The Daily Post

JAMES P. BARR,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

PITTSBURGH:

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1862.

THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

We have been perusing a Richmond paper, containing the proceedings of the "Confederate Congress," of last Tuesday; and have been impressed with the reckless desperation of every resolution and proposition which came up for consideration. This body evidently feels that their experiment is already doomed, and like a set of spirited rebels, they are willing to destroy themselves, rather than yield to the power against which they are in revolt. Gen. Jackson's alternative, at New Orleans, in the event of being driven from his line of entrenchments, "of firing the city and fighting the enemy through the flames," is likely to be improved upon by those infatuated people. His desperate alternative, was meant to save the "beauty and booty" of Louisiana from outrage and robbery, but this convocation of grave and learned Senators recommend the torch to be applied to the field, the home and fireside of their own people. The horrid spirit breathed in the address of the Georgia commissioners a few days ago, seems to have entered into these Congressional proceedings. In addition to this destructive spirit, we also perceive another of jealousy, anarchy and discontent.

Our readers will doubtless remember that among those who in 1850 was most vehement in his expressions of love for the Union was Henry S. Foote, then of Mississippi. From the Senate of the United States, the dispute between him and Jeff. Davis, (his then colleague,) was transferred to their State, when each became the leader, as candidate for Governor, of his peculiar policy. After a heated canvass, Foote succeeded, but the e... his gubernatorial ...cian. After box...ss, he now turns ...ber from Tennes...n that he has not ...tility to Jefferson ...ay last, a bill allowing the Cabinet seats upon ...ongress, to *defend* them... y charges which Congress ...ainst them, came up for ...ad its immediate passage. Mr. Foote strongly favored ...ith the understanding that if ...defense was not endorsed by ...ress, said members would be com...lled to resign, and give place to others who should accord with the sentiment expressed. A refusal to resign under such circumstances said Mr. Foote, "would justify a civil revolution."

This bill, if it passes, leaves the Confederate government a mere wreck already. Every act of the government must necessarily depend upon the humor or caprice of an uncertain majority of Congress. Davis will be subjected, in his administration, to all conceivable resolutions of inquiry, and his Cabinet dragged before Congress to explain the most trifling circumstance. The strongest government in the world could hardly survive this sort of continual blood-letting; how then can our mushroom Confederacy hope to profit by it. The seeds of dissolution and premature decay seem to be already implanted into the heart of the rebel government. Were they successful to-morrow in establishing their independence, their present unanimity would give place to the most desperate enterprises of conspiracy and revolution. Like Mexico, after achieving her independence from Spain, faction would usurp the places of patriotism, and devastating anarchy rage throughout their limits. We feel persuaded, from what we have already seen, that if our government, twelve months ago, had absolutely acknowledged the South's independence, that section would, ere this, have been wrecked by civil internal commotion. There are too many daring, desperate and aspiring men among them to rest easy under Davis' government of six years' duration; many of them, like himself, who cannot brook even the accent of reproof. This early move of Foote, who for the last twelve years has been a mere marauder in politics, does not exhibit much confidence in Davis' government; it aims to strip him of all authority, and compel him to submit to such Congressional exactions and humiliations as Congress may place upon him, or refusing obedience thereto, forcing him to resign. Before this happens, however, we expect to hear of the arms of the government defeating the Confederate Chief, and of scattering to the mountains and caverns that usurping body to which Mr. Foote belongs. There he and Davis and the rest may for a while elude their pursuers, but like the poor deluded followers of Lopes in his invasion of Cuba, they will come from their mountain fastnesses, we trust, contrite and penitent men, to receive such punishment as the condition of things may require to have administered.

☞ The New York *Times* says that it is quite time the Senate should vindicate its pretensions to sense, if not to statesmanship. It is impossible to look through its ranks without regret at the absence of the great men who once gave dignity, wisdom and direction to its counsels; but if it cannot possess the commanding minds time and death have taken away, it may at least have some regard to decorum, and some respect to the obvious suggestions of common sense and business thrift.

