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AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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P. S. Country merchants, before purchasing elsewhere, would do well to call and examine our stock. ap17 WOODSIDE & WALLACE.

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This course has been rendered necessary since our present production is but FIVE THOUSAND DOZEN PER WEEK, while the demand is almost wholly for the Patent Oval.

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5 bbls. Quince;
40 new choice Hair Brooms;
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Just received and for sale by FRANK VAN GORDER, 114 Second street.

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Pittsburgh Gazette.

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THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 25.

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All subscriptions *strictly in advance*, and papers always stopped when the time expires.

Gen. Burnside's Report and Testimony.

The testimony given by Gen. Burnside before the Joint Committee of Congress on the Conduct of the War, which we give on our first page, will be read with great interest. Like his letter to Gen. Halleck, it is frank, clear, and magnanimous, exhibiting rare moral courage, a quality that rises higher than that which enables a man to face the cannon's mouth. He hoped to succeed, and put forth all his energies and skill to secure success, but he failed.

The vile attempt that was made, by a certain class of journals, for seditious and party purposes, to put the blame of that failure upon the Administration, by fabricating false hoods about orders from General Halleck or Secretary Stanton controlling General Burnside's movements, is now blown to the winds. But the authors of such are too inveterately mendacious, too malignant in their hate, too deep in their complicity and sympathy with rebel conspirators against the nation's life, to retract a single lie they have uttered.

So far from this, the local organ of this faction has, this morning, endeavored to cover its tracks by charging General Burnside with making a *false report to suit the convenience of* General Halleck and Secretary Stanton, *or rather, when its vile innuendoes are interpreted, of the President himself.*

We append the following excellent remarks made by the Philadelphia *Press* on General Burnside's Report, yesterday. They are equally applicable, to-day, when the fuller statement in his testimony before the War Committee is in our hands:

We print this morning one of the most remarkable and extraordinary documents that ever was written by an officer in command of an army. Gen. Burnside having been repulsed from Fredericksburg, found the country sad and anxious over his misfortune. He found a great and audacious party using his name for purposes of sedition by extolling his valor as a soldier and his strict adherence to the orders of a superior officer. He was honored for his obedience to a command which had cost us the lives of thousands, and in proportion as his centre was sustained bitter denunciations were heaped upon the Secretary of War and General Halleck. The Secretary was a blunderer, Marplot, a rash, heedless man. General Halleck was a lawyer who had never fought a battle—who had written some books whose ideas were stolen—who had ruined General McClellan because he was jealous of his talents and his fame. These two men had conspired to sacrifice the Union army. They had refused bridges and pontoons, and supplies, and railroads, and by reason of their great delay the great disaster fell upon our arms. Knowing how sensitive the soldier is to failure, and the temptation there existed for silence, we should not have been surprised if Gen. Burnside had held his peace. He was fast becoming a party idol—he was even named in connection with higher honors, and enemies of the country spoke approvingly of him. We say this course would not have surprised us, for we know that human nature is weak, and fame a cherished thing. General Burnside, however, has chosen no such seductive path. He rises above the hope that any such applause would give him, and assumes, from first to last, the responsibility for the defeat on the Rappahannock. "The sole responsibility of the fact is my own," he says. "I have based his judgment upon what appears to us to have been a just conclusion; he had ammunition, transportation, clothing, and food in abundance; he moved more rapidly than the Secretary of War or Gen. Halleck expected him to move; he did the best in his power with his gallant army; his valor and intrepidity certainly deserved success; but he failed." And for that failure he assumes the entire and full responsibility.

