwestern states shall be forever joined.

But if it were possible to be otherwise—if several independent communities, without any national tie, could exist side by side in the great basin of our continent—they would be rivals, and from rivals would become enemies, warring with each other, seeking foreign alliances, obstructing each other's prosperity, and assailing each other's power. The great experiment of Republican government would have failed; an experiment depending for its success upon the possibility of uniting the independent action of separate States in respect to the greater number of the functions of government with the action of a national government upon all matters of common concern. If, as we believe, the fate of Republican government in America is to determine whether a great country can be governed by any other than the monarchical form, with its concomitants of privileged classes and standing armaments; and, of course whether this country of ours is to continue to be the asylum for the poor and oppressed of all countries; there can be no greater question presented to us; none in which the millions of this continent and of Europe are more deeply concerned. If such a sacrifice were necessary, the thirty millions who now inhabit these states could do nothing so useful or sublime as to give themselves, and all that they have, that they might leave this broad land under one free, indissoluble, republican government, opening wide its arms to the people of all lands, and promising happy homes to hundreds of millions for scores of ages.

We are persuaded that there has never been a struggle between authority and rebellion whose issues involved more of good or ill to the human race. We are not fighting for ourselves alone, but for our fellow-men, and for the millions who are to come after us. These are scenes in the great war of opinion which began before the century opened, and which will be ended only when it shall be decided whether Government is for the few or the many.

We do not war with monarchical governments or monarchical principles. They may be the best for some countries. The republican form of government is the one we prefer for ourselves, and for that, in its purity and its strength, we are offering up our substance, and pouring out our blood like water. We are contending for that scheme of government for which Washington and the rest of the fathers took up arms; for the integrity of our country, for our national existence, for the Christian civilization of our land, for our commerce, our arts, our schools; for all those earthly things which we have been taught most to cherish and respect.

Such being the magnitude of the stake in this contest, can it be wondered at that we feel that all we have, and all that we can do, should be given to our country in this its great hour of trial. If there be a man amongst us who does not feel thus, he should leave us. We cannot endure the thought of a traitor in the midst of us. For ourselves, we are willing to make every sacrifice necessary to secure the triumph of the government. It can have all the resources of twenty millions of people. All we ask of it is, that it shall use them quickly, vigorously and wisely. Let us have no disunited councils, no uncertain policy, no insufficient armaments, no paltering with rebellion.

The crisis is most serious and imminent. The nation is not in a mood for trifling. It believes that the surest means of suppressing the rebellion are the best. It complains only of delays, vacillation and weakness. It wishes the strength of the nation to be collected, and when collected used, so that not a vestige of revolt remain. We know that we have the men and the means; we only demand of the government that it do what it is bound to do, use them with singleness of purpose, with well-considered plan, under the lead of the wisest counsel and the most skillful command.

This rebellion is a matter between ourselves and the rebels. No person other than an American has anything to do with it. If another intrudes into it, we must regard and treat him as an enemy. And if any foreign government, forgetting its own duties, attempts to interfere in our affairs, the attempt must be repelled, as we are sure it will be repelled with that firmness and spirit which become the American people and their representatives. If there be anything about which we are all agreed, it is the wisdom of our national policy, that we will not interfere in the affairs of other nations, nor allow their interference in ours. To the maintenance of this policy the nation is devoted, and the government can count on the unanimous support of our people.

Foramuch, then, as the actual rebellion and the possibility of foreign intervention make it necessary that the whole loyal people of this country should be banded together as one man, for the defence of all they hold most dear, we here pledge ourselves to each other, to Congress, and to the President, that, with all our resources, we will support the government in the prosecution of this war, with the utmost possible vigor, till the rebellion is utterly overcome, and its leaders brought to merited punishment.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, at a meeting of the citizens of New York, convened on the 20th of April, 1861, it was resolved to support the Government in the prosecution of the war then opened by the rebels, with all the means in our power; and whereas, nothing has since occurred to change our opinions, or our determination then expressed, but everything to confirm them; and whereas, after a series of successes to the federal arms, interrupted only by a few temporary reverses, the casualties of war have reduced the effective strength of the regiments in the field, so that recruits are needed to fill them up; and whereas, the occupation of the places repossessed by our army requires an additional force, and the President has called for three hundred thousand men, and for these reasons another meeting of the citizens of New York, called, and is now assembled, it is therefore

Resolved, That we reaffirm all the resolutions of the meeting of April, 1861, hereby declaring that every event that has since occurred has served to strengthen the convictions, then held, of the wickedness of this rebellion, and the duty of all loyal citizens to suppress it with the strong hand and at all hazards.

Resolved, That this war is waged on the part of the loyal for the overthrow only of the disloyal; that we seek not to enforce any claims or to establish any privileges beyond those given us by the Constitution of our fathers; and our only aim and purpose have been, and now are, to maintain the supremacy of that Constitution over every foot of soil where it ever bore sway, and not a line interpolated or a line erased.