☞ A man who cheats in short measure is a measureless rogue. If in whisky, then he is a rogue in spirit. If he gives a bad title to land, then he is a rogue in deed. If he gives short measure in wheat, then he is a rogue in grain. And If he cheats when he can, he is in deed, in spirit, in grain, a measureless rogue.

GOVERNOR CURTIN.

Our talented, Harrisburg correspondent "*Testudo*," it will be seen, grows enthusiastic in his admiration of the speech made by His Excellency, Gov. Curtin, the other day, on the occasion of his presenting a set of colors to the "Erie Regiment." The Governor is always happy in his public speeches, but never more so than upon the occasion referred to. By the way, Gov. Curtin, like the generality of his predecessors, has undergone his share of detraction, the only difference between them, being that he suffered in the beginning of his Administration, while the others received their principal condemnation at the close of their respective terms. We believe that we do but an act of justice to a public servant, when we say that Gov. Curtin, considering the accummulation and variety of business he has to dispose of, especially since the rebellion began, has filled his high trust with energy and success. In all his acts, and especially in his addresses, he has loomed above the politician, appearing solicitous for the success of our arms, and profoundly impressed with the magnitude of our undertaking. In a word, he has acted like a Governor, representing the whole people, and not like a partisan, making all things bend, and prostituting his office, to secure prospective partisan, or factional advantages. We trust that his further efforts may be successful, and that ere his term of office expires he will see the rebellion crushed. In that case he will be able to retire with the pleasing reflection of having "done the State some service and they know it."

News from Washington.

THE GAMING HOUSES.

To-morrow (Saturday) being government pay day here, the provost guard design paying their attention to the gaming houses of Washington and their frequenters of high and low degree. The guard will summarily shut up every one of them, and all paraphernalia of their different games. They will probably commence upon the most fashionable establishments of the kind.

FROM THE LOWER POTOMAC.

The steamers Yankee and Reliance came up from the flotilla yesterday, and the Yankee went down again immediately.

The King Phillip went down to the flotilla yesterday afternoon, and returned at a late hour last night. She took a number of ladies and gentlemen down to Mount Vernon yesterday morning.—The trip was a pleasant one.

GEN. BUSHROD JOHNSON.

The report that this Confederate officer was taken prisoner at Fort Donelson is erroneous. He made his escape before the surrender.

GEN. SICKLES.

We are assured by parties down the river that there is not a word of truth in the rumor of the shooting of General Sickles by one of his men.

The Southern Reverses.

A writer in the Richmond *Examiner*, after referring to the defeat of the Confederates at Fort Henry and Roanoke Island, says:

"It is high time that these surrenders should cease—for, considering the character of the war in its consequences to us, they have been truly amazing, commencing with that of the cavalry at Alexandria down through that of Colonel Pegram, at Rich Mountain, that of Com. Barron, at Hatteras, &c, to the present lamentable instances.

"At Fort Henry a *brigadier general*, unwounded, having a garrison almost intact, lowers his flag over a dozen guns of the largest calibre, and with a hackneyed compliment yields up his bloodless sword. How withering and humiliating to our Southern manhood was the sorrowful reply of the Yankee Commodore. That the general should have neglected to make preparation for preventing the enemy from ascending the river and burning the railroad bridges, may be passed over, because no commission can make a man commander unless it be given by nature; but if the statement as to his surrender be true, is he to be retained upon the rolls of the Southern army as an officer?

"The Roanoke affair is perfectly incomprehensible. The newspapers are filled with extravagant laudations of our valor—the annals of Greece and Rome offer no parallel—whole regiments were defeated by companies, and we yielded only to death. Our men finally surrendered "with no blood on their bayonets," and what is the loss? Richmond Blues, two killed and five wounded; McCulloch Rangers, one killed and two wounded; the other four companies lost in all two killed and eleven wounded. Comment is needless. The whole army had better surrender at once, for it will eventually come to it."

