

Pittsburgh Gazette

FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 20.

Congress on the Finances.
There is a disagreement between the two houses of Congress on the subject of Ways and Means. It appears to be almost certain that a committee of conference will be appointed, who it is believed, will recommend:

1. That \$300,000,000 bonds run forty years.

2. That \$400,000,000 of treasury notes, bearing six per cent., interest, the same to be paid in paper, and redeemable in three years, be issued.

3. That either \$300,000,000 or \$350,000,000 in legal tender notes be issued.

4. That fractional currency be limited to \$50,000,000.

5. That coupons on bonds and treasury notes be not receivable for duties.

6. That bank circulation be taxed not over one per cent. per annum on an average.

7. That treasury accounts shall be kept only with assistant or sub-treasurers.

These are but speculations or probabilities; but we are hopeful that Congress will yet mature such a system as shall secure to the country a stable credit and a sound circulating medium. We may leave to remark, that we see no utility in this issue of nine hundred millions of bonds, unless those bonds are at the same time made the basis of a great national banking system, such as Mr. Chase recommends. Without this, they will be but a vast mass, having neither life nor mobility.

Free West Virginia.

In all the protracted struggle against the pro-slavery and pro-slavery aristocrats among themselves, and more lately against the false friends—the political Judases—who had at first joined their company to act as spies, and finally to betray—we have watched the progress of the people of West Virginia up to this hour of their now almost consummated victory, with feelings of the deepest interest and sympathy, ever growing respect and admiration. We can, therefore, fully participate in that sentiment of renewed hopefulness and joy which the unanimity of the Convention at Wheeling, on Tuesday last, in ratifying the "Willey amendment," which provides for gradual emancipation, to begin on the date of next January, has made. We are glad to see every patriotic and freedom-loving citizen of the new State of West Virginia, the able faithful and fearless champions through evil and through good report, of the New State and the Free State cause, referring to the action of the Convention on Tuesday, says in its first meeting:

"The new State Convention yesterday by a unanimous vote ratified the Willey amendment. All documents were read, and every member but two (who were called) voted in favor of it."

We congratulate the people of Western Virginia that the Constitution and its amendment go back to the people, and that the resolutions of their delegates that vote is an earnest and glorious victory which may be expected from the people.

Let all the people now rejoice, to the tune of march music, over such a glorious victory, over such enthusiasm, so much patient waiting and self-sacrifice, and every member but two (who were called) voted in favor of it."

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The Alabama at Jamaica.

A gentleman who left Kingston on the 26th inst. reports great insubordination among the crew of the Alabama. She has 180 men. Of these 60 were sent ashore at Fort Royal on Saturday, the 12th ult. The crew of the Alabama, when it was captured, was 180 men. The active efforts of the American Consul, together with the influence of the released prisoners from the Hatteras, filled the crew with a desire to go home. They have been offering compensation from the spirit of good and great of the Willey amendment. The crew has been excepted. The crew of the Alabama has withdrawn her from the condition of an unnatural state, and has now become a part of the Union, into a condition of unity—homogeneity, and progress.

God give the glorious day!

The Jamaica Watchman, of Jan. 20th, says that the merchants who applauded Col. Geddes' speech at the Exchange in Kingston, were mainly planters, some of whom are partners in business by the emanation of 1862. It gives an article on the subject as follows:

"We have something to say on this matter, with reference to the mulatto merchant's conduct, who many in the United States do not know, except that the advertisement in the paper, which the 'dry' paper signed—'Davidson, Colthirst & Co.' We intend to deal with these negro mulattoes as we find them, for many a colored man in this country has forged the pit from which he dug."

Next Sunday is Washington's birth day. A correspondent suggests as having some of the eastern papers, that ministers of the gospel should make an effort in drawing the attention of their hearers to the worth of the country, and to their duties to it in this crisis. We think the organization unimpairedly proper; for if even a general had not led back to first principles, and up to His 'from whom all good counsels and just works do proceed,' we are that people.

The cargo of the British steamer Calypso and Douglas, consisting of greenings, drugs, leather, and a large assortment of dry goods, are advertised to be sold in Charleston.

Wex. Jef. Davis undertook to enforce the conscription in East Tennessee, about four-fifths of the loyal Union men of that state went west to the mountains of Kentucky, where they joined the Union army. A similar attempt to North Alabama and Mississippi is now driving the Unionists away from the mountains of Kentucky, and the kingpins of Jeff. There is a perfect reign of terror. North Alabama and North Mississippi, and the Unionists are daily enlisted and support the Union and Constitution.

R. S. SUPPLY AGENT.

The advertiser, Col. R. S. Supply Company, has a large quantity of supplies on hand, ready to be shipped to any party in this city to fill out orders.

IRON, IRON, STEEL, &c.

The party allowing him a concession, the steamer Albatross, recently arrived in the port of Mobile, has taken up arms against the kingpins of Jeff. There is a perfect reign of terror. North Alabama and North Mississippi, and the Unionists are daily enlisted and support the Union and Constitution.

REED OPERATIONS AND CANNONBALLS.

The rebels at Fort Donelson have pretty effectually put an end to all rebel operations on the Cumberland river, as far as the city of Nashville goes. The boats which arrived on the 18th from Nashville came out of the Cumberland without safety, and the Jacob Straiders and their supporters did not dare to venture into the river, as the rebels had intended by gunboats.

An Unfortunate Passenger.—The following is told in the New Orleans correspondence: "Dr. Knapp, a gentleman who owns a large plantation, recently had some northers visited at his place, and, in order to entertain them, he invited them to dinner, and one of them to sing, whereupon a fellow struck up the 'Old John Brown' song, to the amusement of the guests. The book and papers of the consular agent were unopened.

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The Situation at Vicksburg.

Our latest private advices from before Vicksburg indicate that important operations are now in progress for the reduction of that stronghold. Gen. Grant, it seems, who is commander-in-chief of the forces before that city, has adopted a method of attack very different from that of his predecessor, Sherman. Instead of rushing on parallel to the strong line of entrenchments and batteries, he is endeavoring to circumvent the great complication of rifle-pits, abatis, abutments, and casemates, by putting down before them and seizing the lower and outer banks of bluffs upon which the works are planted.

From Vicksburg to Warren, to the south, is twenty miles; from Vicksburg to Haines' Bluff, at O'Fallon, is twelve miles; from Haines' Bluff to the river, is seven miles; so we can assume as a safe estimate that the distance between Vicksburg and the river is twenty miles.

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PUBLIC NOTICES.

NOTICE.—A meeting of officers of the militia in the camp of troops in the Second Ward, Allegheny City, will be held in the hall of the Allegheny City Club, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of giving an expression to their views. Members of Council are especially invited to be present.

JOHN GIFFEN.

NOTICE.—In consequence of the recent movements of the rebels, the commanding officer of the forces before Vicksburg, has adopted a method of attack very different from that of his predecessor, Sherman. Instead of rushing on parallel to the strong line of entrenchments and batteries, he is endeavoring to circumvent the great complication of rifle-pits, abatis, abutments, and casemates, by putting down before them and seizing the lower and outer banks of bluffs upon which the works are planted.

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