It is rarely that we see such magnanimity among men in illustrious stations. We have seen no such example of moral courage in the course of this war. General Burnside has shown it in the highest and most honorable degree. There is a manliness about his whole career, a frankness in his intercourse with his superiors, and a calm, self-reliance in his own powers, that make us draw near and cherish the man. It is not the first time that Gen. Burnside has done such a noble deed. While the opponents of General McClellan were charging him with a want of interest in the plans of his subordinates, and an ignorance of the details of the war, incompatible with his position as General-in-Chief, General Burnside took from his own brow the laurels of Roanoke, and placed them on the head of his censured commander. He told the country that success in North Carolina was merely obeying the wishes of a General-in-Chief. He tells the country that failure in Virginia was in taking a responsibility against the wishes of a General-in-Chief. In both cases we see an exhibition of moral courage which will endear Gen. Burnside to the hearts of his countrymen. We see more than this. We see that his mistake was an error of judgment, from which no man is free—a mistake similar to that of Napoleon when he crossed the Danube, and was beaten only to recross and win the magnificent victory of Wagram. Gen. Burnside has shown too often the genius of a great soldier for us to mistrust him now. We can believe him and trust him, and it is with pleasure that we hear it stated that the President has declined his resignation. "We same very great success," he says. "The fogs, and delays among his own men, turned the tide against him. The rebel Lee shows how nearly our victory was gained. His dispatches, as far as published, claim no triumph like those he has claimed before. They are cold, timid and want enthusiasm; they show that Burnside came very near success." Let us thank the General, in the name of the country, for his valor, his skill, and his manly honor; let us continue in his hands the confidence he has justly earned; and, borrowing hope from the experience of Napoleon, let us pray that he may achieve a victory like Wagram, on the banks of the Rappahannock.

From the South-West.

From Gen. Grant's army we learn that the rebels are fortifying the southern bank of the Yallabusha river, which passes directly in front of Grenada. The bank has a height not exceeding ten feet, but three thousand negroes have been hastily engaged since the evacuation of the Tallahatchie in carting earth and timber, and the works are said to be quite formidable. Siege guns are rapidly being mounted. Directly in front of the fort is an extensive bottom, which in periods of high water is overflowed, and cannot be crossed. This position seems to be uncommonly strong and easily defended from a direct attack in the front. The flanks can easily be turned, if it be attempted before the winter rains set in. The number of troops at present at Grenada is thirty thousand, and reinforcements are constantly coming in. A large force will arrive in a day or two from Jackson and Vicksburg. Gen. Lovell has been ordered to Richmond. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston has not yet assumed command of the Western Department.

A Cairo dispatch, dated Dec. 22, says:

The capture of Holly Springs by the rebels is confirmed by a railroad agent, who saw cars burning when he left. Gen. Davies has gone down the road from Columbus, with a large number of troops. General Tuttle is at Columbus.

Gen. Sherman left Memphis on the 13th. It was supposed he would endeavor to flank the rebels, who are fortifying on the Big Black river. Most of the Confederate army are said to be near Grenada, where they are trying to bring things into shape and make a show, then retreat to the Big Black river, and there make a stand.

Cotton is coming into Memphis freely. Brokers take advantage of rumors to affect the market.

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's Headquarters are at Chattanooga.

The railroad between Holly Springs and Oxford was to have been finished on the 18th. Between Oxford and Grenada it is broken in several places, and repairs have not yet begun. No repairs are being done to the Memphis and Charleston Railroad from Memphis to Grand Junction.

At Lexington, Tenn., a skirmish took place last Friday, between the 5th Ohio cavalry, together with a Tennessee regiment under Col. Hawkins, and a considerable body of rebels, in which our troops were badly cut up and a large number taken prisoners, among whom was Col. Hawkins. He and others afterward escaped, and reached Trenton just in time to be taken again by the enemy, who had just captured the town.

No news from Jackson, Tenn., which is well protected under Gen. Sullivan, nor has anything been heard from Gen. Grant.

From Nashville.

A dispatch from Nashville, dated the 22d inst., which appears in the Cincinnati *Commercial*, says:

All quiet on the Cumberland. The river is rising slightly. Weather charming.

A considerable cavalry force is reported between Waverly and Charlotte.

A large number of contrabands came from Dixie through Negley's lines to-day. We have abundant information from quarters south and south-west. Nothing changing the situation.

At Canton and Jackson, Mississippi, on the 12th, there were but few troops. There were small detachments at Meridian, Selma, Alabama; Atlanta, Chattanooga and Bridgeport.

Parties who went from Kentucky and Tennessee to Richmond have exchanged Confederate notes for Tennessee funds, and left there on the 13th.

Few troops about Richmond.