Bivouac.

This word is commonly but incorrectly regarded as of French origin. Its form is French, but it comes from the German *bewachen*, to watch, or be on guard. The true meaning of it is often lost sight of, for whereas it correctly applies only to those who pass the night under arms, or in attitude of defense, it is frequently used of any encamping and passing the night in the open air.

The Carnage at Fort Donelson.

A letter from Captain L. D. Waddell, of company E, Eleventh Illinois Volunteers, to his father, in New York, says that out of eighty-five men in his company, but seven remain alive—the most wholesale slaughter that was ever heard of. This was the color company, which the rebels took particular aim; as fast as one man who carried them would be shot down another would take his place, but the flag was brought through. Only one hundred and sixteen remained in the Eleventh Regiment uninjured.

The Coal Mines of Great Britain

Prof. Rogers estimates that one-sixth part of the total produce of the coal mines of Great Britain is employed in generating force, which force is equivalent to 55,000,000 of men. Half an acre of coal, three feet deep, will yield 10,000 tons, and this quantity is equivalent to the labor of 3,000 men in all their lives. If we take the annual produce of the mines in Great Britain at 65,000,000 tons, we have an equivalent to the force of 400,000,000 adult men—that is, one-half more than exists in the whole world.

☞ A man's good breeding is the best security against other people's good manners.

Letter from Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, 1862.

All about the Armory—Difficulty of the Committee deciding on a site—Opposition of Congress to the expenditure—Present feeling of Congress—Position of New England—Position of the West—Sectional complexion of the Committee—Bills already before Congress for the establishment of Foundries and Armories—Probable action of the House Committee.

DEAR POST: The interest felt at Pittsburgh in the establishment of a National Armory, emboldens me to inflict upon your readers, if you interpose no *Barr*, that *rarity* of literature a Washington letter; believing they will pardon its heaviness if it contains explanations as to the past and present *status* of so weighty a question as the establishment of a National Armory and Foundry.

The Committee of nine appointed by Congress in July last, to consider "the expediency of establishing a National Armory and Foundry west of the Allegheny mountains," have for some time past been endeavoring to harmonize in their views, in order to report a bill to Congress for action. The trouble in harmonizing has been that each member of the Committee had some favorite site within his own district. Another difficulty lay in the framing of a bill acceptable to Congress. This latter difficulty was a serious one, for when the Pittsburgh delegation reached Washington, in January last they found Congress opposed to the establishment of an Armory anywhere. That sentiment of Congress the Pittsburgh Committee set themselves to combat, and the feeling of the House is now believed to be favorable to the establishment of an Armory and Foundry. A strong opposition to the erection of another Armory, was made by New England, and still continues. Members from that section of the country contending that the Armory at Springfield, Mass., was able with *proper appropriations* to manufacture all the arms needed by the country in any emergency. *Proper appropriations* meant with those members enough money to extend the Springfield Armory to the capacity of three or four; and build up at that place a gigantic "Enfield" whose workshops should be the sole reliance of the country for arms in the hour of danger. Make Springfield, said the Pittsburgh delegation, to those persons, as effective and complete as possible, but do not by selfishly withholding support to the establishment of an Armory in the West, place the country at the mercy of an accidental fire, that may in an hour leave the Nation without an Armory; or in event of a foreign war, place it in the power of our enemy to frightfully cripple us, by capturing through a bold determined dash, even at a heavy loss of life, our only Armory; for Springfield being only 40 miles from tide water is particularly susceptible of capture by a heavy force of well officered troops, suddenly moved upon it. But so far such representations have failed to effect the close views of the New England members, and it is probable that their opposition will be thrown in a body against any measure looking to the establishment of another Armory. The New England section is however, anxious for the establishment of a National Foundry, but urge that it should be located upon the North River.

