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COMMISSION, &c.

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A 7 octave Chickering, beautiful black walnut case; very little used	$320 00
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A 6½ octave Stodart, rosewood, carved panels in front	165 00
A 6¾ octave Gale & Co., rosewood, round front; an excellent Piano	150 00
A 6 octave Chickering, rosewood, round corners	150 00
A 6 octave Hallet, Davis & Co., rosewood	125 00
A 6 octave Stodart, mahogany	80 00
A 6 octave Soift, "	75 00
A 6 octave German, "	60 00
A 6 octave Dorfman, "	50 00
A 6 octave Lond., "	40-00
A 6¾ octave English, "	30 00
A 5 octave "	15 00

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Pittsburgh Gazette.

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THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 19.

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Morning Edition, by mail, per year	$6 00.	
" " " month	70.	
" " " week	15.	
" " single copies	2.	
Evening Edition, by mail, per year	4 50.	
" " " month	38.	
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Weekly Edition, single copies, per year	2 00.	
" " clubs of 5 to 10, "	1 50.	
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—and one extra to the party sending club. For a club of fifteen, we will send the Evening Gazette daily. For a club of twenty, we will send the Morning Gazette daily. Single copies, 5 cents.

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

Important from the Lower Mississippi.

The Memphis *Bulletin*, of the 13th, gives some interesting information respecting the canal at Vicksburg:

The work on the canal is still in progress, and the hope is indulged in that it will be deepened and cut out so as to be made of practical utility. Large dredges from Louisville were soon expected there to assist in the digging. Another inlet or mouth is being cut directly in a line with the current of the river, and the whole canal widened and deepened. Active operations are not likely to be commenced for some time. It is supposed that the object is to make the canal of sufficient depth to allow of the passage of the gunboats and transports through, when the battery at Vicksburg, commanding the mouth of the canal, will be silenced, and the whole fleet proceed to co-operate with Banks in the attack upon Port Hudson, which, it is believed, can be easily carried by an attack from the north. The combined forces will then move on Vicksburg, landing the troops at a point south of the city, cutting off their communication with Jackson, and attacking them in nearly an opposite direction from that made by Gen. Sherman.

The rank Queen of the West was still at the foot of the canal. It will be recollected that she failed to make the attempt to go past Port Hudson, only because she was afraid her fuel would give out. Since then our forces have succeeded in running down a barge of coal past the batteries, which will enable the Queen to move wherever she pleases.

Our readers will remember that a cut through the Mississippi levee, at what is called Yazoo Pass, has been made, and that the country (mostly a swamp) lying between the Mississippi and the Yazoo, for more than a hundred miles from north to south, will be submerged and rendered navigable down to the rear of Vicksburg. The following gives some account of progress in that quarter:

The *Bulletin* has advices from Yazoo Pass to Wednesday. The steamer Moderator and a gunboat went up the bayou and found the enemy on the banks, who fired upon the Moderator, cutting off one man's ear. We killed six of the enemy, and found a number of negroes in a starving condition, and brought them away. They are now at Memphis. The gunboat remained up the bayou. Another force is said to be engaged in cutting through a canal, and completing navigation up Yazoo Pass.

Cotton, in small quantities, continued to come into Memphis and found ready sale at 78@83 cents.

The work of cutting an entrance for boats into Lake Providence from the river is proceeding with spirit, and ready access is expected to the Black, Ouachita and Red rivers. This is a very important work, as it affords another avenue by which boats may pass Vicksburg and re-enter the Mississippi through Red river, and thus, if need be, enable Gen. Grant to co-operate with Gen. Banks in the reduction of Port Hudson, which being done, both armies can operate against Vicksburg. The present flood of water, which will continue till June, is great auxiliary.

Wednesday a scouting party came up with a body of the enemy five miles back of Lake Providence. The engagement was a warm one. The Federals lost few men, but many rebels were killed and thirty-two prisoners taken, among whom were the Colonel and Major. More than ninety horses were captured.

Gen. German has been superseded in command at Helena. A correspondent remarks: "Cotton, which has ruined many good officers as well as other men, was his failing."

FROM WASHINGTON.

Mail Dispatches to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 1863.

ABOUT THE ATTACK ON CHARLESTON.

