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AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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COMMISSION, &c.

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DANIEL SHUPE. E. H. VOIGT.

L. H. VOIGT & CO., SUCCESSOR to L. G. Graff, PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, 347 Liberty street, Pittsburgh, Pa. au5

JOHN S. HOUSE. EDWARD HOUSE.

JOHN A. HOUSE & CO., WHOLESALE GROCERS and COMMISSION MERCHANTS, corner of Smithfield and Water streets, Pittsburgh, Pa. 127

EDGERTON & STEWART, WHOLESALE GROCERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 107 Wood street, Pittsburgh. jy3:dly

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THOMAS EWING, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW. Office, No. 160 Fourth street, corner of Cherry alley, Pittsburgh, Pa. au11:dly

C. B. M. SMITH, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW, has removed to KUHN'S LAW BUILDINGS, No. 12 Diamond street, next door to St. Peter's Church. my16:dly

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JAMES HOLMES & CO., PORK PACKERS and dealers in PROVISIONS, corner of Market and Front streets. jan5:dly

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NEW BOOKS

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Country Living and Country Thinking.
America before Europe.
New Gymnastics, for Men, Women and Children.
The Phantom Bouquet.
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Practical Mineralogy, Assaying and Mining. By Fred. Overman, Mining Engineer, 75 cents.
Physicians' Visiting Lists, for 1863.
" Pocket Day Book, 25.
Almanacs for 1863.
Diaries for 1863.

mh13 B. S. DAVIS, 93 Wood st.

NEW BOOKS.—MIRIAM.—Marion Harland's new novel; a Tale of Kentucky Life; $1.25.

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WOODSIDE & WALLACE,
305 Liberty street.

P. S. Country merchants, before purchasing elsewhere, would do well to call and examine our stock. se4

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Refiners and dealers in CARBON OIL, manufactured by any in the market.

Orders left at the office of Childs & Carson, under the St. Charles Hotel, at the office of Smith, Park & Co., or at their works in Lawrenceville, will be attended to.

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LEON ARNSTHAL, IMPORTER AND DEALER in the most select brands of GENUINE HAVANA CIGARS, and all kinds of SMOKING AND CHEWING TOBACCO, SNUFF, FANCY MEERSCHAUM PIPES, TUBES, &c., &c., at the cheapest variety, UNDER THE ST. CHARLES HOTEL, Pittsburgh, Pa. ☞The Trade supplied on liberal terms. my14:dly

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Office, No. 56 FEDERAL STREET,

(Opposite Colonnade Row, near Suspension Bridge,)

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Pittsburgh Gazette.

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SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 29.

The Military Position.

This is what has been most anxiously enquired about for several days past. When Gen. Sumner arrived at Falmouth; there was no rebel force on the opposite side of the Rappahannock to prevent his crossing. All the artillery which the rebels had to dispute the passage of the river, was a single battery in position, which it was but holiday sport for one of our batteries of long-rangers to silence. But when this was done, as Sumner's orders forbade him to pass over to the other side, it was no way surprising to find the rebels better prepared next morning with additional guns in better positions to dispute the passage, if it had been then attempted.

It was, however, no point of the plan to push forward a division, which could accomplish nothing by itself, and which being separated from the main body, and without supplies, could not even maintain a position against the enemy, already bringing up strong reinforcements by railway—in fact bringing up the main body of his army under General Lee, as fast as the trains could carry them from Hanover Junction and other points.

These counter movements of the rebels were inevitable, when the advance of our army could not at once cross the river and occupy the heights commanding the fords.

For their generals were not ignorant of the advantage of disputing the passage of such a river; and when our first movement was made before the railroad to Acquia Creek was finished, and our base of operations thus secured, all that has since occurred was simply inevitable.

The result may be no other than General Burnside desired. Our movement before the Aquia Creek Railroad was completed may have appeared to the rebel leaders a *faux pas* on our side, of which their railroads and the celerity and the promptness of their movements would enable them to take advantage. But the situation could not have been unforeseen on our side; and those who planned the change of base may have looked in more directions than one, and probably calculated pretty accurately on all that has come to pass on both sides.

We do not imagine that Gen. Burnside has waited till the greater part of the rebel army came up in his front without preparing something on the flank, or rear, sufficient to divert their attention at the proper moment. The Philadelphia *Press*, in referring to this point, says:

Gen. Franklin's grand division is now moving to a point on the Rappahannock west of Fredericksburg (we need not say where), and will cross that river, flanking the rebel position, and maintaining his own. To check this movement, Jackson and Hill have been withdrawn from the Valley of the Shenandoah, and probably ordered to move east on the south bank of the Rappahannock, to check and flank Franklin, while Lee falls upon Him with a large force and annihilates him.

