# THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE
## AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

ESTABLISHED IN 1786. PITTSBURGH, MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 4, 1862. VOLUME LXXV---NO. 221.



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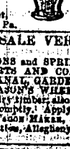
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MONDAY MORNING, AUG. 4.


### What a Shrewd Looker on in Washington Says.

WASHINGTON, July 28, 1862.

In nearly every sensation story there is somewhere a grain of truth someway involved in the mountain of falsehood and invention. So it was with the *Herald's* recent canard about the intended resignation of Secretary Seward. The story of a crisis in the Cabinet, of Mr. Seward's insisting on having the conciliatory policy adhered to, and of his threatening to resign if it were not, was, of course, ridiculous; but the grain of truth was, that the members of the Cabinet were not entirely harmonious in their views of the proper policy for the war.

It has been known here for a long time that two parties were gradually springing up in the Cabinet, the one favoring vigorous measures, and the other adhering to warfare by conciliation, as the best means of restoring "the Union as it was." In the former were numbered Chase, Stanton and Smith; in the latter, Seward, Blair and Bates; while Secretary Welles, though somewhat removed by the nature of his office, from discussions as to the policy that should govern our land forces, was understood also to unite with the former party in urging the most vigorous prosecution of the war on war principles.

No one needs to be told that the President's course has hitherto leaned largely to the policy of the conciliation party; and there are few who are not now satisfied that, but for that policy, the war might by this time be ended.

Mr. Seward has all the time had more influence over the President than any other member of his Cabinet—I might say, more than all the rest of them combined. Of nearly every "conservative" demonstration by the President—the modification of Fremont, the disapproval of Hunter, the persistent promotion of men like Buell, who are more famous for zeal in protecting rebel property than in moving against rebel armies, to the important commands, the threatened veto of the confiscation act, and the halting manner in which provision has been made by proclamation for carrying out its provisions—if might be said, "the hand of Jacob is in this thing." Secretary Seward, his mark, was visible in every one.

Not less strange than this change of the "irrepressible conflict" agitator to the conservative *role* is the change in Mr. Montgomery Blair. At the outset of the war none were so profuse in breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the rebels as he. So marked was his zeal in this regard that Mr. Russell described him as "a dour old Covenanter who conscientiously believed in hewing Agag to pieces before the Lord, and insisted that nothing should be done, but smite the Philistines, hip and thigh from the rising even to the setting of the sun." But Fremont and "Frank" quarreled at St. Louis, and from that time Mr. Blair has been gradually veering over to the conservative tack.

Meanwhile Mr. Caleb B. Smith, who had been regarded as one of the most "conservative" men of the Cabinet, came over to the vigorous policy party, believing very sensibly that the truest kindness to the Southern patient consisted in the promptest use of the severest remedies. All their antecedents, as well as all their honest earnestness of purpose, of course led Mr. Chase and Mr. Stanton to the same position, while good old Mr. Bates as naturally inclined to the other side.

It has long been hinted that Mr. Lincoln is not a pleasant man to hold a Cabinet position under. His "constitutional advisers," as a general thing chare very little of his confidence, and have small influence in shaping his policy. Every few days, the President is doing something to the last degree distasteful to at least some of them, but of which they have had no intimation till they find it in the public prints. Thus the appointment of Gen. Halleck to the chief command, (though I do not know that this would have been distasteful to any of them,) was absolutely not known to several members of the Cabinet till ten days after the order had been issued. The President, though always treating them with the utmost courtesy, seems to repose no confidence in them; and they are sometimes as uncertain what the Government will next be committed to as the merest speculating *quid nunc* of the Capital. Yet the members of a Cabinet are held responsible for the course of the Administration; and hence it is that Cabinet seats have for some time become so peculiarly uncomfortable. Mr. Stanton, since the late flood of senseless abuse has been poured out on him, has, of course, a personal triumph to accomplish by retaining his seat; but if Gov. Chase were assured that he could be elected to the Senate by the Legislature next winter, I do not believe he would hold his present position a week longer. Or, if Secretary Smith had a similar assurance, the days of his connection with the Administration would, I believe, be few indeed. As it is, however, rumors of resignations are of course baseless.