Resolved, That we are for the union of the States, the integrity of this country, and the maintenance of this government, without any condition or qualification whatever; and we will stand by them and uphold them, under all circumstances, and at every necessary sacrifice of life or treasure.

Resolved, That while we recognize, and will zealously maintain the rights of each State under the Constitution, we abhor and repudiate the doctrine—fatal to national unity, and so prolific of treason in the army and navy, and among the people—that allegiance is due to the State and not to the United States; holding it as a cardinal maxim, that to the United States, as a collective government, is due the primary allegiance of all our people; and that any State or confederation of States which attempts to divert it, by force or otherwise, is guilty of the greatest of crimes against humanity and our national Union.

Resolved, That we urge upon the Government the exercise of its utmost skill and vigor, in the prosecution of this war, unity of design, comprehensiveness of plan, a uniform policy and the stringent use of all the means within its reach, consistent with the usages of civilized warfare.

Resolved, That we acknowledge but two divisions of the people of the United States in this crisis; those who are loyal to its constitution and every inch of its soil, and are ready to make every sacrifice for the integrity of the Union, and the maintenance of civil liberty within it, and those who openly or covertly endeavor to sever our country, or to yield to the insolent demands of its enemies; that we fraternize with the former, and detest the latter; and that, forgetting all former party names and distinctions, we call upon all patriotic citizens to rally for one undivided country, one flag, one destiny.

Resolved, That the government of the United States and its people, with an occasional exception among the reckless inhabitants where this rebellion was fostered, have wisely and studiously avoided all interference with the concerns of other nations, asking, and usually enjoying, a non-interference with their own, and that such is, and should continue to be, its policy; that the intimations of a contemplated departure from this sound rule of conduct on the part of some of the nations of Europe, by an intervention in our present struggle, is as unjust to them as it would be to us, and to the great principles for which we are contending; but we assure them, with a solemnity of conviction which admits of no distrust or fear, and from a knowledge of, and a firm reliance upon the spirit and fortitude of twenty millions of freemen, that any attempt thus to intervene will meet a resistance unparalleled in its force, unconquerable in its persistence, and fatal to those whom it is intended to aid; and that it will tend only to strengthen and elevate the republic.

Resolved, That the skill, bravery and endurance exhibited by our army and navy have elicited our admiration and gratitude; that we behold in these qualities the assurances of sure and speedy success to our arms, and of rout and discomfiture to the rebels; that we urge the government to aid and strengthen them by all the means in its power, and carefully to provide for sick, wounded and disabled soldiers and their families; to prosecute the war with increased vigor and energy, until the rebellion is utterly crushed, the integrity of the Union in all its borders restored, and every rebel reduced to submission, or driven from the land; and that to accomplish these ends we pledge to our rulers our faith, our fortunes and our lives.

Resolved, That we approve of the administration of the President of the United States, and of the measures recommended and sanctioned by him for the prosecution of the war, the suppression of the rebellion, and the welfare of the country; that we sanction as wise and expedient the call for three hundred thousand more troops, and earnestly exhort our countrymen to rally to the standard of the Union, and bear it aloft until it shall float in peace and security, and be everywhere respected and honored.

Resolved, That a general armament is required by every consideration of policy and safety, and the Government should lose no time in filling up our armies and putting the whole seacoast in a state of complete defence.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Common Council of the city of New York to offer a bounty of twenty-five dollars to every resident of the city who shall within thirty days enlist into any regiment now in the field.

Matters in the Valley--Mr. Stanton.

The following is an extract of a Washington letter to the N. Y. *World*:

So the question is settled. McClellan is to be reinforced, and the siege of Richmond is to continue. Rather, I should say, the assault upon Richmond will be essayed; for we shall hear little more of trenches and engineering, except, as at Harrison's Landing, for purposes of defense.

Meanwhile, what is the co-operating process that shall insure success? The old pernicious impotency of no-co-operation is forever done with. There is a strong probability that one leader, perhaps General Halleck, will be appointed to have command and supervision over all forces in Virginia, and will stay at Washington or some other central point of convergence. But government is sadly puzzled. It is not true that, as yet, any decided advance is making toward Richmond from this direction. Immediately after the great battles Gen. Pope was ordered, on impulse, to concentrate all the forces scattered between the Alleghanies and Fredericksburg, and march overland to attack the enemy's left flank or rear. Reflection showed that the enemy's position was really menacing Washington, and that dangerously. By great exertions 50,000 troops, perhaps, could be massed from the debris of McDowell's, Bank's, and Sigel's corps. But if these forces should push for Richmond, via Manassas or Warrenton, "Stonewall" Jackson could easily sweep down the Shenandoah Valley, cross the Potomac, and enter Maryland. If,