One party exchanged $12,000 rebel money for about $6,000 Tennessee notes and niggers, and paid forty per cent. Confederate funds for Tennessee money; nineteen per cent. for Virginia one thousand dollar bonds; fifty per cent. for Wheeling money.

The hotel fare at Richmond is $5 per day.

Provisions very high. No soap in the market.

At Murfreesboro, boots were $35 per pair; jeans pantaloons, $30; sandals 25 cents each; pins per paper, 75 cents; dress coats, $80; butter, $2 and $2.50 per pound; chickens, $1.50 to $2 each; eggs, $1 per dozen. One fellow paid $30 for a cotton hat.

THE WAR IN CHINA.

A NEW YORKER COMMANDING THE IMPERIAL ARMIES.

Some months ago we published an account of the romantic career and adventures of Mr. E. Forester, a young man from one of the northern counties of New York State who, a few years since, went to China as a sailor, and entering the Chinese service, rose to a high military rank. He became a Chinese mandarin, the next but one in rank to General Ward, and is now his successor, thus keeping an American at the head of the Chinese army.

A letter just received by his relatives in this city from Mandarin Forester, and dated at Ningpo, September 18, gives a romantic account of the perils and dangers he had passed. Having, with the allies, attacked the city of Ching poo, which was captured with but little loss to the attackers, Forester was placed in charge of the captured city, with a garrison of one thousand Chinese, while the English and French held the city of Ca-ding with about the same number of troops. Both of the places were held for some time, until the enemy—that is the rebel army—approached to the number of 180,000 men. Ca-ding was evacuated by the English and French, and occupied by the rebels, eighty thousand of whom then advanced and surrounded Ching-poo. In the meantime, Forester had received a small reinforcement and although the besiegers offered liberal terms of capitulation, he held out for twenty one days, until ordered by Admiral Hope to evacuate, and proceed to Jungkong. He was to leave the city with an escort of six hundred men and three gunboats. Two hours only were allowed for the evacuation, while the coolies were to burn the city while leaving it.

The evacuation was not successful, and the beleaguered city was too closely surrounded to allow its brave defenders to escape. With others Forester was made prisoner by the enemy.

"It will not," he writes in the letter before us, "undertake to recount to you my sufferings during the thirty-one days following, but will leave you to imagine them, when I tell you that *I am the only one the rebels were known to spare.* I was five days without food or drink, and in the hot sun, and stack naked all the time. My capture marched me about six hundred miles through many large cities where—and always in a state of utter nudity—I was shown to the people. All this time, too, a chain was fastened around my neck, and my hands were tied behind my back. If you want to find full particulars of all this read the Chinese papers. At last by my good luck and the kindness of Admiral Hope, who sent a man of war after me, with a ransom of muskets and powder valued at ten thousand dollars, I was released. This is a kindness on the part of the English government which I can never forget."

During the unlucky evacuation Mr. Forester lost his valise, with $20,000, and all his other property.

He says that the city of Ching-poo was subsequently retaken by the Imperialists, with a great loss to the enemy, who had a force of but one thousand men and seven pieces of artillery. In this engagement, which was commanded by Forester, he received a severe wound in the shoulder. "It is the fourth wound in as many months," he writes, "and I am not dead yet."

The letter from which we are permitted to quote was written before the death of General Ward, of whom his friend Forester writes:

"General Ward's brother is in New York, trying to procure a small navy. He will be glad to see you for his brother's sake, who (Ward) is a good and brave man, and has only thirteen wounds, received during the last two years. These balls are in his body now."

Colonel Forester was expecting official despatches from Pekin with his papers of promotion. He was preparing to lead a storming party on the attack of Nankin, the capital of the rebels—the Richmond of China. The sudden death of General Ward, and the severe injuries received by Colonel Burgevine, the next in command, excites the chief consuls of the Imperialist armies of China to devolve on Young Forester the New York country boy. His friends here, and the American public generally, will follow his career with lively interest.

Surnames in England.

