THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE
AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 25.

The President's War Bulletin.

The Executive Order, issued by the President on the 22d, in relation to seizing and using the property of rebels, and the employment of slaves, has created considerable attention, and has been received with a general feeling of depression and disappointment. The order in regard to slaves, reads:

That military and naval Commanders shall employ as laborers, within and from said [insurrectionary] States, so many persons of African descent as can be advantageously used for military or naval purposes, giving them reasonable wages for their labor.

That, as to both property and persons of African descent, accounts shall be kept sufficiently accurate and in detail to show quantities and amounts, and from whom both property and such persons shall have come, as a basis upon which compensation can be made in proper cases; and the several Departments of this Government shall attend to and perform their appropriate parts toward the execution of these orders.

So far as taking property is concerned, this is all very well, but there is a certain vagueness concerning the employment of slaves, a want of directness and decision, which has led to a difference of opinion as to what the order means, and has destroyed mainly the benefit to be derived from it. It is calculated to irritate the slave owners without propitiating the slaves. We think that the order can be interpreted to mean that slaves so employed shall be free, as the confiscation law declares they shall be, but there ought to have been no doubt on the question. It ought to have been set forth as clear as the noon day. The press is already divided as to its meaning, when the Order, if it had been issued in the spirit of the law, would have met with general acclaim.

The New York *World* understands the Order to free all slaves who come into our lines and are employed. The *Times* and *Herald* both understand the Order to mean that slaves are to be used *only* in labor, and that they are not to be armed, and they say nothing about emancipation. The New York *Tribune* is greatly grieved, and gives expression to its views as follows:

A WET BLANKET.—We print this morning a "War Bulletin" from headquarters, whereby the Union Commanders in the unequivocally rebel States (not including Tennessee, nor, of course, Kentucky, Missouri, &c.,) are directed to make free with property needed by their armies, and to employ "persons of African descent," when required as laborers, &c. Those laborers are to be paid, but not a word is said as to their being freed. On the contrary, the natural inference from the terms of this order would be that they are to be finally returned to their former owners, no matter though these be the most malignant traitors.

If this is all that is to be done by the Government in obedience to the Confiscation-Emancipation Act, then the Union cause will have been fatally wounded in the house of its friends. No equivocating, higgling, hair-splitting, hang-back policy will now save it. Unless the slaves are given to understand—and that speedily—that the Union wants their services enough to give them Liberty therefor, then the Rebellion can never be put down. This country is very strong; but it is not strong enough to subdue eight millions of white rebels in perfect subjection to a relentless Military Despotism, while we unite with it in keeping four millions of black slaves at work in the fields, the arsenals, the trenches of those rebels.

We speak plainly, for in this crisis it were treason to be silent or ambiguous. Unless the slaves are afforded ample and palpable inducements for quitting the service of the rebels and embarking in that of the Union, the great mass of them will continue to serve their masters while the latter destroy the nation. And this Order *does not* supply the slaves generally of rebels with an adequate reason for braving peril, privation, and death, by a speedy flight from the house of bondage to the sheltering folds of the Flag of the Free.

Of course, we do not know that the President will stop here. We trust he will not. Yet the appearance of this Order would seem to indicate that nothing further is contemplated. If that be the fact, we sadly feel that the nation is undone.

But no—the Government *cannot* stop here. Even if its present purpose were to go no further, the resistless march of events will compel it to revise that purpose. Let there be no murmuring, then, no despondency, no faltering, but let every effort be made, every energy exerted, to push on the work of recruiting, and thus insure the triumph of the armies of the Union. Each of us has his own duty to perform—let him thoroughly do it, so that, whoever may falter, or whatever may be the result, he may rest in the proud consciousness that he has done his best to serve and save his imperiled country.

We cannot believe that the President designs that any slaves employed to help to overthrow this rebellion, will again be returned to slavery; and we think the Order also permits, by a just construction, the arming of slaves as soldiers. Much will depend upon the disposition of the Generals who carry out these Orders, and there is where the evil of their indefiniteness lies. What we want is a uniform policy and Orders so clear and so stringent that they cannot be avoided. These Orders, under the interpretation of a pro-slavery General, will prove a dead letter, and the will of Congress will be thwarted. We hope the President may see proper soon to speak, in the spirit of the late laws, with an unmistakable voice, so that every General will be compelled to obey or resign.

The National Tax Law.

The New York *Tribune's* special Washington correspondent says:

By a joint resolution passed toward the close of the session, the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to postpone the time at which the Tax law was to go into operation, if in his judgment such postponement were necessary to enable him to carry it out successfully.

The Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue soon discovered that it was altogether impossible to get ready by the 1st of August, the day fixed by the law, since an immense number of blanks have to be prepared, and a large number of officers to be selected, to say nothing of the seventy-three stamps which the law requires. It is not definitely determined how long a postponement will be required, but it is certain that the law will not be put into operation until the 1st of September.