It should not be understood that these dissensions have risen to anything like an open rupture. The vigorous-policy men have simply been made to feel uncomfortable, while they very naturally dislike to be held responsible for actions which they disapprove, and concerning which they have never been consulted.

The President's open declaration that he had resolved on a change of policy—had decided that the time for throwing stones had come—inspired satisfaction and renewed confidence. Nothing has done more to replace this confidence with the old gloom than the *National Intelligencer's* authorative statement of Mr. Seward's position. This statement is taken as indicating that Seward's well known control over the President has not been broken, and that his influence against an execution of the Confiscation law, according to its spirit, and against the strong war measures which the crisis and the temper of the people demand, is likely to be potent.

The *Intelligencer*, it is well known, speaks always "by authority," when it refers to Mr. Seward. In fact, he and Thurlow Weed are understood to control it, and at any rate they have succeeded in making it the organ for the conservative half of the Administration. Thus the President's address to the Border State men, with their majority reply, was given to the *Intelligencer* exclusively, and even the Associated Press was compelled to wait till the *Intelligencer* published it; and then a copy of Mr. Seward's letter on the Trent affair, and other important Government documents, it has had in the same way, while it has the monopoly of the semi-official explanations for the same wing of the Administration.

The *Republican*, on the other hand is—as far as there is such a thing in the case—the organ of the Republican majority in Congress, and of the advocates of vigorous measures in the Cabinet. It does not often have occasion for authoritative explanations, but it is understood to be in sympathy with the leaders of the party that elected and sustains the President.

No popular favorite has had a suddener fall than McClellan. He held his power with the people long, but when they once lost confidence, his fall was even more rapid than his rise. You do not see all of the changed spirit in the newspapers—in fact I doubt whether in the West you can fully appreciate it yet. Nothing more significant of the extent to which the change has gone here could be given than the fact that the editor of the *Star*, of Washington, is now loud in his condemnation of McClellan's course. Not less significant is the remarkable article in the same strain that recently appeared in the New York *Times*. When the personal friendship between Raymond and McClellan is remembered, or the persistency with which the *Times* has hitherto adhered to McClellan through good and through evil report, this article becomes all the more remarkable as an exponent of the revulsion in popular feeling.

By the way, the stories of Gov. Raymond's leaving the *Times*, or intending to leave it, are certainly groundless. I do not know that if he has any intention whatever of giving up his connection with the *Times*, his partners in New York don't know it. The Governor himself has been out of town at a watering place for some time. AGATE.

### Affairs in New Orleans.

Advices from New Orleans up to the 25th have been received. A letter to the New York *Times* says:

There must be something done for this department. Gen. Butler has not, like Cortez, burnt his ships; but, while equaling the chivalry of the Spaniard, he has also been practical. He has not burnt his transports, but sent them home loaded with the sick and wounded of his division, and with the rich spoils of contraband goods, so that he has no *way of retreat*. If not at the "last ditch," we are at the last swamp. The enemy, meantime, is not idle. The disbanded soldiers of Beauregard's army are pouring in here every day, and they are as indifferent to taking the oath of allegiance as Gen. Butler seems to have them. From this material the "secesh" look for the power that is to drive us from the city. Why they desire to have New Orleans battered down is as difficult to explain as are all their other movements; but each would be the finale of a successful attack for the enemy. I should say, also, that there is an uneasy feeling among the slaves; they are undoubtedly becoming insubordinate, and I cannot think that another sixty days can pass away without some sort of demonstration. Certain it is "the parties of the third part" must advance or retreat—they represent a revolution, and cannot stand still.

