

NEWS OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

There appears to be a growing opinion that the present crisis must eventually result in a peaceful separation of the two antagonistic nations.

The close observer of men and matters in the Federal capital will vainly strive to rid himself of the impression that a growing desire of a restoration of the Union to its former integrity, and of the permanency of the solution of the seceding parts still applied to it, prevails among the leading Republican minds now gathered here.

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PENSION AGENT.

Lafayette Graysen has been appointed Pension Agent in this city. Mr. Markle is a young man with excellent business qualifications for the position.

Judge Graysen, who has held the position of Pension Agent in this city during Mr. Buchanan's Administration, and whose place will now be filled by Mr. Markle, was Captain in the line during the war of 1812.

He was present at the storming of Yorktown, and was within a few feet of the British when he was killed. Captain Graysen has performed the duties of his office faithfully and honestly.

He was for many years the editor of the Washington Examiner, and met heavy pecuniary losses through the failure of a broker in this city, some years since.

Mr. Graysen is a veteran in the cause of Democracy, as well as a true patriot, and both in office and out of office he has commanded the respect of all who know him.

At the close of the war, when the army was disbanded, Captain Graysen was retained and promoted for his gallant services. He is now 70 years of age.

The following comparison of a few of the tariff in the various tariffs of the North and South, will show how the two stand at present, and how their interests will be affected under the proposed Union tariff.

Table with 4 columns: Tariff, Union, North, South. Lists various goods and their respective tariff rates.

The government finds it very difficult to take a position which can be maintained in regard to the present difficulty. They seek for more ground before deciding upon the question submitted to them by the Commission.

The papers state that an armistice of ten days has been agreed upon between the Commission and the Administration. The present military status is to remain, and peace is therefore, to be preserved for that period at least.

Information has been received from President Davis to the effect that affairs at Fort Pickens had assumed a peaceful aspect, and that there was no danger of collision unless the government attempted to reinforce that fort.

The Administration, it is understood, has instructed the commanders of the vessels off Pensacola, not to make any more unprovoked advances, but to remain in their present positions.

Books, maps, charts, mathematical and naval instruments, and other articles, are being sent to the various ports, in order to facilitate the operations of the blockade.

An extensive session of Congress will not doubt be called at an early day, and the opposition of the Morris tariff bill is getting up popular opinion in advance, and when Congress meets, the attacks upon the bill will be commenced.

The friends of the tariff may as well buckle on their armor for another fight. Carl Shurz, the renegade, who was paid one hundred dollars agency for his Republican speeches, it is said, has been offered his choice of the Portuguese, or any other American Mission.

He will probably take the former to baptize Seward, and show that foreign born citizens can be appointed to European Missions. He ought to be sent far out of the country that we shall never hear of him more.

The missions to England and France were filled so early by the Administration in order to enable it to counteract the efforts for recognition and commercial treaties by the representatives of the seceded States.

The fact that apprehension exists in administration circles of their success in France cannot be concealed.

Mr. Burlingame will go to Austria, notwithstanding Mr. Adams goes to England. We refer our readers to an article which we publish this morning, showing conclusively that the Republican charges against the late Administration are not reinforcing Mr. Sumner, are utterly groundless.

The Republicans can shift the responsibility of their own acts. Coal under the Southern tariff comes into the Southern ports as ballast free of duty. Under the Northern tariff foreign coal is a tariff of thirty per cent.

New Orleans is the chief market for Pittsburgh coal, and will be glutted with foreign coal free of duty. What is to be done by our Pittsburgh dealers.

Col. F. W. Lander, is not and has not been an applicant for office under Mr. Lincoln. He has been favorably spoken of as Governor of Nevada Territory, on account of his success in putting a stop to the Indian war in that country last year.

The Union war in that country last year. The arms seized by the New York police here at last all returned, and sent on to Savannah. The fact having been ascertained that the arms were not in Georgia, an answer has been received over the wires announcing the release of the vessels detained by the authorities of that State in reprisal for the seizure.

The special telegraphic correspondent of the Chronicle at Philadelphia, says the mail train of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which left Pittsburgh last night, ran off a track near Pottersburg. No persons were hurt, but the mail was all burned. The baggage of thirty passengers was destroyed. The cause of the accident was a cattle on the track. The passengers are just in time for the baggage.

The act has become a law postponing the election of officers in Philadelphia from May to October.

THE REASON.

Since the election of Mr. Lincoln and the financial condition of the country has been better, owing to the fact that all our internal trade and commerce has been resumed, in consequence of the peaceful condition of the country.

The condition of affairs would have been much worse and fallen upon us had it not been for the fortunate circumstance that the decrease of our imports, and the demand for cotton and breadstuffs, forced the European merchants to meet the crisis here by shipment of specie.

The New York Herald gives the figures showing the receipt of over nineteen millions of specie, contributed to our resources in the short space of three months, independent of the importation from California, which amounted to five millions. Had it not been for this unprecedented influx of money in the present calamitous times, and the remarkable prosperous condition of the country, nothing could have saved us from financial ruin.

It would have been for the purpose of consolidating their specie in vain that the speculative speculations were restricted in the West general ruin would have fallen upon us.

WHERE WE STAND. The administration is certainly in a most difficult and delicate position. It cannot do its whole duty, and at the same time please its whole party. There are three courses which can be pursued in the present crisis, or as Mr. Douglas very rightly says, "the administration has three alternatives, and it is to be decided whether it will lean to the right or to the left."

First—Such amendments of the constitution as will be satisfactory to the South, and which will restore to the Union a peaceful and disinterested administration will accept.

Second—The recognition of the independence of the seceded States, and the establishment of a liberal system of commerce and social intercourse with them, and the withdrawal of the military and military occupation of the seceded States and of the States which may be hereafter. These are the alternatives, and it is of momentous consequence which one of them Mr. Lincoln's administration will accept.

THE GAZETTE FAVORS SECESSION. The Gazette has given its readers two or three articles upon the Italian question. It returns to the fact that State after State seceded from the free list of the proposed money tariff will show still better how measure is likely to affect Northern production and commerce.

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HARRISBURG LETTER.

The Reform Bill—Gov. Curtin—Gen. Williams—Col. Williams—Wm. Wilson, etc.—"Old Abe" and his friends.

HARRISBURG, March 20, 1861. The Judiciary Committee reported the bill without amendments relating to commitments or warrants, the same as published in your paper. It is due to Messrs. Burns and Douglas to say that they appeared before the Committee and urged its passage, inasmuch as the people of the county are in a state of excitement, and this is the most important bill that has as yet been introduced, when it becomes a law, the masses of the people in the county will have a good reason to believe that they will be better off than they are at present.

The following are the numbers committed for the year 1861: Mayor of Pittsburgh, \$1,200,000; Aldermen, \$1,200,000; Judges, \$1,200,000; Clerks, \$1,200,000; etc.

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