

THE RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL.

Raftsmen's Journal.



BY SAMUEL J. BOW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., DEC. 18, 1861.

BRECKINRIDGE EXPELLED.

The United States' Senate, with the unanimous concurrence of every member who voted—certain disguised secessionists dodging the call of the ayers and noes—expelled John C. Breckinridge, late Vice President of the United States, and the special pet of the bigoted “democrats,” from his seat in that body. The parallel between him and Burr is now complete, says the Lancaster Union, except that Breckinridge is by far the viler and more wicked traitor of the two, having actually taken up arms against the Government which, at four times repeated, he, with solemn oath and appeal to heaven, vowed to support, and even now, in the face of the more than once ascertained majority of the people of Kentucky, is leading troops for the purpose of reducing his native State to subjection to rebels whom she has repudiated, and traitors whom she scorns and despises. Such is the end to which this man of unholy ambition has so early attained. Flattered and puffed up by self-seeking and mercenary politicians, they have betrayed him to his ruin, and he now stands branded before the world with the infamous mark of Cain, Catiline, Judas and Arnold. Even his own colleague in the Senate—rebel at heart as he is—dared not record his vote against his expulsion. Bayard and Saulsbury, who misrepresent loyal Delaware—Pearce who has fallen from his high estate to the low meanness of holding a seat from Union-loving Maryland in the interest of secession—Johnson and Polk, thinly disguised traitors from Missouri, and Bright, who ought to be compelled to follow Breckinridge and give Indiana a chance to have a true man for Senator—all shining lights of “the great Democratic Party,” sat mute in their seats, or ingloriously fled the Senate Chamber when just execution was done on Breckinridge. The papers of that party which only a little more than a year ago supported the expelled traitor for President, are now silent as the grave when he is indignantly driven from the Senatorial seat which he polluted with treason. If they dared, they would protest and condemn—if they spoke their real sentiments they would justify his treason; as it is, they are as really treacherous at heart, as the man whose election to the Chief Magistracy of the Union they so recently supported.

LETTERS OF MARQUE.—A telegraphic dispatch from New York, states that the Mexican government is issuing letters of marque, and that several are now held by parties in that city. These letters grant the privilege of preying upon the commerce of England, France and Spain, which governments are about inaugurating a war upon the Mexicans. Several vessels are said to be fitting out at the port of New York to sail under the Mexican flag, with the privilege of bringing prizes into neutral ports. This act is justified in view of the decision of the British Government, which allows the pirate Nashville to fit out at Southampton for the avowed purpose of preying upon the commerce of American citizens.

FOREIGN NATIONS AND THE WAR.—The documents from the State Departments, submitted to Congress, disclosed the important fact that our Government now occupies the same position that it held in reference to foreign Governments at the beginning of the rebellion, and that though the United States early offered to accept the Paris declaration in reference to privateering, both England and France desired to make an exception in favor of the Jeff Davis Confederacy, to which the Government has refused to yield, leaving the United States free from any obligation to “accept the Paris declaration, while the few rebel privateers are now fugitives on the high seas, or are lying idle in Southern harbors.”

INSANE.—A dispatch from Baltimore says that Capt. Thomas, the famous “French lady” who captured the steamer St. Nicholas on the Chesapeake about the first of July last, has become insane at Fort McHenry. Whether the Captain will be sent away after an apology “in the politest kind of a manner, for the brief interruption,” the dispatch does not state.

KENTUCKY U. S. SENATOR.—On the 10th December, Garrett Davis was elected to fill the vacancy in the Kentucky delegation in the Senate, caused by the expulsion of the traitor John C. Breckinridge. Mr. Davis was an old line Whig and a devoted friend of Henry Clay.

OFFICIAL RETURNS.—The Board of Canvassers have concluded the official count of the votes cast at the recent Municipal election in New York city. The count gives Odyke, Republican, 1213 majority over Wood, and 614 over Gunther.

NOWHERE.—The secession of the Southern States is improving the finances of the Post-office Department. The deficit this year will be about two and a half million less than last. It is an ill wind that blows no-body any good.

PREPARED.—According to the Toronto (Canada) Leader, the defences of that place are strongly urging the importance of increasing the defences of that place, advising the sinking of vessels in the channel. They have evidently had their confidence somewhat shaken in their river defences.

THE SECRETARY ON THE TREASURY.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury, is a comprehensive and valuable document, conservative and cautious in the changes it recommends, and clear and positive in the enunciation of those sound principles of financial policy which form the sub-treasury law and vetoed the United States Bank. The secretary states, as the principle for regulating the amount of revenue “indispensable to a sound system of finance” which “reflection has only determined” in his mind as just and for the interest of the people, “taxation to produce enough for ordinary expenditures, for prompt payment of interest on the public debt, existing and authorized, and a surplus fund sufficient to extinguish the principal within thirty years.” Mr. Chase rivets this clear exposition of the American national system of paying debts, as distinguished from that of European governments, with the following emphatic sentence: “The idea of perpetual debt is not of American nativity, and should not be naturalized.”