The rebels are fully aware of all available movements of our army. Is it any wonder that the rebels are solicitous (not for their capital, for that is of little use to us or them,) but for the hazardous position now held by their army? That Burnside has assumed the responsible task of cribbing the Rappahannock cannot now be doubted, and if he can force the enemy to concentrate and give him heavy battle, at or near Fredericksburg, so much the better. It is a delicate operation that is entrusted to Burnside, and one which, if well executed, will prove a sorry feint for the rebels, and evince genuine military genius. Burnside has great advantages over the enemy in his present position, and he will certainly make use of them promptly as he has done heretofore.

Important Movements in Louisiana.

We have recently published pretty full details of the important and highly successful operations of Gen. Weitzel, on the west side of the Mississippi, opposite New Orleans, in what is known as the Lafourche district, which comprises all that part of the State of Louisiana lying west of the Mississippi. The property in that entire district, except the parishes of Plaquemine and Jefferson, has been sequestered by order of General Butler, and all sales or transfers of it are forbidden. The following is the order:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 9, 1862.

GENERAL ORDER No. 91.—The Commanding General being informed, and believing, that the District west of the Mississippi river, lately taken possession of by the United States troops, is most largely occupied by persons disloyal to the United States, and whose property has become liable to confiscation under the acts of Congress and the Proclamation of the President, and that sales and transfers of said property are being made for the purpose of depriving the Government of the same, has determined, in order to secure the rights of all persons, as well as those of the Government, and for the purpose of enabling the crops now growing, to be taken care of and secured, and the unemployed laborers be set to work, and provision made for payment for such labor,

To order, as follows:

I. That all the property within the District to be known as the "District of Lafourche," be and is hereby sequestered, and all sales or transfers thereof are forbidden, and will be held invalid.

II. The District of Lafourche will comprise all the territory in the State of Louisiana lying West of the Mississippi river, except the Parishes of Plaquemine and Jefferson.

III. That

Major Joseph M. Bell, Provost Judge, President,

Lieut. Col. J. B. Kinsman, A. D. C.,

Capt. Fuller, (79th New York Volunteers,) Provost Marshal of the District,

be a Committee to take possession of the property in said District, to make an accurate inventory of the same, to gather up and collect all such personal property, and turn over to the proper officers, upon their receipts, such of said property as may be required for the use of the United States army; to collect together all the other personal property, and bring the same to New Orleans, and cause it to be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, and after deducting the necessary expenses of care, collection and transportation, to hold the proceeds thereof subject to the just claims of loyal citizens and those neutral foreigners who, in good faith, shall appear to be the owners of the same.

IV. Every loyal citizen or neutral foreigner who shall be found in actual possession and ownership of any property in said district not having acquired the same by any title since the 16th day of September last, may have his property returned or delivered to him without sale, upon establishing his condition to the judgment of the Commission.

V. All sales made by any person not a loyal citizen or foreign neutral, since the 18th day of September, shall be held void, and all sales whatever, made with the intent to deprive the Government of the rights of confiscation, will be held void, at what time soever made.

VI. The Commission is authorized to employ in working the plantation of any person who has remained quietly at his home, whether he be loyal or disloyal, the negroes who may be found in said District, or who have or may hereafter claim the protection of the United States, upon the terms set forth in a memorandum of a contract heretofore offered to the planters of the parishes of Plaquemines and St. Bernard, or white labor may be employed at the election of the Commission.

VII. The Commissioners will cause to be purchased such supplies as may be necessary, and convey them to such convenient depots as to supply the planters in the making of the crop; which supplies will be charged against the crop manufactured and shall constitute a lien thereon.

VIII. The Commissioners are authorized to work for the account of the United States such plantations as are deserted by their owners, or are held by disloyal owners, as may seem to them expedient, for the purpose of saving the crops.

IX. Any persons who have not been actually in arms against the United States since the occupation of New Orleans by its forces, and who shall remain peaceably upon their plantations, affording no aid or comfort to the enemies of the United States, and who shall return to their allegiance, and who shall, by all reasonable methods, aid the United States when called upon, may be empowered by the Commission to work their own plantations, to make their own crop, and to retain possession of their own property, except such as is necessary for the military uses of the United States. And to all such persons the Commission are authorized to furnish means of transportation for their crops and supplies, at just and equitable prices.

