THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE
AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

ESTABLISHED IN 1786. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 12, 1862. VOLUME LXXVI---NO. 24

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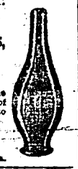
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Pittsburgh Gazette.

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FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 12.

The New Relation.

A letter published in the New York *Tribune* gives some very interesting facts in relation to the working of the great social revolution going on in the South, changing the relation between the whites and negroes. We make a few extracts:

The slaveholders of Arkansas and Tennessee are making a wise preparation for the emancipation of their slaves under the President's Proclamation. Before leaving Helena, a few weeks ago, I learned the fact that many of the slaveholders of that region had already entered into a contract with their slaves to remain on the plantations, *under wages*. They have come to the conclusion that the negroes are quite as necessary to them as they are to the negroes. As laborers they are essential to the South, and no one will be more opposed to their colonization in a foreign country, when the war is over, than their former masters.

The hatred of the negro at the South is far less prevalent than in the Northern States. Familiar association with them, their presence in every household, their fidelity, and the affectionate nature they possess, have created strong attachments between them and the superior race.

I have conversed with several slaveholders on this subject; and after stabbing away the cobwebs of prejudice that surround the subject, and getting at the root of the matter, they confess that this is the course likely to be taken, and that they are beginning to make preparations for it.

On the steamer from Memphis to Cairo I learned from a Mr. Aiken, a cotton planter from Tennessee, that the President's proclamation is expected to go into effect on the first of January, and that he and several of his neighbors had already arranged with their slaves, and agreed with them that they are to remain as hired servants and receive wages.

Mr. Aiken said to me: "Sir, we are attached to our slaves. Some of them have watched over us in our infancy; some of them have proved their fidelity to us under trying circumstances; as a whole, they are necessary to us as laborers; they are acquainted with the cultivation of cotton, our staple crop, and we prefer them to any new set of laborers that we are likely to get.

He continued: "We have talked the matter with our slaves, and said to them, 'on the 1st of January we expect you will all receive your freedom by the proclamation of the President, but we think you should not leave us. In the meantime, let no one run away. Stay at home, and continue at your work, and we will do justly by you. You shall have fair wages, and by remaining together you will be better off and far happier.'

Mr. Aiken said that his slaves had taken his advice, and not one of them could be enticed away from him. He gave an interesting account of the fidelity of one of his negro men, who had assisted him, with pistol in hand, to defend a wagon load of cotton they were taking to Memphis, from three cotton-burners whom they met on the way. "That negro," said he, "was brought up with me from a boy, and I would trust him with $50 in St. Louis or Chicago with an unmounted gold, and he would return safely to me."

The writer mentions a case of the capture of fifty slaves, the property of a widow lady, by a scouting party. The lady, who resided at Colombia, Tenn., went to the Union camp and persuaded nearly the whole party to return, promising that they should be free on the 1st of January, under the Proclamation; but she wished them to remain with her as hired servants.

Thus is this great and terrible question solving itself, gently, naturally, as the night changes to day and winter to summer. "Nature and Providence," says the writer from whom we quote, "are wiser than the politicians. The self-interest of mankind, and the instincts of the human breast, are more to be relied on than the political economists of the time. The emancipated blacks are to remain where they are, and all schemes of forcible colonization will come to naught. Upstart politicians say to me, 'What will you do with four millions of emancipated blacks?' I answer, 'What will the planters of the South do without them? Suppose we leave them just where they are, and they may be more useful to each other than they have been in times past.'"

From New Orleans.

Gen. Butler has ordered that hereafter no negro shall be confined in the police jail unless the jail fees are prepaid. This puts an end to an old and monstrous abuse. The General concludes the order with the following good bit. He says: "This is the course taken in all countries with debtors confined by creditors, and slaves have not such commercial value in New Orleans as to justify their being held and fed by the city, relying upon any supposed lien upon the slave." It is pretty clear the General don't think slaves are first-class collaterals just now.