Great consternation fell on the snobs of Great Britain not long ago, through a butcher named Smith or something like that, determining to call himself Norfolk-Howard. The butcher asserted his right, by the law of England, to change his surname whenever he pleased, and to take any surname that pleased his ear. Presently a Mr. Jones, a Welshman, determined to use the same privilege, and began to write himself Herbert—a prettier name than Jones. Now Mr. Jones-Herbert was not a butcher, but a gentleman of property, so it was determined to make an example of him. Lord Llanever, in his capacity as Lord Lieutenant of Monmouthshire, refused to call Mr. Jones anything but Jones. Thereupon ensued much bitterness and gnashing of teeth. The snobs declared that a man must not change his name without act of Parliament; the Jenesen laughed, and signed themselves Herbert, without saying a word to Parliament or Herald's College.

One result of the controversy is the publication of a pamphlet on the rules of English law affecting the change of surnames, by an able lawyer. From this we learn that, according to all law and precedent in England, "A man may assume what surname and as many surnames as he pleases," and that the law recognizes the new name when assumed publicly and *bona fide*." Lastly, that "when any person has legally assumed a name by his own act, it is compulsory on courts of law to recognize the legal act."

AUCTION SALES.

BOOTS, SHOES, and RUBBERS, For Ladies and Gentlemen, at McCLELLAND'S AUCTION, de16 55 Fifth street, Masonic Hall Building.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—At the Masonic Hall Auction House, No. 55 Fifth street, will be found a large and attractive stock of Ladies', Gent's, Misses', Boys' and Children's Boots, Shoes and Balmorals. Gent's fine calf double and treble sole Boots just opened. de16 A. McCLELLAND, Auct.

1000 HOOP SKIRTS; 10,000 PAIRS HOSIERY; 750 UNDERSHIRTS AND DRAWERS; Cheap, to close consignment, at McCLELLAND'S AUCTION, de16 55 Fifth street, Masonic Hall Building.

MILITARY CLAIMS, &c.

SOLDIERS' BOUNTIES, PENSIONS, BACK PAY, and all other MILITARY CLAIMS against the Government, JUST CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, promptly procured at reasonable rates. Apply to D. H. HAZEN, 103 Fourth street, Pittsburgh, and CHARLES C. TOKEN, Washington, D. C. oct22:3m

MILITARY CLAIMS, BOUNTIES, PENSIONS, BACK PAY, and MILITARY CLAIMS of every description, collected by the subscriber, at the following rates, viz: For Pensions, $10.00, all other claims, $3.00. C. C. TAYLOR, Attorney at Law, No. 78 Grant street, Pittsburgh, Pa. N. B. No charge are made if the claim does not succeed, and all information given gratis. se11:y

PENSIONS, BOUNTY & BACK PAY. H. C. MACKRELL, *Attorney at Law and Claim Agent,* No. 114 *FIFTH STREET,* PITTSBURGH, Pa., Prosecutes Soldiers' Claims of every description. PENSIONS for disabled officers, soldiers, seamen and marines. BOUNTIES and PENSIONS for the widows, parents, orphan children, brothers and sisters or other legal representative of those who have died or been killed in the service, or who died after discharge from disease contracted in service. No charge until claim collected, and no letter will be answered unless a stamp is enclosed. se16:3m

MERCHANT TAILORS.

HENRY G. HALE & CO., (Successors to James G. Watt,) Merchant Tailors, Are now receiving their FALL AND WINTER STOCK, Which in extent, choice, taste and prices will compare favorably with anything in the trade, comprising CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, VESTINGS, and OVERCOATINGS. Also, the largest and best selected stock of Goods for business suits ever brought to this market. Likewise a very choice selection of GENT'S FURNISHING GOODS always on hand. Any orders intrusted to our care will meet with prompt attention and punctuality in all cases. ON THE CORNER OF PENN & ST. CLAIR STREETS. se10

SAVE TEN PER CENT. Office of Internal Revenue, 23d Collection District, Pa., Allegheny, December 15th, 1862. Notice is hereby given that the time for receiving the Tax on the Annual Assessment List, for United States Internal Revenue, for that part of Allegheny county north of the Ohio and Allegheny rivers, will expire on WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH DAY OF DECEMBER, when the law requires ten per centum to be added, and the increased tax, after a demand, to be summarily collected by distraint. This List comprises: *Licenses, Carriages and Silver Plate.* Persons knowing themselves to be assessed will save money by attending to this notice. Office, WATER STREET, next door to the City Treasury, Allegheny. DAVID N. WHITE, de15:3t Collector of the 23d District, Penn'a.