The tariff is recommended to be advanced, as follows: brown sugar, two and one-half cents per pound; clayed sugar, three cents; green tea, twenty cents; and coffee, five cents. No other changes are proposed.

The direct tax on property is recommended to be \$20,000,000 from the loyal states; and, furthermore, \$20,000,000 by duties on stills and distilled liquors, on tobacco, on bank notes, on carriages, on legacies, on paper evidences of debt and instruments for conveyance of property, and other like subjects of taxation; also \$10,000,000 from the income tax, making the total yearly product of direct taxation other than customers, amount to \$50,000,000 annum.

The proceeds of custom duties are estimated at \$32,198,662, and from lands and miscellaneous sources, \$2,354,062. The total from all other sources except direct taxation is estimated at \$40,000,000, and from direct taxation \$50,000,000, making the yearly revenue \$90,000,000. On this subject the secretary gives the following interesting remarks and calculations:

“But if the sum is large, the means of the people are also large; and the object to be attained by a consecration of a portion of them to the public service is priceless. The real property of the loyal states is valued, in round numbers, at seven and a half thousands of millions, the personal property at three and a half thousands of millions, and the annual surplus of earnings of the people at not less than three hundred millions of dollars. Four mills on each dollar, or two-fifths of one per cent, on the real and personal property of the loyal states, will produce forty-four millions of dollars; to which sum the proposed income tax will probably add ten millions. The whole sum will be little more than one-sixth of the surplus earnings of the country.”

The secretary explains that the July estimates of expenditure were based on an army of 250,000 men, which Congress afterwards increased to 500,000.

The existing appropriations, loans, and estimated revenue for the year ending June 30, 1862, are estimated at \$29,501,994, and the expenditures at \$543,406,422. This will require further loans for \$213,904,427, and \$200,000,000 will probably be enough.

For the year ending June 30, 1863, the expenditures and interest on debt are estimated at \$475,331,245, and the receipts from customs and taxation at \$95,800,000, leaving a balance to raise by loans of \$379,431,215.

The whole amount required from loans may, therefore, be thus stated:

For the year 1862, under existing laws, \$75,449,675,00

For the fiscal year of 1862, under laws to be enacted, 200,000,000.00

For the fiscal year 1863, also under laws to be enacted, 379,531,245.51

Making an aggregate of, \$654,920,939.51

If the war lasts until June 30, 1863, and these estimates prove correct, the national debt on that day will be \$900,000,000.

The statement, in brief, is as follows:

On the first day of July, 1860, the public debt was, \$64,769,703.08

On the first day of July, 1861, the public debt was, 90,867,828.68

On the first day of July, 1862, the public debt will be, 517,372,802.93

On the first day of July, 1863, the public debt will be, 807,372,802.93

Mr. Chase, in his remarks on bank circulation, gives an unqualified adherence to the principle of specie payments as indispensable to sound banking, and condemns the further use of United States demand notes by government. The plan which he recommends is prudent, safe for the public interests, and under the judicious control of practical business men, may be made the instrument for a thorough regeneration of our bank note currency. The following are its suggestions:

“In this plan the people, in their ordinary business, would find the advantages of uniformity in currency; of uniformity in security; of effectual safeguard, if effectual safeguard is possible, against depreciation; and of protection from losses in discounts and exchanges; while in the operations of the government the people would find the further advantage of a large demand for government securities, of increased facilities for obtaining the loans required by the war, and of some alleviation of the burdens on industry through a diminution of the rate of interest, or a participation in the profit of circulation, without risking the perils of a great money monopoly.”

“A further and important advantage to the people may be reasonably expected in the increased security of the Union, springing from the common interest in its preservation, created by the distribution of its stocks to associations throughout the country, as the basis of their circulation.”

SKATING ACCIDENT.—A sad and fatal accident occurred on Thursday in Harvard, Mass. Four boys, one fourteen years of age named Hiram Hapgood, two others twelve and fourteen years of age, sons of Josiah Rand, and a lad named Munroe, were skating on a mill pond, and had proceeded about one or two rods from the shore, when the ice gave way, and all were precipitated into the water. Munroe succeeded in reaching the shore, but the other three sank and were drowned.

A singular case is noted in the Cairo Hospital, among the wounded at Belmont. One man was shot in the right leg, and had to have it amputated. Sympathetic action at once took place in the other limb, and at precisely the same spot where the knife had severed its fellow a similar pain was felt. So severe did this become that the leg is bandaged and treated as if it was wounded.