No appointments of Collectors or Assessors have yet been made, nor have the limits of the districts been settled. The probabilities are, however, that they will in most cases answer to the Representative Districts under the new apportionment.

The office of Commissioner Boutwell is for the present in the basement of the Treasury building. He will probably soon be provided with better quarters.

An English Opinion on American Affairs.

LONDON, July 5, 1862.

"What are the real sentiments of the English *people* as to our affairs?" This was a question which, previous to leaving America, I had frequently heard asked, and to which very different and contradictory answers were given.

It was admitted on all hands that, under whatever pretence of neutrality disguised, the Government and aristocracy were decidedly hostile in their feelings to the national cause; but by many it was contended that the great majority of the British nation—its bone and sinew, its working, mercantile, and even educated and wealthy classes under the nobility, and especially the *religious* portion of the community—were our warm and decided friends. I had seen this latter statement reiterated time and again by the foreign correspondents of many of our most influential journals, and especially those of the religious press.

When I arrived in England, now several months, I determined to keep the object of discovering the real sentiments and feelings of its people on this subject steadily in view, and employ every means in my power for the accomplishment of that purpose. Since then I have mixed freely with all the different classes of society to which I could obtain access—workingmen, traders, mechanics, ministers, physicians, barristers, artists, naval and military officers, &c., &c., in steamboats, railroad cars, hotels, private residences, shops, warehouses, offices, and places of public resort. In order to draw them out, I have introduced the subject wherever propriety would admit, and expressed my own views without reserve, as well as endeavored by statement, inquiry, and discussion, to elicit theirs. If there were any great differences of opinion, I might still be in doubt, and express my convictions with reserve and hesitancy. But, as far as I can discover, no such difference exist. That there are exceptions, and that in some places they may be numerous, is not disputed, but the general statement now about to be made may, I think, be relied upon with the utmost certainty.

The sympathies of the English people are with the so-called Southern Confederacy. They cordially desire its ultimate triumph, and firmly believe in it. Ten out of every twelve with whom I have conversed have either openly avowed or strongly indicated such sympathy, and uttered such opinion. Many of these declared that, during the earlier stages of the conflict, they were strongly with the North, but their feelings and views had undergone a complete change, and this was the case with a large number of their acquaintances and friends. I have heard this from anti-slavery men formerly of the most decided type, from ministers of the Gospel, and even from members of the Society of Friends, whose testimony heretofore has been so consistently borne against war and slavery. I have confessed that it was a mystery which I could not understand as to the reasons of their Southern proclivities. In reply various grounds were assigned at different times, and by different persons. That the South was the weaker was, by some, considered sufficient reason. It was natural that their sympathies should be aroused in behalf of the weaker against the stronger, and, indeed, it was unavoidable. Yet, with a strange inconsistency, it was by no means admitted that the South had proved inferior in skill or strength, and it was confidently asserted that it was impossible to subdue her. Indeed, I have heard it broadly affirmed by those who ought to have known better, that in every conflict where the conditions were anything like equal, the Southern armies had proved victorious.

Again: the English people cannot be made to believe that the slavery question has anything to do with this contest. They assert that it is altogether a question of tariff and territorial supremacy. Many, in conversation with me, have gone so far as to say that they believe slavery would be sooner abolished in a recognized Southern Confederacy than if this war should end in a reconstruction of the Union. When pointed to the acts of the present Administration accomplishing its immediate curtailment, and looking to its ultimate destruction, they reply that this course has unwillingly been forced upon it, and is only intended as a bid for the sympathy and co-operation of foreign nations. When the declarations of the Southern leaders, strongly endorsing the system of slavery and making it the acknowledged corner-stone of their political fabric, are repeated in their hearing, they doubt or deny them altogether, or say that they are merely the expression of individual sentiment, and are not to be taken as intimating the animus of their government. It is, indeed, singular how incredulity, and ingenuity in distorting every occurrence to their favor and our detriment, prevail.

There are some who come out at once without concealment or circumlocution, and acknowledge that they would like to see the United States humbled and curtailed in her power and resources, as she has always been arrogant and unjust towards England, and sympathized with her enemies in the Crimean war and Canadian insurrection.

It ought also to be distinctly said that though there is great suffering in many parts of England, owing to the state of things in America, and a general desire for the success of the Southern arms, there is equally as strong a desire and determination on the part of both Government and people to avoid all intervention, either peaceable or warlike. It is thought that intervention would lead to war, and that would be very generally deprecated. As a general thing, though confident of their own military strength and skill, I do not think there is any disposition to underrate ours, or hold us as an enemy to be despised, in case we should unfortunately become one. It is true that, at a table d'hote, I heard an Englishman tell another that though we had an army of seven hundred thousand, and they but two hundred thousand, one British soldier was a match any day for five of ours, and one hundred thousand of them could easily subdue us, and make us cry upon our knees for peace. But this person was, no doubt, an ignorant braggadocia, such as are to be found in all lands, and by no means a fair representative of English sentiment and feeling.