WILLIAM BARNHILL & CO., Boiler Makers and Sheet Iron Workers, PENN STREET, N. S. No. 23, 25, 27 and 29. Having opened a large yard and furnished it with the most improved machinery, we are prepared to manufacture every description of BOILERS in the best manner, and always on a state of entire publicity. Also, CHIMNEYS, BRIGGINS, FIRE BIRDS, STEAM PIPES, LOCOMOTIVE BOILERS, CONDENSERS, SALT PANS, TANKS, OIL STILLS, AGITATORS, SHEATHING PANS, BOILER IRON BRIDGES, SUGAR PANS, and sole manufacturers of BARNHILL'S PATENT BOILER. Repairing done on the shortest notice. de13:tf

J. & M. McTEEN, BRASS FOUNDERS, Gas and Steam Fitters. All kinds of BRASS AND IRON COCKS made to order. Also, BRASS CASTINGS, of all kinds, made to the shortest notice. All orders left at BOWN & TETLEY'S, No. 136 WOOD STREET, will be promptly attended to. The members of this firm being practical mechanics, of many years' experience in their business, will insure to give satisfaction in every respect. de9:ly

WM. P. BECK & CO., Wholesale Grocers, 186 Liberty street, have for sale—
1,000 bbls. extra No. 1 Salt;
200 do do Family Flour;
20 do small white Beans;
1,000 do Codfish;
5 do Roll Butter;
100 boxes Cheese;
100 bushels Oats. de8

CHARLES L. CALDWELL, (successor to James Holmes & Co.,) PORK PACKER, Dealer in BACON, LARD, SUGAR-CURED HAMS, SMOKED BEEF, &c. CORN MARKET AND FIRST STREETS, de11:ly Pittsburgh, Pa.

SYRUP.—25 bbls. Loveridge's Syrup;
5 bbls. do do;
30 bbls. Pennsylvania do do;
10 do N. Y. Molasses do;
In store and for sale by W. M. GORMLY, de8 221 Liberty street.

TO ARRIVE NEXT WEEK—
1 bbl. common Cranberries;
25 do Baker's Bell do;
In H. VOIGT & CO.

COD FISH.—3,000 lbs. Cod Fish just received and for sale by W. M. GORMLY, 221 Liberty street.

SALT.—500 sacks Liverpool ground Alum Salt to arrive and for sale by ROBERT DALZELL & CO.

INDIA RUBBER COATS, PANTS, LEGGINGS and SOCKS, for sale at 84 and 86 Wood street. J. & H. PHILLIPS.

SOAP STONE—50 barrels, for Foundries, for sale by HENRY H. COLLINS.

PIANOS.

PIANOS. A Card to my Patrons and Competitors: In relation to the celebrated HAINES BRO'S PIANOS, Mrs. C. BLUME would beg to state that she has had the agency of these Pianos for eleven years, and during that period she has had the pleasure of selling a large number of these for refined instruments to some of the first families of Pittsburgh and surroundings, notwithstanding her competitors have done their best to injure the well established reputation of these superior pianos; but I am happy to state that their efforts have been, thus far, without avail, and finding their efforts useless, and that these instruments were increasing in public favor, they hasten to New York, endeavoring to obtain the agency of the very Pianos they have been ten years running down. [Query?]

I am happy to say that I have just returned from New York, having succeeded in obtaining the sole agency of Haines' Pianos. I would here remark that I find that such is the demand for these Pianos that Haines Bros. are 150 Pianos behind their orders, and are turning out from 15 to 20 per week. The public, after all, are the best judges, and on their opinion I am willing to rest. de16 CHARLOTTE BLUME.

SECOND-HAND PIANOS.—A third large lot of second-hand PIANOS for sale at $150, $200, $175, $185, $125, $100, $95, $75, $60, $50 and $25. For sale by JOHN H. MELLOR, 81 Wood street. de20

$1,000 WORTH OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS, of the most superb workmanship, in every detail, and from the best manufacturers in the country. They have been selected with the greatest possible care, especially for the Holidays. Prices low. For sale by JOHN H. MELLOR, 81