BECOMING ALARMED.—The rebels at Norfolk are evidently alarmed, as the papers there are strongly urging the importance of increasing the defences of that place, advising the sinking of vessels in the channel. They have evidently had their confidence somewhat shaken in their river defences.

The Latest News.

FROM KENTUCKY.—The Cincinnati Times says, the last blunder in Kentucky was that made by Capt. Dillon, which resulted in leaving the forces of the enemy, under Zollicoffer, 10,000 strong, secured a footing on the north side of the Cumberland river, below Somerset, compelling our troops to fall back and take a defensive position. It appears that Gen. Shoeff learned of the enemy's designs, and ordered Captain Dillon, with one company of Kentucky cavalry, to proceed immediately to Mills' Springs, fourteen miles distant, which was the threatened point, sending the 17th Ohio, Col. Connell, and a battery of artillery, in the rear, with orders to reach the spot as soon as possible. Notwithstanding it was known that the enemy contemplated crossing that night, and that great haste was necessary, Captain Dillon halted his men, after proceeding seven miles, and encamped; and when the infantry and artillery came up, they followed his example, and the result was, that by sunrise the next morning the enemy was north of the river in full force, and our troops returned to headquarters. As Gen. Shoeff had but about three thousand men, he was compelled to fall back this side of Somerset, intrench himself, and await reinforcements. If we expect to carry on this war successfully, discipline must be enforced, and there is no breach so criminal, and so disastrous, as that which permits the enemy to gain advantages by movements which might be prevented. A reinforcement of 5,000 men could not have strengthened Zollicoffer, so effectually as the advance he was permitted to make.

THE SUMTER AND THE IROQUOIS.—The brig S. W. Rowland, Capt. Rowland arrived at New York on the 12th, from St. Thomas, Nov. 27th. Capt. S. states that the captain of the Iroquois is entirely to blame for the escape of the pirate Sumter from Port Royal and Martique. A man was sent ashore at Port Royal from the island to signalize the movements of the pirate, and on the night of the 23d he made signals that she was leaving the harbor, but no notice was taken of it by the captain of the Iroquois. His First Lieutenant tried to persuade him to give chase, which could easily have been done, as the Sumter draws a foot more water than the Iroquois, but he would not hear to it—saying it would be very unpleasant for him to capture her as he and Semmes had been school-mates, and Semmes had been his former superior officer; also that he did not want to break the neutrality of the Sumter. The Sumter after lying off that port several days for that sole purpose. The greatest indignation prevailed among Americans and others friendly to the United States, when the facts became known at St. Thomas.

PORT PICKENS.—A letter from party on board the Richmond dated Nov. 23d says, that that vessel commenced bombarding Fort McRea on the morning of the 22d, and while the writer complimenting the Captain of one of the guns on the accuracy of his aim, a shell bounded through our bulwarks, took off the Captain's head and wounded six men. The shell on exploding raised the ship out of the water and made her stagger like a drunken man. Another shell burst six feet below the water line, causing a bad leak, kept the vessel free. The Richmond moved out of range the next morning, but the Niagara still kept at them, but being outside of the enemy's guns she cannot be injured. Fort Pickens, up to date, had lost but one man killed and seven wounded. Fort McRea is much damaged but we cannot destroy it with our smooth bore guns, as they are no match for the enemy's rifled cannon. The result of the fight may be briefly stated thus: Two rebel boats were sunk, and others disabled; Warrington and the Navy yard were burned; the flag-staffs of Fort McRea and Barancas were shot away; the former fort was badly injured, and the latter is in the power of Fort Pickens, as soon as reinforcements arrive in sufficient numbers to enable Col. Brown to hold the place when taken.

BATTLE IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.—A special dispatch from Cheat Mountain to the Cincinnati Commercial says that on the 13th one of the hardest and best fought battles of the war was fought at Allegheny camp, Pocahontas county, Western Virginia. Gen. R. H. Milroy commanded the Union troops and Gen. Johnson, of Georgia, commanded the rebels. The fight lasted from daylight till 3 o'clock P. M.

The Union loss is about thirty and the rebel loss over two hundred, including a Major and many other officers. Thirty prisoners are taken.

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THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INCREASING THE FORCE IN CANADA.—The arrangements for increasing the force in Canada are not yet complete, but in a very few hours everything will be settled. In the meantime a large ship, the Melbourne, has been taken up and is now being loaded with Armstrong guns, some 80,000 Enfield rifles, ammunition, and other stores at Woolwich. It is not impossible that this vessel will be escorted by one or two ships of war. The rifles are intended for the Canadian military, and a strong reinforcement of field artillery will be dispatched forthwith.