To all the foregoing remarks, one striking exception must be made. *In a single instance only do I remember any person who, previous to these troubles, had spent any time in the United States as visitors, or traveled at all extensively through them, but who unreservedly and warmly espoused our side of the quarrel.* And these friends are among the best educated and most intelligent classes—physicians in large practice and Gospel ministers of great talents and usefulness.

I have thus endeavored briefly and succinctly to give a statement of English feelings and opinions in reference to American affairs. At first, such unanimity of sentiment against the just expectations which the former anti-slavery views of the British nation had raised were surprising and unaccountable. But I am not now so much inclined to wonder, when I find that, with very few and comparatively unimportant exceptions, the public press in this country has constantly and persistently misled the people; and that consequently, as to the *facts* of the case, even the best and most highly educated minds here are laboring under the grossest misapprehensions. Opinions formed under such circumstances could not possibly be correct.—*Correspondence of Philadelphia Press.*

From South Carolina.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., July 13, 1862.

All is quiet here, with the exception of an occasional demonstration on the part of our gunboats beyond Beaufort, just by way of showing the enemy that we are alive and vigilant. On the morning of the 10th they went up the river, partially circumnavigating Beaufort Island, and succeeded in burning several huts serving as barracks for the enemy.

Gen. Stevens' Brigade, comprising six regiments, with four others detached from Gen. Wright, are now on their way to Fortress Monroe.

The editorial suggestions of the New York *Times*, that Gen. Hunter might, could and should attack and capture Savannah, are absurd. He has enough troops to hold Hilton Head and Beaufort Islands against any force the enemy can bring against it, no more.

Edisto Island will be evacuated by Gen. Wright in a few days, just as soon as transports are obtainable. There are but four regiments here.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

To Rev. W. S. Plumer, D. D.

Mat. 12: 30. "He that is not with me is against me; he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

The Bible and universal experience asserts this great principle, that there is no neutrality in the important affairs of life. In this war, now existing between the South and the North, no man that is a citizen of this Government can be neutral either in action or desire. It is now and always has been, an effort upon the part of the North, to *preserve and defend the Constitution* which the South have been laboring to *throw off* or *destroy*. Hence this war—and the effort to take the seat of government at Washington. Can any man be neutral in this contest either in action or desire, and if he be a christian, in prayer! No! As well might you say that when day dawned the sun would be neither light nor darkness.

Dr. Plumer's remark, "I have long ago written, and I still maintain, that there is no provision in our form of government for secession, and that secession is revolution," throws obscurity on all that precedes. Does Dr. Plumer hold that this Southern *revolution* is justifiable?

Now, the simple questions that this community and Western Pennsylvania want, and have the right to expect, Dr. P., as a prominent public man, to answer, are as follows; and they are those on which every Christian man's loyalty depends:

1st. Do you believe this war on the part of the South is both wicked and unjustifiable?

2d. Are you willing, as every other *truly loyal minister*, to pray, for the success and triumph of the Northern Army in putting down this wicked and unjustifiable rebellion, in your church?

3d. Are you willing, as a law abiding citizen, as you claim to be, to pray for the success of the President (Lincoln) in carrying out the provisions of the Confiscation act, in their letter, as the means of putting down this nefarious rebellion?

4th. Do you believe slavery to be right and justifiable from the Bible?

Until these questions are *plainly and unequivocally* answered, this community and posterity will remain doubtful and unsatisfied as to Dr. Plumer's loyalty as well as of that of some that preceded him.

In behalf of many loyal men, I remain yours, WILLIAM GRAHAM.

July 22, 1862.

P. S. A refusal to answer these plain and simple questions will necessarily be construed into disloyalty, and the fault and guilt, if any there be, must rest upon Dr. Plumer himself. W. G.

EDITORS GAZETTE: The Democratic Committee of Correspondence held a convocation at "headquarters," corner of Third and Wood streets, on last Saturday. Your reporter was not present, but I am able to furnish you with the following "abstract" of the proceeding:

Tom. Donnelly, as usual, in the Chair, some dozen members sitting around the table, in a very solemn mood. Enter, James P. Barr, Democratic candidate for Surveyor General, smiling and looking pleasant. Barr introduced to the attention of the Committee a suspicious looking bottle, marked "Overholt's best, J. B." (understood to have meant the aforesaid candidate for Surveyor General.) Donnelly smiled, whereupon the Committee all smiled. On motion, the Committee smiled again. After some unimportant business, on motion of the Chair, the Committee smiled again, whereupon it was ascertained that the subject was exhausted—laid on the table.

