



OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH.

TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 17, 1861.

For Afternoon and Midnight Telegraph and Local News See First and Third Pages.

DEMOCRATIC STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

UNION WELFARE.

ALL PERSONS FAVORABLE TO A Union Convention, for the purpose of selecting a delegate to the National Convention, held at New York, on the 15th inst., are invited to meet at the Court House at 10 o'clock, on TUESDAY, the 18th.

THE NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

The news received from England, published on Saturday last, in relation to the seizure of Mason and Sidel, by order of our government, did not create any alarm in the public mind of this country—not even where it is most sensitive, in New York, the great commercial metropolis of the Union.

The journals of that city received here on Sunday apprehended no danger of any disturbance between this country and Great Britain.

They arrived at this conclusion from the tone of the English papers received, by several meetings of prominent citizens held in Liverpool, Manchester and other important points in England.

It appears, however, from dispatches published here yesterday, that the meetings and resolutions, were speaking simply for themselves. Great Britain has a policy of her own, and this she expresses a determination to enforce.

The Queen's special messenger to Lord Lyons, her Minister at Washington, arrived in the Europa, which vessel brought the warlike intelligence alluded to, and will be at our Capital in a day or two.

What these instructions to Lord Lyons are, we learn from the London Observer to be a demand from President Lincoln and his Cabinet of the Southern Kingdom, and a demand to the British government.

This, together with an "ultimatum" from our government for boarding an English vessel, is all that John Bull desires.

In addition to this news, we receive by the same vessel that brought it, that England has made and is making immense preparations for warlike purposes, that "in a few hours" 30,000 English rifles, and a large number of a ranging guns, and a quantity of ammunition, together with an increased force, will be sent to the Canadian frontier.

All this might be preparation, or rather acquiescence, in the present state of the Union, but it is intended we presume to intimidate our government, but it won't succeed. It is true that rebellion in the South is unacquainted, but this showing of hands at last, by perfidious England, will not strengthen her cause.

On the contrary the mighty masses of the North will be aroused by this shameless robbery, on the part of England, to new efforts in defence of their country.

It will rush with ten-fold energy to break her advancing line. She will learn that if England could not, four centuries ago, brook the double reign of "Harry Pery and the Erime of Wales," this magnificent, just and liberal government cannot tolerate treason.

This news will cause the heart of the North to beat with warmer pulsations for our threatened institutions; especially will cause the Irish-Americans to rush in over the numbers to the defense of their adopted country.

For this, the time is propitious; famine in Ireland is appealing to the government for bread, but instead of heeding the famishing wail as it is wafted across the British Channel, they turn a deaf ear, considering plans for the assistance of our Southern traitors.

England has at length taken off her thin disguise of neutrality, but our government will not be alarmed by her accounts of mighty preparations against us.

Hon. A. P. Harcourt, in 1851, anticipating the very state of affairs which now surround us said "From England, America can expect nothing. Should our internal commotions and sectional animosities once carry our nation to the verge of disunion and certain destruction, we can look for no conciliatory interference on the part of that crafty power. Already has the war whoop been raised by the crowned heads of Europe, and the cry has gone forth that the great luminary of the Western world is on the wane; that her light in the political heavens is beginning to grow dim; that soon she will sink into eternal gloom, never to rise again. Shall it be? Shall the eagle be stopped in his lofty flight? Proud bird!—fall they tear from thee thy wings? Shall they pluck from thee that quill that is to record on the scroll of time great America's fall? Shall our banners wither; forbid it Almighty God!

Late information from Washington leads us to believe the destination of the Burnside Fleet to be the Potomac, and that an effort will be made in that direction at once, which will be the signal for a simultaneous movement of the army on both banks. We sincerely trust Gen. McClellan feels strong enough to push the terms of his conditions, and that he may eat his Christmas dinner in Richmond. We hope they will not burn it down before he gets there.

CONSERVATISM IN CONGRESS.

On the 11th inst., the consideration of a resolution, previously offered by Mr. Lansing, of New York, condemning the order of Gen. Halleck, relative to fugitive slaves, came up in Congress. This was considered a test question between the straight abolitionists and the conservatives. Thad. Stephens led off in favor of the resolution, delivering one of his impracticable and boisterous speeches.

He was followed, on the same side, calling upon the President to remove and cashier Gen. Halleck.

Frank Blair, of St. Louis, led the conservatives, proving very conclusively that the two preceding bills knew nothing of what they were talking about.

Mr. Halleck's orders as most wise and salutary. The allusion by his colleague, Mr. Lovejoy, to the facility of these slaves was untrue. The army was misled on the 7th of November by slaves. His own regiment was thus led into an ambush.

Let the resolutions pass, and recruiting in Illinois will cease. Mr. Lovejoy will stand by the order of Gen. Halleck. If his colleague would pay attention to the negro, and more to the interest of the country, we would get along better.

Mr. Vallandigham moved to lay the resolution upon the table, which carried by 75 to 61. In looking over the yeas and nays, we find every Democrat and liberal Republican voting to sustain the administration and Halleck, and every abolitionist voting with Stephens and Lovejoy.

Among the other names we again perceive that of our representative, Gen. Moorehead. We are to infer from this, we presume, that he has entirely gone over to the impracticables of this party.

The emancipation scheme of the ultra Republicans is being pushed upon all occasions. The Baltimore Sun's Washington correspondent says that "of all the Cabinet officers, the one most conspicuous in hostility to the emancipation programme, is Secretary Smith.

In his State (Indiana) there never was much Abolitionism pure, and hence it has excelled all others in furnishing volunteers for the army. The same is true of Pennsylvania, while States that are most clearly identified with fanaticism (like Massachusetts) are far behind those before named. But so separate are the prospects of the ultras, that Senator Sumner violated all propriety to-day in pronouncing a tirade against slavery under the form of a eulogy of Senator Butler, who having been an earnest advocate of compromise during the past winter, would, were he alive, surely confront those who are now seeking to "Jamaicanize" the South.

The Administration and Continuation of the Administration in Congress.

The conduct of a large number of the present Congress, under the leadership of the most able and energetic statesmen, has been a true characteristic of their noble position. They are working to do the duty of the nation with independence, and with a view to the best interests of the people.

The President has so far conducted himself as to become a national man, who has secured the confidence and respect of the people. He has shown a firmness of purpose, and a determination to do what is right, regardless of the consequences.

It is our duty to support the President, and to stand by his administration. We should not allow ourselves to be divided by sectional interests, or by the passions of the moment.

The President's policy is to maintain the Union, and to preserve the peace. He is not to be accused of weakness, or of indecision. He is a man of great courage, and of great ability.

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From Nickles' Brigade.

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