A letter to the New York *Herald* contains the following extract:

The negro question is getting to be very pressing and important here. Just beyond Gen. Phelps' lines there are five or six hundred collected, and the owners are constantly applying to have them returned. Unless the Government have taken the oath of allegiance, Gen. Butler won't even listen to them. His course has been eminently conservative, and he has done his best to do justice to the proprietors, and at the same time to adhere to the laws of Congress; but it is impossible to satisfy both sides, and the government ought emphatically to establish some decided policy on this perplexing question. The General has decided to send a large number of the negroes within the federal lines down to the forts to work in the intrenchments, thus obliging them to earn their subsistence. The people here are very much exercised in the matter of the negroes, and are becoming a good deal alarmed. A well known citizen, who lives just above Carrollton, called on Gen. Butler a few days since, and begged that something might be done to secure his family from the dangers which he apprehended from the great number of blacks in his neighborhood. He said he was afraid of a night attack, and he was alarmed for the safety of his young lady daughters. The General assured him that there was no danger; and that, in case of any outrage being committed by the negroes, his bayonets should be as ready for them as for armed traitors. The old gentleman's fears were a good deal aroused, and undoubtedly exaggerated the danger to be apprehended, as we have force enough at Carrollton to control all the black population within fifty miles.

The darkeys, with their passion for imitation of anything like "pomp and circumstance," have formed themselves into a kind of battalion, and march to their work in a manner which they think an unquestionable improvement on Hardee. From their maneuvers the residents of Carrollton are fully convinced that they are being regularly drilled in battalion movements and the manual, and stories to that effect are freely circulated; but it is entirely a mistake, and arises from the fact that I have related above. One of the most important objects of Gov. Shepley's mission to Washington is to try and induce the government to declare some decisive line of conduct for the settlement of this subject.

### The Freed Men of South Carolina.

If it were not for the all-absorbing interest of the war, the problem which the black freed men of Port Royal are working out, and regarding which the official reports and newspaper correspondence keeps us well informed, would receive the attention it deserves as one of the most interesting and important in the whole range of ethnologic and social inquiry.

Probably the only men who will not be greatly surprised at the capacities for voluntary labor developed by the free blacks at Port Royal, and the respectable amount of mental and moral faculty they display, are the Southern slaveholders. *They* never believed the gammon they have contrived to circulate for the last quarter of a century, as to the brutishness, bestiality, incapacity and hopeless degradation of the hapless inheritors of the "curse of Canaan." But it has been a profitable gospel to preach, and hence they have done their best to make it an article of popular faith, and to give it the force of a scientific theory. And if there ever was a melancholy spectacle, it is that of conscience prostituted to the base uses to which it has been put by the Pro-Slavery school of *savans*.

Contemptible though the calumnies are which the Southern aristocrats and their ethnologic prophets have heaped on the black bondsmen, these calumnies have not failed largely to impregnate Northern opinion; and probably there never was any subject coming within the range of common experience on which current opinion was so largely made up of the barest fallacies and falsehoods as that respecting the nature and capacities of the negro race. And hence it is that the reports of the experiment at Port Royal will come to many with all the force of a new revelation. It will be something new to them to learn that the freed blacks—and even their white teachers—are surprised—are as industrious, and more so, and do as much work and more in the condition of freemen, and under a judicious system of day-wages, than they formerly did under the stimulus of the lash; that they take readily and shrewdly to trade; that they have the stuff in them of good soldiers; that they show no inconsiderable intellectual aptitudes; and that, though their manhood is blotted and blurred by lifelong bondage, they yet respond to the same motives and aspirations which affect other men.

These facts fully demonstrated, will be new only to the people of the North—they have always been perfectly well understood at the South. The experiment at Port Royal, which has developed them, is not only interesting in an abstract sense, but it has vast practical bearings, and the future of American Slavery is largely bound up with the trial now being made in the Sea Island region of the South Carolina coast.

We do not entertain any very ideal notions of the negro race; but we trust we are equally free from that low, gross materialism that would shut down a brazen firmament around any, the most degraded, that share our common humanity, or that can look without hope and sympathy to their hard struggles towards light and life.—*N. Y. Times.*

### The Louisville Journal on Wickliffe.

The *Journal*, of yesterday says:

We are not willing to give utterance to the thoughts and feelings which the remarks reported to have been made by the Hon. C. A. Wickliffe, yesterday, in the Democratic Convention at Indianapolis are calculated to excite, until we shall receive more authentic intelligence as to what he actually said. If he said that the people of the United States ought now to pause in this war whilst the rebels are raging for the destruction of our nationality; that we ought to stay our hands and let the rebels have their own way until we can satisfy ourselves that our views as to Slavery, &c., will be in no