We noticed some time since the sequestration of the immense property, by order 91, which declared all property in the district called Lafourche, and lying west of the Mississippi river, sequestered, and all sales and transfers illegal. Major Bell, Lieut. Colonel Kinsman and Capt Fuller were appointed a Commission to take possession of the same, with power to work plantations, &c. On the 25th Gen. Butler issued an order extending the provisions of Order No. 91 to all that part of the State of Louisiana east of the Mississippi river, except the parishes of Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines.

J. Wesley Greek and Jeff. Davis.

We have in our telegraphic columns a little sensation paragraph from Chicago, stating that somebody named J. Wesly Green had brought certain peace propositions from Jeff. Davis to President Lincoln, and that Green had made oath to the fact. Another dispatch from Washington pronounces the story "an imposition." It is probable that Green claimed acquaintance in this city, and gave references, for one of our most prominent citizens received a note from Chicago inquiring into his character. That gentleman has no knowledge whatever of such a person as J. Wesley Green.

THE MISSISSIPPI EXPEDITION.—A dispatch from Cairo, dated the 8th, to the Cincinnati *Gazette*, says:

Transportation and supplies are hurrying forward, and in January Vicksburg will be ours.

Gen. Eliot, with his rams, is here. General Blair is expected this week with a full command.

THE news from Nashville is very exciting, and the result of impending movements there will be awaited with profound solicitude.

GENERAL M'CLELLAN has purchased a house on Thirty-first street, near the Fifth Avenue, New York, and expects to make that city his permanent home.

Missouri.

Since the regular armies of the rebellion have been driven out of Missouri, the State militia have been left to act as a kind of police force, to suppress guerrilla bands and maintain the peace; but they are still under national authority. A St. Louis letter says:

A custom has prevailed among portions of the State militia of ignoring the freedom of slaves emancipated by military authority, and in many instances negroes thus freed have been kidnapped, carried into the interior and resold into slavery. The Provost Marshal General has drawn from Gen. Curtis a letter of instruction for his guidance in such cases. The letter is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, Dec. 5, 1862.

If negroes belong to Rebels they are free. If they run into our lines for safety, we are to protect them. It is competent for any officer to judge of the status of the negro, from available testimony. By testimony, I do not mean to exclude such testimony as we usually take to ascertain truth, and do not confine officers to what is technically called legal testimony; but the mere averment of a negro himself that he is the slave of a Rebel, should only be prima facie evidence of the fact, which may be traversed by other proof. Provost Marshal General and Provost Marshals of Districts may certify as to the status of the negro, and such certificate must be respected by all persons within my command.

S. R. CURTIS, Major-General.

We saw notices of this abuse some time since, and are glad that a stop has been put to it.

From Gen. Sigel's Army Corps.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1862.

The *Tribune's* special correspondent telegraphs as follows, dated Headquarters Sigel's Corps, Fairfax Court House, Va., December 9, 9 p. m.:

Trustworthy information has been received of the strength and position of the rebel forces in the Shenandoah Valley. The whole force is about 2,300, under command of Brig. Gen. Jones, and disposed as follows: The 7th Virginia Cavalry, numbering about 450, from Pawtown to Woodstock; the 6th Virginia Cavalry, 600 strong, are on duty from Woodstock to near McDowell; the 77th Virginia Cavalry, 250 men, are in the vicinity of Charlestown; the 12th Virginia Cavalry, and Bob White's guerrillas, in all 700, are in the vicinity of White Post; Wheat's Legion, otherwise known as the Louisiana Tigers Infantry, but now composed principally of Marylanders, are in the vicinity of Strasburg, with eight pieces of artillery, 6 and 12-pounder rifled guns.

As it is understood there are between 6,000 and 7,000 sick and wounded rebels in the towns from Woodstock to Staunton, this force was undoubtedly left in the rear to prevent any raids for the purpose of paroling them.

Scouts report nothing of note in front today. A rebel patrol was seen in Hopeville Gap. A refugee from Louisa county, who has been living in the woods for nearly a year to avoid being pressed into the service, came into our lines to-day and gladly took the oath. Two contrabands have arrived from Sperryville, but having been two weeks on the way their news has been anticipated.

Pestilence Added to Famine.