At this stage of the proceedings, enter Large. Committee looked wise. Mr. Large, looking around savagely, addressed the Cheer. He desired to present the following resolution:

Resolved, That Jeems P. Barr, candidate of the Dimocracy of Pennsylvania for the important offis of Surveyor General, is, and the same is hereby requestcd to resign, and refuse the nomination for so important an office, which he, the said Jeems P. Barr, is unqualified for, by nature or by edication.

This resolution gave rise to an animated discussion. Dunn opposed it, earnestly, and at some length. It was urged upon the meeting in an animated speech by the mover. The Brigadier General, finally, appealed to the paternal instincts of filial affection, which had ever characterized the harmonious action of the Democracy, and urged the move a withdrawal of the discordant subject matter as aforesaid.

After further discussion, Barr retired for a few minutes, and returned, laying something on the table. The resolution was thereupon withdrawn, and the Committee again smiled.

After several lugubrious attempts, somewhat marred by previous efforts, the Democratic Central Committee adjourned before *dis*. When it next meets, I will try to keep your readers Post-ed STENCIL.

POSTAGE STAMPS are not authorized to be used as currency before the first of August. The great rush that has been made in Philadelphia, New York, and elsewhere, during the last few days, upon the post offices for stamps, has evidently been done under a popular misapprehension, as orders were received from Washington yesterday prohibiting the sale of stamps for any other than postal purposes until the time designated by the act of Congress, when the stamps to be used as currency will be issued by the Treasury, and not the Post Office Department. Persons, therefore, who have purchased stamps, with the hope of their being redeemed by the Government, will be mistaken, and, if mutilated by being pasted on cards, or otherwise, will probably be worthless. It seems to us that the recent bill passed by Congress does not promise the redemption of mutilated postage stamps that are circulated as a change medium. No panic need arise from this statement, however, as the stamps are good for postage when clean, and only those that have been pasted upon cards will be unredeemed, and these not wholly worthless, because they will have served for change until the new stamps have been issued by the Treasury Department. Even these are better by far than shinplasters. It would be well to restrict the circulation of postage stamps as much as possible until the new issue is made, and until this question is answered, "Are we to have a new bureau in the Treasury Department, entitled a Bureau of Stamp Currency?"—*Phila. Press.*

Gordonsville not Taken--Reported Disasters.

The following is a special dispatch from Washington, to the New York *Tribune*:

Other cavalry expeditions have not proved so successful as that of the Harris Light Cavalry which we chronicled yesterday. A scouting party of Indiana cavalry are reported at Fredericksburg to have fallen into an ambuscade, a few miles from that place, and only ten men out of seventy came back to camp. forty men of Gen. Hatch's command are reported to have been captured by the enemy, at Orange Court House, where they were foraging in a potato field.

The statement that Gen. Hatch had entered Gordonsville and Charlottsville was founded upon the supposition that he had obeyed his orders; a supposition entertained by his superiors both at Warrenton and here. There being no telegraphic communication beyond the Rapidan the facts could not be positively known until his return. He is much censured for disobedience of orders, and is here to give an account of his doings. The rebels in force now hold the railroad from Gordonsville to Staunton. The rebels at Warrenton prove to have been better informed than our Generals in command there.

MINISTER CAMERON has arrived at St. Petersburg, and has had an interview with the Emperor. According to strict etiquette audiences are not granted to ministers till some time after their arrival, but in this case it was almost immediately granted. The Czar showed a clear knowledge of American affairs, and expressed a strong desire for the permanence of the American government. The health of Gen. Cameron and family is excellent.

SWEITZER CHEESE.—3 casks Amer'n Sweitzer Cheese received this day and for sale by ROBT. DALZELL & CO.,
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Pennsylvania Railroad Co.'s Stock	4,000 00
Stock of Reliance Mutual Insurance Co	24,350 00
Stock of County Fire Insurance Co	1,050 00
Stock of Delaware M. S. Insurance Co	700 00
Commercial Bank do	5,135 81
Mechanics' Bank do	2,012 50
Union M. Insurance Co.'s Scrip	160 00
Bills Receivable, business paper	16,297 18
Book Accounts, accrued interest, etc	6,216 72
Cash on hand and in hands of agents	11,385 15
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Real Estate, (pres't val. $108,314 61) cost	102,965 00
Temporary Loans, on ample Collateral Securities	89,135 00
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Notes and Bills Receivable	1,621 00
Cash	27,919 00
	$2,206,051 63

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Stock Accounts	$ 63,000 00
Mortgages	2,160 00
Office Furniture	250 00
Open Accounts, &c.	7,509 50
Cash	18,351 59
Premium Notes	27,595 11
Notes and Bills Discounted	174,075 12
	$293,251 28

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