

PITTSBURGH:

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 1862.

FOR AFTERNOON AND MIDNIGHT TELEGRAPH AND LOCAL NEWS SEE FIRST AND THIRD PAGES.

UNION NOMINATIONS.

FOR MAYOR: HENRY A. WEAVER.

FOR CONTROLLER: WILLIAM M. LITTLE.

FOR TREASURER: JOHN C. DAVITT.

OUR DEGENERACY.

From the organization of the government until a few years ago, the great men of our country, of all political parties, entertained a dread of the formation of sectional, geographical parties. This was the rock upon which they apprehended the Union would be wrecked. The "father" of our country dwelt upon this danger in his words to the Convention of 1787. Jefferson warned us of its dangers upon various occasions. Jackson fought and crushed it when it assumed the character of nullification; Clay, Webster, and the great men who acted with them up until a few years ago, warned us upon a thousand memorable occasions of its steady approach. These warnings and admonitions, however, have produced no effect—these great men's teachings have been neglected and the consequence is a devastating civil war, the magnitude of which we are daily trying to comprehend. These good men's lessons are forgotten and in their stead we learn our duty from the demagogue, the fanatic and the knave. In every quarter of the Union we see fanaticism tiling the places of departed patriotism, and wise men of moderation and integrity driven into involuntary retirement to make room for those who, but a few years ago, were regarded with well grounded suspicion. The southern section of the country is prostrated by a band of desperate slave propagandists, while the north is cursed by a party of fanatical abolitionists. These two extremes have reduced the nation to its present lamentable condition, and fraternal feeling never will return between the now contending sections, until these desperate leaders are supplanted and sent into retirement. We have degenerated; public virtue has departed, and the country is in the keeping of political gamblers. We have degenerated until our lower house of Congress does not contain a single member of commanding character, and ability sufficient to wrestle with the crisis in which the country is involved. This is the result of faction, of sectional agitation, which has grown with such fearful rapidity in a few years as to plunge the country in a civil strife which threatens the very existence of republican institutions. Agitation has gone on until the wisest in the North almost despair of democratic forms in the future, while at the South, monarchical government is, by some, openly advocated. Dr. Russell, the celebrated correspondent of the London Times, now in this country, has frequently stated that many of the leading rebellious spirits at the South are, at present, a preference for a kingly government, although until recently that section of the Union gave us some of the ablest champions of liberal institutions. It is true that these statements were made by the very extremists of the Gulf States, but we see that a few days since Virginia made a rapid stride towards disfranchising her people. In the "reform" convention which assembled in Richmond, a few days ago, a proposition was submitted amending the Constitution so as to make the election of the Legislature—This received forty-one votes, or more than one-third of the convention. This manifests an extraordinary change in a short time, in the sentiments of Virginia, which State was, until recently, one of the most liberal in the Union. This sudden degeneracy in Virginia is the result of faction which, to serve its purposes, will flatter the multitude, but which, in the present revolutionary condition of the country, finds its only security in concentrating power in the hands of a few. A few weeks prior to the attack on Fort Sumter, last April, Virginia voted, by eighty thousand majority, to stay in the Union; now she is not only anxious to stay out, but is engaged in destroying what is republican in her form of government. The great men alluded to in the beginning of this article warned us of our possible decline, if not a fall; the first is upon us with fearful reality, the second is a question to consider and endeavor to avert.

WAR FEELS.

If we are to judge the feelings of the English people towards this country, by the tone of their papers, we should infer that they are as little like John Bull who was spooling for a fight. Some of these journals are resorting to the flimsiest falsehoods to arouse resentment against this country. One of these is the following from the London Morning Chronicle. When the reader reflects for a moment, that the nomination of Mr. Lincoln by the Chicago Convention, was never thought of by any one, until it was effected, and hardly believed until corroborated by numerous dispatches, he will see the utter absurdity of the statement attributed to Mr. Seward. It looks very much as if John Bull was anxious for a "rough and tumble" with the United States. This is almost inconceivable, when we remember the handsome things we did a few months ago for Queen Victoria's "eldest born," the Prince of Wales. Then in our exchange of compliments and civilities it was all congratulation of each other for having descended from "the same hero-

FROM THE SOUTH.

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