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AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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COMMISSION, &c.

SOLAR OIL WORKS COMPANY, OF PENNSYLVANIA.—Office, St. Clair Street, near the Bridge. Buy and sell CARBON OILS on commission—cash advances. CRUDE OILS, of all descriptions, wanted. Address J. S. WEAVER, Jr., Secretary and Treasurer. my16:6m

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JOHN S. HOUSE. EDWARD HOUSE. JOHN I. HOUSE & CO., WHOLESALE GROCERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, corner of Smithfield and Water streets, Pittsburgh, Pa. ap9

EDGERTON R. STEWART, WHOLESALE GROCERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 107 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. oct6:dly

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MONDAY MORNING, NOV. 17.

Active Movements in the West.

We have every reason to be satisfied with the aspect of things in the West since the removal of Gen. Bragg. Nashville is once more available as a base of operations, and Tennessee will soon be liberated from rebel rule; while in Northern Mississippi the rebels are daily losing ground. The Cincinnati *Commercial* says that since the commencement of the war there has not been a period when such extensive military and naval movements and preparations for active service were being made as at this time. The naval preparations are doubtless mainly designed for operations on the Mississippi.

The Breaking up of Slavery.

A correspondent of the Missouri *Democrat*, writing from Lagrange, Tenn., says:

Almost the only persons we met upon the road who were going northward, were several groups of negroes. Each of these groups, of twenty or thirty persons, of all ages, was attended by two or three wagons filled with the most heterogeneous mass of wordly goods that it was ever my fortune to set eyes upon—ragged old quilts, worn out, tow-linen clothing, such as the slaves usually wear; bedding and cooking utensils; bundles of things that had been cast off by mistress and mistresses; the wagon-beds were full, and heaped up—pyramids of rags and wretchedness. Out of this heap there protruded the round, black heads of four or five pickaninnies; their bodies were buried in the mass of things in the wagon, wedged in so tight that they could not fall out, the adult negroes being on foot. They did not seem to have the slightest idea of what was their ultimate destination; they said they were "gwine up to Bolivar;" they had no idea of what they should do when they got there. I asked one party of them how it was that they came to start northward at all? They said there was a "skrimmudge" down at the "Widow Hoff's," who was their mistress, and that they got "hooked" and were told to go to Bolivar. They said they supposed they belonged to the "Northern men" now. I do not think they were fully aware that they were free; they seemed to have an idea that those by whom they were "hooked," as they called it, had acquired some right of property to them by virtue of the capture. Not many days, however, will elapse before they will find that they are free and dependent upon themselves.

Day before yesterday, when Gen. McPherson and staff came down the same road to this place, the cavalry men who were scouting each side of the road found the bodies of five negroes in the woods about a quarter of a mile from the road. No one could be found to the cause of their murder—for murder it must have been, as there were no perceptible signs of a fight between considerable numbers of men—and the matter yet remains a mystery. The matter was officially reported to General McPherson by the scouts, so there cannot be any humbug in it. The most probable solution is that they were shot by guerrillas, or by their masters, for attempting to escape.

That splendid country, which has so long lain under the withering curse of slavery, is undergoing a thorough social revolution; and the only way it can be saved from utter desolation and ruin is to re-construct its industrial system, changing it from compulsory to voluntary and compensated labor. For a while the old elements will be thrown into confusion; but they will soon find their places again; and few enterprises will pay better for some time to come than large, well-organized colonies, made up of northern people, people who shall go in, buy up the land, and set the blacks to work for wages in the cultivation of cotton.

GEN. GRANT, on Thursday, occupied Holly Springs, Miss., and the Union pickets advanced south of that place. At Lumkin's Mills, on the Tallahatchee river, four miles south of the Springs, the rebel pickets were driven in and one hundred prisoners captured, including several officers. When our latest news was dispatched a brisk skirmish was going on at the Mills, and the rebels were retiring. Our army will pursue briskly. This is the programme. The fact that the rebels retreated from Holly Springs without a battle may be regarded as evidence that their force is not as large as had been represented. Advices of the 9th stated that Price had been re-enforced by Pemberton, from the South, but even then they were not willing to make a stand.

Gen. Grant has a formidable and excellent army—large enough, undoubtedly, to drive the rebels. Whether he will get them "against the wall" is a question; but he will certainly sweep through the country, carrying out the plan of this particular campaign, which is an important one, and will bring forth fruits with which the country will be satisfied. There will be no unnecessary delay in the departments of Grant or Rosecrans, and from this time forward we may expect to hear of bold and vigorous movements and grand results. The men are in the field to do the work, and the work will be done. Never were our armies better prepared to strike decisive blows in the Southwest, and it can safely be said for the first time, that there are Generals with a will to use the ample means at their disposal, to crush the rebellion.

Good News from Gen. Kelley--He Attacks and Routs Imboden, and Scatters, Captures and Destroys his Command.

MOOREFIELD, Hardy Co., Va., November 10, 1862.

To Governor Pierpont:

I left New Creek on Saturday morning, the 8th inst., and after a continuous march of 24 hours, a distance of about 60 miles, reached Imboden's camp on the South Fork, 18 miles south of this place, at 6½ o'clock yesterday morning. We attacked him at once and routed him completely, killing and wounding many of the enemy; also capturing his camp, 50 prisoners, a quantity of arms, 350 fat hogs, a large number of horses, cattle, wagons, &c. The infantry were routed and entirely dispirited, fleeing for the mountains. Their cavalry were, unfortunately for us, away on an expedition, or our success would have been complete. We burned their camp and returned to this place this evening. I had with me a detachment of the 1st New York cavalry, under the command of Col. McReynolds, the Ringgold Cavalry, under the command of Capt. Keys, the Washington cavalry, commanded by Capt. Greenfield, Rourk's battery, and three companies of the 23d Illinois infantry, under the command of Major More. The infantry companies were carried in wagons. The New York troops cannot be surpassed for patient endurance on the march or for gallant bearing when in action. Our attack was so unexpected and impetuous that our loss is trifling, three or four men slightly, and one severely wounded; none killed.