Strongly as the establishment of another Armory is opposed by Eastern influence, it is as earnestly urged by the West; some sections of which, however, desires its location at some point West of Pittsburgh. The House Committee, to whom has been referred the question of the establishment "of an Armory West of the Allegheniés," consists of two members from Eastern States, two from Western Pennsylvania, one from Ohio, one from Michigan, two from Illinois and one from St. Louis. The formation of this Committee shows, in view of the foregoing *status* of the House upon the general question, how difficult is the effort to obtain from it any action definitely locating an Armory or Foundry at Pittsburgh, or any other site. This discordance in the Armory Committee has led delegations from other locations to obtain action from other Committees; consequently the Committee on Lake Defenses, of which Mr. Arnold, of Chicago, is Chairman, have reported a bill to establish a Foundry at Chicago. The Military Committee, of which Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, is Chairman, have brought in a bill to establish a Foundry on the North River, and Senator Trumbull, from Illinois, offered, early in the session, a bill to establish an Armory at Rock Island.—These bills will, upon their dissension, draw forth all the facts as to the eligibility of those various sites; and there is no doubt that their want of the proper qualifications, will be strongly shown in contrast with the happy combination which exist of all requisites at Pittsburgh. To the citizens of Pittsburgh it will appear a great want of common sense to locate at Chicago a Foundry when the materials for casting the cannon must be brought from Western Pennsylvania, and her location and defenseless position on the lakes renders such an establishment peculiarly subject to capture, in event of a war with England.—Nor does it appear any more judicious to locate a manufactory of arms at any point in the west which depends upon Pittsburgh for its supplies of all descriptions of manufactured iron as well as for coke and coal. The action of the House Committee on the establishment of an Armory will no doubt seriously affect those bills already before Congress, asking for the establishment of Armories and Foundries. Having thus sketched for the information of your readers the various positions and phases which the question of a National Armory presents in the House, and in the Committee, they can draw their own inferences. The action of the House Committee, will probably become definite in a day or two, and the indications are that they will report a bill establishing two Foundries, one East and one West of the Mountains; an additional armory to be located West of the Alleghenies, and probably an Arsenal of construction and repair to be also located West of the Alleghenies. The selection of these sites will, without doubt, be referred to a Commission, to be composed of military men and civilians, who will be instructed to report within a very short time to the Secretary of war for approval, in order to enable him to send in the estimates to the present session of Congress. So your readers may rest assured, that wherever the establishments indicated are to be located, the whole subject will be finally settled previous to the adjournment of the present Congress. With anything like a judicious commission thus composed of civilians and military men, the great advantages of Pittsburgh, which are freely admitted, even by her most determined opponents, cannot fail to secure her selection as the site of either the Armory or Foundry, and perhaps both. But enough for the present.

'SCRIBE.'

Removal of South Carolina Slaves

By an order of the Government and Executive Council of South Carolina, the owners of slaves removed from the seaboard to the interior of the State are required to place them under the control of some white person residing in the neighborhood to which the slaves may be removed. Any violation of this order subjects the party infringing it to a penalty of ten dollars per head per month on each slave so left without proper control.

Unit of Horse Power.

Answer to queries from several readers of the Agriculturist. The average power of a horse is reckoned as equivalent to the raising of 32,000 pounds one foot per minute, and this is the unit of measure in estimating the power of steam engines, &c. A horse walking at the rate of four miles an hour, travels 352 feet per minute. Going at this rate, he would only have to pull on a rope sufficient to draw up a weight of 91 pounds (nearly) to exert the same power as would be required to 32,000 one foot in a full minute. If traveling only three miles an hour, the constant weight to lift would be 121¼ pounds. If traveling an hour, the average draught would be about 36½ pounds. By recent enactment, the Austrian Government has fixed the legal horse power for that empire at 32,982.85 pounds, (or nearly 33,000 pounds) raised one foot per minute.

☞ Value the friendship of him who stands by you in the storm; swarms of insects will surround you in the sunshine.