X. The Commissaries are empowered and authorized to hear, determine, and definitely report upon all questions of the loyalty or neutrality of the various claimants of property within said District; and, further, to report such persons as in their judgment ought to be recommended by the commanding General to the President for amnesty and pardon, so that they may have their property returned; to the end that all persons that are loyal may suffer as little injury as possible, and that all persons who have been heretofore disloyal may have an opportunity to prove their loyalty and to return to their allegiance, and to save their property from confiscation, if such shall be the determination of the Government of the United States.

By command of Maj. Gen. Butler.
Geo. C. Strong, A. A. G. and Chief of Staff.

INTEMPERANCE TO BE SUPPRESSED.

Gen. Butler having disposed of a matter that will possibly put some millions of dollars in the hands of honest loyal citizens, next turns his attention to the cause of intemperance, and at one magnificent blow strikes at the root, as follows:

OFFICE PROVOST-MARSHAL-GENERAL, LOUISIANA,
NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 6, 1862.

By direction of the Commanding General, notice is hereby given to all proprietors, within this Department, of distilleries and establishments where spirituous or intoxicating liquors are either manufactured or rectified, and breweries where strong beer is made, that they must cease manufacturing, and close their places of business on Saturday, 8th inst.

JONAS H. FRENCH,
Provost-Marshal-General Louisiana.

Having dealt with the cunning civilians, he next takes up the subject as it relates to his soldiers, and properly disposes of the matter has:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 11, 1862.

General Order No. 93.—I. Any commissioned officer who is found drinking intoxicating liquors in any public drinking place, or other public house, within this Department, will be recommended to the President for dismissal from the service.

II. All police officers are ordered to report, in writing, to these headquarters, all instances of the violation of this order which may come under their notice.

By command of Maj.-Gen. Butler.
R. S. Davis, Captain and A. A. A. G.

In another order Gen. Butler put a stop to the imprisonment of negroes on the presumption that they were runaway slaves. Here is the order:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, Nov. 1, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 58.—I. No person will be arrested as a slave, by any policeman or other person, and put in confinement for safe keeping, unless the person arresting knows that such person is owned by a loyal citizen of the United States.

II. The Inspector and Superintendent of Prisons is authorized to discharge from confinement all slaves not known to be the slaves of loyal owners.

By command of Major Gen. Butler.
Geo. C. Strong, A. A. General.

By an order issued by Gen. Shepley, Military Governor, household furniture to the value of three hundred dollars, is exempted from seizure under any process; and by another order by the same authority, Representatives in Congress are to be elected in the first and second districts, to serve in the present Congress.

REVEREND JOHNSON'S WORK.

Some months ago General Butler seized, among other seizures of the same kind, $405,000 in coin, claimed by French residents. The French Consul protested, and the case was laid before the President by the French Minister. The President sent the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Baltimore, to New Orleans, as a Commissioner to investigate the matter, and dispose of it according to the facts. Mr. Johnson went on, examined, and recommended that the money be paid back to the French Consul. It has now been fully proven that that money had been borrowed, prior to its seizure, for the use of the Confederate Government, and that after its restoration it was shipped to Havana by the Spanish war steamer *Blanco de Garay*, and paid for clothing for the rebel army. That was the result of Johnson's mission.

The American Question in Europe—The Circular Letter of the French Government in Favor of Mediation—Response of England and Russia.

HALIFAX, Nov. 26.—The steamer Africa arrived here to-day.

The following is the dispatch of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, addressed to the Ambassadors of France at London and St. Petersburg:

PARIS, Oct. 30.—Europe watches with painful interest the struggle which has been raging more than a year upon the American Continent. The hostilities have provoked sacrifices and efforts certainly of a nature to inspire the highest idea of the perseverance and energy of the two populations. But this spectacle, which does so much honor to their courage, is only given at the price of numberless calamities, and a prodigious effusion of blood. To these results of civil war, which, from the very first, assumed vast proportions, there is still to be added the apprehension of servile war, which would be the culminating point of so many irreparable disasters. The suffering of a nation toward which we have always professed a sincere friendship, would have sufficed to excite the sincere solicitude of the Emperor, even had we ourselves not suffered by the counter blow of these events.

Under the influences of intimate relations which extensive intercourse has multiplied between the various regions of the globe, Europe itself has suffered from the consequence of the crisis which has dried up one of the most fruitful sources of public wealth, and which has become, for the great centres of labor, a cause of most sad trial.