Fever is added to the famine in the Lancashire district. The London *Lancet*, a good medical authority, says:

The true spotted typhus, the formidable "famine fever," the dire pestilential companion of wide-spread and prolonged dearth—is slowly but most surely extending its ravages amongst the population of the town. Within the past fortnight the number of cases of malady has been doubled, and the history of the outbreak throughout, so far as we have as yet ascertained the particulars, is most significant of the future. In July, one or two instances of true typhus were recorded. In August, eight cases occurred. In September, upwards of forty were registered; in October, fifty-one. Now the number has reached (if not exceeded) one hundred and forty. It is evident from the figures that the activity of the disease is steadily becoming greater and its sphere of action wider; and sooner or later the time must come, if human help be powerless or too long delayed to stave off the disaster, when, from the sure results of inanition, the famine-stricken population will become as apt to receive and propagate the deadly infection as timber to receive and propagate flame.

This intelligence, vague reports of which have previously reached us, furnishes an additional stimulus for hastening the movement for the relief of these unhapy people. Good food and warm clothing, given early, will tend to check the spread of the fearful famine-pestilence.

Vallandigham and an Ugly Acquaintance.

The Bucyrus (Ohio) *Journal* has the following incident of Mr. Vallandigham's late visit to Mansfield, Ohio. After the speakers had concluded, three men entered an omnibus to ride to a railway station, and sat down. An unknown person was in the vehicle. One of them asked another, "Did you hear Vallandigham?" "No!" replied the other indignantly, "it would be more creditable to hear Jeff. Davis himself than that contemptible traitor Vallandigham." Here the stranger started up, and putting on a severe look and an extra amount of dignity, said fiercely, "I am Mr. Vallandigham!" "I don't make a bit of difference," firmly replied the gentleman, "I have nothing to take back." This completely cowed the butternut, and he remained entirely dumb during the remainder of the trip.

THE *Anglo African*, a New York paper, owned and edited by negroes, is angry with Rev. Henry Ward Beecher for some remarks held to imply a distinction to fraternise with negroes, and pitches into him thus:

"Yet there is some allowance to be made in the case of Mr. Beecher. He is a born rowdy; he is by nature a "subterranean" after the strictest sect of the Mike Walsh school; he is linked with the grovelling instincts of the Democracy by affinities which grace has not yet overcome. Hence, when a negro comes up before his excited imagination, he only sees something to butt against, as the maddened bull in the Spanish arena. These peculiarities speak out in his gait and manner in the street, where we never meet him without the mental exclamation (before we have recognised him,) "There comes a stupendous rowdy, who must have been on a "batter" last night."

AN AMUSING ERROR.—Some women in Lexington, Kentucky, rebel sympathizers, learning that several hundred rebel prisoners were to come through that place, repaired to the railroad station with a liberal supply of provisions for them. The train came in, and on it was also the same number of Union soldiers. The women mistook them for the rebels, and had distributed their "aid and comfort" before their error could be rectified.

MR. E. G. SQUIER writes to the New York *Tribune* saying that there is in New York a machine which can clear the flax fibre from the shoove and woody part, and leave it in a condition suited to the manufacture of paper. He affirms that the States of Illinois and Ohio raise and throw away enough of the flax fibre to make 14,000 tons of paper stock, an amount equal to two-thirds of the total amount of rags hitherto annually imported. Why, then, does not somebody set the machine to work?

GOOD FOR THE NEWSBOYS!—An advance in the price of papers has been made at Rochester, New York, under peculiar circumstances. The newsboys, on their own responsibility, raised the price of the city dailies from three to four cents a copy "on account of the hard times." The publishers protest against this as done without their sanction and without necessity. The papers are sold to the boys at the old rates.

THE Charlestown (Mass.) *Advertiser* states that a letter received in that city from an officer on board the gunboat Dawn, dated Vernon river, Ga., says that of two lots of shells received by them from the gunboat Massachusetts, not one of them would explode, "some person having put in wet putch between the powder. These shells were all shipped from the Brooklyn (N. Y.) navy yard.

Curious Incident in the War—An Infuriated Female Captures Ten Secessionists.

Capt. Boight, of Company H, 23d Kentucky regiment, a resident of Cincinnati