The caution heretofore given in these dispatches against too sanguine expectation of the speedy fall of Charleston or Savannah will need to be repeated. *There is no probability whatever of the beginning of the iron-clad attack against either of these places for at least a fortnight yet.* The undertaking is a gigantic one; we are not ready for it yet, and we will not attack till we are ready.

THE SPECULATIVE GENERALS.

The order recently forwarded calling a board of inquiry, to be convened for the purpose of investigating charges against speculators in cotton, is said to have special reference to Generals commanding divisions and armies in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee and Northern Mississippi; and in the gossip to which the affair has given rise, neither Gen. Grant nor General Curtis themselves escape.

MISSOURI EMANCIPATIONISTS.

Colonel McClurg, emancipationist, from Missouri, and recently elected to Congress from that State, was here on Saturday, and appeared upon the floor of the House. Gen. Price will contest his seat in the next House, and if the Democrats have a majority in that body, will stand some chance of gaining admission.

CHANGED HIS "SPHERE"—TO READ RECORDS RATHER THAN MOULD SENATES.

Charles Henry Foster, who, it will be recollected, claimed a seat as a representative from some district down in North Carolina, at the first session of the present Congress, and was rejected, has again turned up. Upon his personal application, the President has given him a commission as Colonel of the First Regiment of North Carolina Colored Volunteers, and he returns immediately to organize the regiment. He will appear in a much better light in this capacity and will be enabled to do more for his country than when attempting to gain a Congressman's position and pay on the strength of a handful of votes, said to have been cast on board of ships, or some such place, down in "Carolina."

THE OLD GENERAL IN A NEW FIELD.

It is satisfactory to know that in these serious war times the pleasant episodes, which (some think) make life tolerable, are not forgotten. The President and Mrs. Lincoln, contrated no doubt by the desire to add to the pleasures of the Tom Thumb honey-moon, gave a grand reception at the White House on Friday evening to that celebrated individual and bride. On so distinguished an occasion, all considerations of state were laid aside, and the Cabinet turned out *en masse* to see the show. Even our old staid head of the Agricultural Bureau could not refrain from being present. One of the principal features of the evening was a promenade by General Tom Thumb and the President, which, a witty individual remarked, "was the long and short of the whole matter." Barnum was not present.

A NEW OFFICE UNDER THE TAX LAW.

It is understood that the Committee of Ways and Means will probably include in their amendments to the Tax Law a provision for the appointment of a Solicitor for the Internal Revenue Bureau.

A BAD NOMINATION TO BE WITHDRAWN.

The nomination of Isherwood as Chief of the Bureau of Engineering in the Navy Department will probably be withdrawn,—a commission having unanimously reported against his qualifications.

EXPERIMENTS AND EXPLOSIONS.

The President, accompanied by the Secretary of War, Gens. Halleck, Barnard, Ambercrombie and others, visited the fortifications at Arlington Heights one day last week, to witness some very interesting experiments in exploding mines and blowing up forts by means of a field-magnetic machine. The experiments were highly satisfactory, and demonstrated that by a proper system of mining, a fortification can be so protected that any assaulting force would be completely annihilated before it could possibly reach the works. It is said the grounds around the fortifications about Washington are thoroughly mined, and that it is only necessary to connect this newly invented apparatus, pass the word, and they can be exploded at will.

FURTHER TAXATION ON RIVER MEN.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that berths and staterooms on steamboats are subject to duty as being for transportation. Owners of steamboats are required to include in the return of the gross amount of receipts, as required by section 50, all sums received for the use of berths and staterooms as essential to the transportation of passengers.

Encouraging Reports from the Army.

A letter to the N. Y. *Tribune* says:

Intelligent observers returned from visits to the Army of the Potomac, not of curiosity, but of patriotic solicitude, are confident of its fitness for the vigorous command of Gen. Hooker. They report noteworthy symptoms of the moral reorganization manifestly in progress with the material re-organization of the force. Conversation has sometimes experienced by most of those officers who were vocal in dissatisfaction over McClellan's removal. A conscious one that a strong governing mind is over all pervades every department of the army. There is not a regiment, high down, not feel the influence of the idea that the commander is invested with the power, and overflowing with the will, to dismiss the faint-hearted and the incompetent and promote fighting men into their places.

The confidence of the troops grows daily, that whenever Hooker fights he will smash at one blow the rebellion in Virginia; and this confidence is well founded. He will give the Rebels such a fight as has never been seen on this continent.

PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR ICE. Medical Purveyor's Office, Washington, D. C., January 24, 1863. Sealed Proposals will be received at this office until MONDAY, the 23d day of February, 1863, at twelve (12) o'clock m., for furnishing the Medical and Hospital Department, until the 1st day of January, 1864, with a supply of pure ICE, to be delivered at the following places, to wit:

Hilton Head, South Carolina;
Newbern, North Carolina;
Fortress Monroe, Virginia;
Pensacola, Florida;
Nashville, Tennessee;
New Orleans, Louisiana;
St. Louis, Missouri;
Cairo, Illinois;
Washington, District of Columbia;
Memphis, Tennessee.

As the quantity required at the respective posts is not precisely known, bidders will state the quantity of ice they can furnish, where it is gathered, price per ton of 2,000 pounds, and within what period they can furnish the amount of their bids. Although it is desirable that bidders should propose to furnish the whole amount required at any one of the places proposed to be supplied.

Bidders will state what facilities they possess, if any, for storing the ice at the ports they propose to supply.

The ice must be of the best quality, subject to the inspection and approval of the officer in charge of the post where it is delivered.

The full name and post office address of the bidder must appear in the proposal.

If a bid is made in the name of a firm, the names of all the parties must appear, or the bid will be considered as the individual proposal of the party signing it.

Proposals from disloyal parties will not be considered, and an oath of allegiance to the United States Government must accompany each proposition.

Proposals must be addressed to HENRY JOHNSON, M. S. K., U. S. A., and Acting Medical Purveyor, Washington, D. C., and should be plainly marked "Proposals for Ice."

The ability of the bidder to fill the contract, should it be awarded to him, must be guaranteed by two responsible persons, whose signatures are to be appended to the guarantee, and said guarantee must accompany the bid.

The responsibility of the guarantors must be shown by the official certificate of the Clerk of the nearest District Court or of the United States District Attorney.

Bidders must be present in person when the bids are opened, or their proposals will not be considered.

Bonds in the sum of five hundred dollars, signed by the contractor and both of his guarantors, will be required of the successful bidder upon signing the contract.

Form of Guarantee.

We, ——, of the county of ——, and State of ——, and ——, of the county of ——, and State of ——, do hereby guarantee that ——, is able to fulfil a contract in accordance with the terms of his proposition, and that, should his proposition be accepted, he will at once enter into a contract in accordance therewith. Should the contract be awarded him we are prepared to become his sureties.

To this guarantee must be appended the official certificate above mentioned.

The Surgeon-General reserves to himself the right to reject any or all bids that he may deem too high or unsuitable.

HENRY JOHNSON, M. S. K., U. S. A., Acting Medical Purveyor.

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OFFICE COMMISSARY OF SUBSISTENCE, Baltimore, Md., Feb. 5th, 1863.

SEALED PROPOSALS are respectfully invited by the undersigned until 12 m., MARCH 1st, 1863, for furnishing the United States Subsistence Department, delivered for Baltimore, Md.:

20,000 BARRELS EXTRA FLOUR, fresh ground and of mixed brands, inspected by the state flour inspector, of the City of Baltimore, Maryland. Superior to other flour. Both heads to be fully headlined. Flat hoop and machine made barrels will positively be rejected. 1,000 barrels to be delivered by the 15th of March, and the same amount every two (2) days thereafter.

50,000 POUNDS ADAMANTINE CANDLES, (tallow,) sized and packed with light-green hickory straps. The whole to be delivered by the 15th of March, 1863.

Proposals for different articles must be on separate sheets of paper.

Samples must accompany every proposal, and be labelled distinctly with the name of the bidder.

Express charges on samples must be prepaid; or the proposal will not be considered. Each bidder must have a printed copy of this advertisement pasted at its head, and must be specific in complying with all its terms. Each bid, to have consideration, must contain in its proper written guarantee of two responsible persons, as follows:

"The undersigned hereby guarantee, should all or any part of the accompanying bid be accepted, that it shall be duly fulfilled according to its true purport and conditions."

Proposals must be endorsed "Proposals for Subsistence Stores."

Bidders may propose for the whole or any part of the article.

Proposers who can furnish the proper articles, but need an increase of time, can state the time when they can be ready for their contracts.

Persons not having the precise variety of stores above described, but having articles of a similar kind, are at liberty to send in proposals for supplying them, which will receive attention according to price and adaptation to the wants of the service. In all cases not specially entered, the delivery must