As you are aware, when the conflict commenced, we held it our duty to observe the most strict neutrality in concert with other maritime Powers, and the Washington Cabinet has repeatedly acknowledged the honorable manner with which we adhered to that line of conduct. The sentiments dictated to us have undergone no change but of a benevolent character. That neutrality, instead of imposing upon the Powers the attitude which might resemble indifference, ought rather to make them of service to the two parties by helping them out of a position which seems to have no issue. From the commencement of the war an armed force was sent on foot by the belligerents, which, since then, has almost constantly been kept up. After so much bloodshed they are now, in that respect, nearly in the same position. Nothing authorizing the presumption that more decisive military operations will shortly occur, according to the last news received in Europe. The two armies, on the contrary, were in a condition that would not allow either party to hope within a brief delay for any decided advantage to turn the balance and accelerate the conclusion of a peace.

All these circumstances, taken together, point to the opportunity of an armistice, to which, moreover, under the present circumstances, no strategical objection can be made. The favorable dispositions toward peace which are beginning to manifest themselves in the North, as well as the South, might, on the other hand, second steps that might be made to recommend the idea of a truce. The Emperor has, therefore, thought that the occasion has presented itself of offering to the belligerents the support of the good offices of the Maritime Powers; and His Majesty has charged me to make the proposition of this Government to Her Britannic Majesty, as well as to the Court of Russia. The three Cabinets would exert their influence at Washington, as well as with the Confederates, to obtain an armistice for six months, during which every act of war, direct or indirect, should provisionally cease on sea, as well as on land, and it might be, if necessary, ulteriorly prolonged.

The overtures, I need not say, Sir, would not imply, on our part, any judgment on the origin or issue of the struggle, nor any pressure upon the negotiations which might, it is to be hoped, ensue in favor of an armistice. Our task would consist solely in smoothing down obstacles, and in interfering only in a measure determined upon by the two parties. We should not, in fact, believe ourselves called upon to decide, but to prepare the supposed reconciliation between the belligerent parties. Would not, moreover, an agreement between the three Courts respond sufficiently to their intentions? Would it not give to their step the character of evident impartiality? Acting in concert, they would combine the conditions best suited to inspire confidence.

The Government of the Emperor, by the constant tradition of French policy toward the United States—England by the community of race—Russia, by the marks of friendship she has never ceased to show to the Washington Cabinet. Should the event not justify the hope of the three Powers, and should the ardor of the struggle overrule the wisdom of their counsels, this attempt would not be the less honorable for them. They would have fulfilled a duty of humanity, more especially indicated in a war which has excited passions which render all direct attempts at negotiation more difficult. It is the mission which international law assigns neutrals; at the same time that it prescribes to them a strict impartiality, and they could never make a nobler use of their influence than by endeavoring to put an end to a struggle which causes so much suffering and compromises such great interests throughout the whole world.

Finally, without immediate results, these overtures would not be entirely useless, for they might encourage public opinion to views of conciliation, and thus contribute to hasten the moment when the return of peace might become possible.

I request you, sir, in the name of His Majesty, to submit these considerations to Lord Russell, or to Prince Gortschakoff, begging him to state the views of the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, or the Court of Russia.

(Signed) Drouyn De L'Huys.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The English correspondent of the *Banner* gives an interesting account of the work accomplished by the distribution of the Scriptures and religious reading at the London Exhibition, from which it appears since the 9th of June, when the stand was opened, up to the close of the Exhibition, there have been distributed 3,000,000 of Scriptural cards and leaflets, and from 120,000 to 130,000 Testaments, Psalters, Gospels and Epistles. Thirteen men, several speaking the continental tongues, were employed. The front of the stand presented a wooden canopy, over which were written texts in English; then underneath were seven compartments corresponding to seven different languages, and from each of these the distribution took place. Not less than 2,000 Jews—very many of them foreigners—have either asked or received copies of the Scriptures in the Hebrew tongue. Direct conversions are known to have been thus accomplished, in connexion with other means, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. The expense of this great work of Scripture free distribution has all been defrayed by Christian merchants and others in London, at a cost of £8,000.

——Resolutions were adopted at a great meeting of the Ulster Protestants (Ireland) condemnatory of the amount of patronage bestowed by the British Government on Roman Catholics.

——*Zion's Herald* says in the New England Methodist Episcopal Conference the male portion of some whole churches have enlisted and gone to the war.