The Times' city article of the 30th, says the position of the Federal States of America, is almost identical in every commercial point with that which was occupied towards us by Russia before the Crimean war. Russia had a hostile tariff while we looked to her for a large portion of our general supply of breadstuffs; but there is this peculiarity in our present case, that the commencement would be by the breaking up of the blockade of the southern ports at once setting free our industry from the anxiety of the cotton famine and giving sure prosperity to Lancashire through the winter. At the same time we shall open our door to eight millions in the confederate States, who desire nothing better than to be our customers.

The London Times in alluding to the decision of the British Cabinet, that the arrest of Mason and Slidell is a clear violation of the law of nations, believes that Lord Lyons will be instructed by the first steamer to demand reparation, and if not complied with, will be instructed to withdraw the legation from Washington.

ANOTHER TRAITOR.—Surgeon James C. Herndon, who arrived at New York with Gwin and Benham, after gaining all the information he could at Washington and elsewhere, made his way to Virginia by way of Port Tobacco. Much rejoicing was manifested on his arrival at Fredericksburg, where his father resides. It is said he took down a large correspondence and papers in abundance. He is a relative of the Minors, Bottses, and Mercers, and our unusually smart youth of 25. It is gratifying to know, that after the escape of this fine rebel, our vigilant rulers locked the stable-door by striking his name from the U. S. service.

ANOTHER MISREPRESENTATION.—Letters from Europe say that Dr. Russell, of the London Times writes, “that the Administration is becoming disposed to accept foreign mediation with a view to a compromise with the South on a basis of a separation.” It is difficult to conceive how Mr. Russell should have been deceived into the adoption of such an idea. Neither the Administration nor any one connected with it would ever accept such mediation from any quarter, or a peace on any basis but the complete submission of the States in revolt to the authority of the United States.

SHOCKING MURDER.—On the 10th, while the 2d Maryland regiment was drawn up for dress parade in Baltimore, a private named Charles Koons came from his tent, picked up a musket, took deliberate aim at Lieut. Wilson, fired, and killed him on the spot. The deed was an act of revenge, Lieut. Wilson having shot a friend of Koons' some time previous in an attempt to run the pickets. Koons was taken to Fort McHenry.

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ILLUSTRATED SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.—THE BEST MECHANICAL PAPER IN THE WORLD.—SEVENTEENTH YEAR.—VOLUME VI.—NEW SERIES.

A new volume of this widely-circulated paper commences on the first of January. It is published weekly, and every number contains sixteen pages of useful information, and from five to ten original engravings of new machines and inventions, which are not found in any other publication. It is an annual publication of the publishers to meet the same name but original engravings, and those of the first class in the art, drawn and engraved by experienced persons under their own supervision.

TO THE MECHANICS AND MANUFACTURERS.—No person engaged in any of the mechanical or manufacturing pursuits should think of “doing without” the Scientific American. It costs but four cents per week; every number contains from six to ten original engravings of new machines and inventions, which are not found in any other publication. It is an annual publication of the publishers to meet the same name but original engravings, and those of the first class in the art, drawn and engraved by experienced persons under their own supervision.

TO THE INVENTOR.—The Scientific American is indispensable to every inventor, as it not only contains illustrations of nearly all the best inventions as they come out, but each number contains an Official List of the Claims of all the Patents issued from the United States Patent Office during the previous week; thus giving a correct history of the progress of inventions in this country. We are also receiving, every week, the best scientific news of Great Britain, France and Germany; thus placing in our hands all the latest that is transpiring in mechanical science and art in these old countries. We shall continue to transact with our countrymen copious extracts from these journals of whatever we may deem of interest to our readers.

CHEMISTS, ARCHITECTS, MILLWRIGHTS, AND FARMERS.—A scouting expedition, composed of a part of Merrell's horse, and two companies of regular cavalry, who went as far as Waverly, have returned and brought as prisoners 4 captains, 2 lieutenants and 40 rebel privates. They also captured one mortar and a large number of horses and wagons. The man who hauled down the American flag after Col. Mulligan's surrender, has been arrested at Sedalia as a spy.

MAJ. SLEMMER.—A letter from Huttonsville, West Virginia, says: “I am sorry to state that Maj. Slemmer, of Fort Pickens' fame, is not expected to live. He came here to inspect the troops, but was attacked with the camp fever and dysentery—which nearly all of us have had—and is now lying in a precarious condition. His wife is here with him. The doctor thinks he cannot live.”

RETIRING LIST.—On Thursday the 12th a bill was introduced into the Senate to promote the efficiency of the Navy. It provides for the retirement of officers who have been on the register forty-five years, and authorizes the President to select an officer from the grade of captain or commander, and assign him to the command of a squadron, with the rank of flag-officer.

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REGISTRATION OF PATENTS.—NOTICE is hereby given that the following account of the Scientific