B. F. KELLEY, Brigadier General.

ALL the new regiments in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota have been ordered to move, and some of them are already upon their way to the scene of active operations.

A Short Catechism on the Emancipation Question.

The elections over, we may possibly gain the attention of the thousands who were frightened by the clamor of "nigger invasion," while we state a few facts so plain that the wayfaring man though a fool need not err therein.

What do the negroes of the South run away from? Slavery.

What do they hope to gain by coming into Illinois? Freedom.

If then you give the negro freedom where he is and convince him that he will not again be reduced to slavery, he will have nothing to gain by coming into Illinois, will he? No!

What climate does the negro prefer? That parts of the world's surface does he naturally seek to find the conditions best adapted to his physical organisation? The tropics.

What productions are the negroes on this continent most skilled in cultivating? Cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco.

In what States are these staples principally raised? The seceding States of the South.

If, then, slavery were abolished all over the Union, and the negroes allowed to choose the places where they would live, where would they be likely to fix their homes? In the Gulf States.

Is it for the interest of the whole country that the production of cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco should be continued in the United States. It is.

Are there white laborers enough in the country to produce the requisite crops of cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco, beside carrying on the agricultural and manufacturing pursuits of the North? No.

Could the white laborers of the North endure the exposure and hardship of the rice swamps, cotton fields and cane brakes of the South? Probably not.

Could the white laborers of the North be induced to abandon their homes and their remunerative employment here to try the experiment? *Certainly not.*

Could they, in any event, produce those necessary staples as cheaply as the negroes, who are accustomed to the work? No.

Must the negroes live somewhere? Yes.

Will not the negroes continue to run away from the South, and "invade the North," so long as slavery continues? Yes.

Here is an argument which 99 Northern men in every 100 will pronounce unanswerable, in favor of emancipating the slaves and employing them *where they are*, in cultivating the cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco of the South. How else can you stop the "nigger invasion?" So long as slavery continues, so long will they leave hunger, thirst, whips, bloodhounds and fugitive slave laws to secure freedom. *When you bring freedom to their doors, they will not seek it elsewhere.—Chicago Tribune.*

Mr. Cobden on America.

The following passage from Mr. Cobden's late Manchester speech will be read with general interest:

"But that is not all. You get an article even more important than your cotton from America—your food. [Hear.] In the last session of Parliament an honorable member, himself an extensive miller and corn dealer, moved for a return of the quantity of grain and flour for human food imported into this country from the 1st of September of last year to the 1st of June in the present year. His object was to show what would have been the effect on the supplies of food brought to this kingdom if the talk of war in relation to the Trent affair had unhappily been realized. Well, his estimate was that the food imported from America between September of last year and June of this year was equal to the sustenance of between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 of people for a whole twelvemonth, and his remark to me was—I quote his own words—that if food had not been brought from America, all the money in Lombard street could not have purchased it elsewhere, because elsewhere it did not exist."

THE Boston *Herald* (Dem.) has a Washington letter which states that the freeing of the slaves in the District of Columbia "has made little or no change in their domestic condition. Most of them remain with their former masters and mistresses, while not a single one can be induced to leave the District. In other words, the freedmen generally work for their old masters and mistresses, having bargained to do so for stipulated wages, which are paid them; and this is all that emancipation amounts to. No one of them was killed, or wanted to kill anybody; they only wanted to be let alone, and this they are now receiving. As to coming North, we have not heard that one of them has done so. Not many years hence, the bitter hostility to emancipation, the foul abuse of its advocates, now current, will be looked back upon with amazement. Men who are now most violent anti-Abolitionists, will deny that they ever were such, and pretend that they were only opposed to slave insurrections, negro suffrage, or something else than freedom. The world *does* move!—*New York Tribune.*

PERHAPS no paper in the country had a more satisfactory and consolatory remark to make, than the New York *Herald* actually made, when it first recorded the removal of General McClellan. It said:

"In any event, we accept the suspension of General McClellan and the appointment of General Burnside to fill his place as an act which assures the active prosecution of the Virginia campaign to Richmond, before the rains, snows, frosts, thaws, and mud and water of a Virginia winter shall have again rendered this achievement impossible till the return of the spring.

Surely, such a remark, coming from such a quarter, was, to say the least, *remarkable.*

NEW GUN METAL.—The Paris *Cosmos* says: —The new cannon newly cast in Austria for the marine service, and from which so much is expected, are formed from a new alloy, called Aich metal from the name of the inventor. It is composed of copper, 600 parts; zinc, 332; iron, 18. Its tenacity is said to be excessive; it is easily forged and bored; when cold it may be bent considerably without breaking; its resistance is far greater than that of iron of the best quality.—*Scientific American.*

THE ARMAMENT OF THE MORTAR SCHOONERS.—The mortar schooners now at the Washington navy yard, formerly under command of Commodore D. D. Porter, are having their mortars removed. A one hundred pound Parrott gun is to be placed amidships; two thirty-four pounder rifled guns upon the sides, and a long range pivot gun upon the forecastle. The destination of these vessels has not yet been made public.

The following Major Generals are now without a command:

Geo. B. McClellan,	Irwin McDowell,
John C. Fremont,	Cassius M. Clay,
Geo. Cadwallader,	Ethan A. Hitchcock,
Edwin D. Morgan,	Fitz John Porter.
Don Carlos Buell,	

DAKO