——The Illinois (American) Wesleyan Conference—the leaders of this denomination seceded from the M. E. Church—passed the following resolution:

——The official organ of the United Brethren Church claims that every minister of that denomination, without one exception, are true as steel to the Federal Government, and they are in a situation to try men's souls. From the same paper we learn the Rev. Mr. Sloane, the pioneer United Brethren missionary in California, has succeeded in organizing a conference of six annual conference ministers, and six fields of labor.

——The annual meeting of the American Reform Tract and Book Society took place in Cincinnati, Nov. 6th. The issues of the year, in Books, Tracts, and the Christian Press, amount to nearly 7,000,000 pages; of these a large amount have been donated to the army. Donations, $4,989 28; sales of Books and Tracts, $1,448 88.

——The clergymen of Canada, of different denominations, have combined in refusing to attend Sunday funerals, only in cases of absolute necessity. Various reasons are assigned for this step, prominent which is the interference with the means of grace and the violation of the sanctity of the Lord's Day.

——It is stated upon good authority, that while the German Confederation counts about twenty-three millions of Catholics, and only about eighteen millions of Protestants, the literature of the country is largely under the control of the Protestants. The number of periodicals edited by Protestants is at least ten times as large as that published by Catholics.

——According to the statistics presented at a recent meeting of the General Congregational Association of California, there has been an increase during the year of 33½ per cent in the number of churches; and that the membership had grown from 750 to 873.

Resolved, That while in the old pro-slavery churches the membership is now called upon to destroy itself, by Northern Methodists shooting Southern Methodists, Northern Presbyterians killing Southern Presbyterians; and Northern Baptists, Congregationalists, Campbellites, etc., are butchering their brethren of the South, we have reason to thank God that our Lots are all out of Sodom, and that no Wesleyan is called upon to shoot his Wesleyan brethren.

——The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society held a special meeting on the 16th ult., and granted 37,263 volumes, besides referring some applications, to auxilliary socities. In the month of September there were printed at the Bible House over 174,000 volumes, making 6,500 daily. A large portion of these books are distributed in the army, hospitals, etc.

——It is stated schools are to be opened in Milan (Italy) for the purpose of teaching on Sundays young women who are obliged to work during the week. The studies to be taken up are arithmetic, geography, history, reading, writing, and needlework. The item of religion is not mentioned.

——The Rev. Mr. Punchon, the distinguished Wesleyan preacher in London, has made an offer to the Conference to raise by his own exertion, within the next five years, the sum of £10,000, as a fund to promote the building of suitable chapels in watering places.

——The *Catholic*, of this city, contained an editorial some time since on "Catholic Miracles." The Pittsburgh *Christian Advocate* alludes to it in the following language:

It relates as sober history the existence of a tribunal at Rome, called the Sacred Congregation of Rites, whose province it is to determine the genuineness or spuriousness of current Catholic miracles. The numerous miracles are found to be fourfold more numerous than the genuine. Not one out of every five is admitted. No saint can be canonized without in some way being instrumental in working five miracles after death; and the Promoter of the Faith has as his sworn duty the obligation of opposing with all his might, *reasonably* and *unreasonably*, the case of canonization. After all this ecclesiastical machinery for the detection of imposture, the *Catholic* thinks that the miracles wrought by Catholics ought to pass muster anywhere.

——We are indebted to the *Presbyterian* for the position and employments of some of the Southern rebel Presbyterian ministers. Rev. Dr. Palmer, formerly of New Orleans, is in the Theological Seminary in Columbia, S. C.; Rev. Dr. Leyburn, is residing at Athens, Ga.; Rev. James McNeill, formerly one of the Secretaries of the American Bible Society, has entered the rebel army; and the Rev. Dr. Dabney, Professor in the Union Theological Seminary, is said to be acting as an aid to General "Stonewall" Jackson.

——From a letter in the *Lutheran Observer*, giving an account of the German Lutheran Synod of Iowa, we learn the Synod now numbers forty ministers, all from Germany, and the membership is increasing in numbers. The following are some of their church ordinances: Services shall be confined exclusively to the German language. Those who wish to become members must, according to his or her covenant made at baptism and confirmation, abstain from all worldly things, (Weltwesen) such as balls, dances, secret societies, &c. Each member is to attend to private confession, although each member has the liberty of attending private or public confession—preference being given to private confession. They are also millenarians. In Iowa they use pictures and crucifixes, and bur