

The Compiler.



MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 23, 1865.

DEATH OF EDWARD EVERETT.

Hon. Edward Everett died on Sunday morning at four o'clock at his residence in Summer street, Boston, of apoplexy. His age was seventy years and about nine months. Mr. Everett addressed his fellow citizens at Faneuil Hall on Monday week last, in aid of sending provisions to Savannah, and during the afternoon of that day was present in court in reference to a claim for damages against the city of Charleston for the overflowing of a portion of his estate in Medford by the construction of a dam on Mytic River. On Tuesday he became afflicted with quite a severe cold, but neither his friends nor himself deemed it serious. On Saturday evening he appeared almost as usual, and retired to bed declining to trouble any one to remain with him. About three o'clock on Sunday morning his house keeper entered his room and found him sleeping naturally. An hour later she was alarmed by hearing a heavy fall in his room, and found him lying on the floor breathing heavily. A physician was promptly summoned, but before his arrival Mr. Everett died. The event was announced in nearly all the churches at the commencement of morning services, and created a profound feeling of sadness. Mr. Everett started in life as a Unitarian minister, and subsequently held high positions of distinguished honor—was in Congress and the Cabinet, and represented the United States Government abroad. His high scholarly attainments gave him a world-wide reputation. Mr. Everett delivered the Oration at the consecration of the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

In the House, at Harrisburg, on Wednesday, Mr. McClure introduced a resolution instructing the Military Committee to inquire into the expediency of framing a general law to legalize to townships the bounties which they have paid in excess of the amount which they were authorized to prepare by taxation.

In the House, at Washington, on Thursday, Mr. Hubbard, of Connecticut, having offered a resolution instructing the military committee to inquire into the expediency of preventing injustice being done in the matter of the draft, Mr. Scherck stated that the provost marshal had explained away his recent order, and that full credits would be allowed. On motion of Mr. Scherck the enrollment bill was postponed for two weeks.

We trust that Congress hereafter will pass a law calling out the whole body of the people to put down the rebellion, and that the first organization under such an enactment will be made in the Senate and House of Representatives, with Old Abe and his Cabinet for its officers. Such an example would fire the heart of the nation, and convince the masses who have heretofore borne the brunt of the fight, that there is henceforth to be no shirking from the dangers of the battlefield.—Har. Tek.

The Lancaster Intelligencer cordially endorses so much of the Telegraph's article as proposes that, in the event of a general call to arms, "the first organization shall be made in the Senate and House of Representatives, with Old Abe and his Cabinet for its officers." It also agrees with the Telegraph that "such an example would fire the heart of the nation," if it is not already burnt to a state of crispiness rivaling the wool of the negro for whom all this fighting has been done. Whenever the Abolitionists in Congress who are bawling for more conscripts shall conscript themselves and carry the harness of war on their own backs to the field of battle, they will dispel all doubts that may now be entertained as to the honesty of their motives. And whenever Old Abe shall cast behind the luxurious comforts of the White House, and take the chance of having a rebel sharpshooter make a hole in his earthly tabernacle, he shall give him credit for more patriotism and better pluck than Democrats in general suppose him to be possessed of.

Making Fools of themselves.—The shoddy members of the lower House of Congress from this State, have united in a letter to Thaddeus Stevens, requesting him to grant permission to them to present his name to the President for the position of Secretary of the Treasury. Thaddeus, with more sense than they seem to possess, refuses permission, declaring that he has no aspirations to meddle with the gold market. With Stevens' late ridiculous attempt to meddle with the gold market fresh in their memories, this action of the shoddy Congressmen is a piece of the most consummate stupidity, or else it is the cover for a scheme of indiscriminate plunder.

In becoming the pioneer of its party on the peace question, the New York Tribune displays eminent shrewdness, though very little honesty. It may or may not be sincere in its desire for peace, but it knows enough to be aware that the time is not far distant when the peace party will not dominate.

New Jersey is the only Democratic State in the North, and is the only one that is out of debt and has a cash balance on hand in the Treasury. This is the best argument that could possibly be brought against Shoddy as a political economist.

The large room in the north wing of the Patent Office is to be used for the Presidential inauguration ball. A pretty thing the fourth of March will be to hold such a ball, while the land is in mourning for the slain in battle, and just after the South has swept like a bonfire over the North.

THE PEACE QUESTION.

It seems to us, says the N. Y. World, that a proposal of terms of peace can have but reasonable objects. It is made either in the hope of its immediate acceptance or in the hope that its rejection will provoke counter-revolution in the South. To accomplish either of these objects the offer must be reasonable, since it can rely upon nothing but an appeal to reason for its adoption. It will not be presented to the southern mind by northern advocates, but by southern advocates; and these (until the cause has made considerable headway) will be hesitating and timid. Unless the tender is, to a great extent, its own advocate; unless it is obviously fair to southern minds (who, of course, would view it from a southern stand point) recognize its fairness, on a simple statement of its tenor, it has little chance of success. A great majority of the bold, able, tongue men of the South are determined rebels; and whatever proposition is made will encounter their strenuous opposition unless its intrinsic character so commends it to fair minds that rebel logic cannot damage it. If the rebel leaders are expected to accept it, they must be furnished with a case with which they can go before the southern people. If the people are expected to accept it in defiance of the rebel government, we must make up an issue for them on which southern men, making their appeal to the southern mind, may reasonably expect to overthrow the government. It is too evident for argument that to give them the abolition of slavery for such an issue, is to make a mockery of the whole subject.

The fewer conditions, at first, beyond simple reunion on one side, and complete amnesty on the other, the better. If each section liggles like a set of chancery, keeping a sharp look-out lest they should be over-reached, they will never come to an agreement. Unless the parties can entertain a generous confidence in each other's honor and good faith, re-union is impossible. The Union will be restored, if at all, in the same spirit in which it was formed. Several of the States were so dissatisfied with the Constitution that they would not have adopted it but for the expectation of amendments which they considered vital. But they did not stand out and stickle till these were made, but adopted the Constitution first, exercising a generous trust in the other States for subsequent amendments. The convention of New York, for example, in the circular letter it sent to the governors of the other States conveying information of its ratification of the Constitution, said: "Several articles in it appear so exceptional to a majority of us, that nothing but the fullest confidence of obtaining a revision of them by a general convention, and an implicit reliance on separating from our sister States, could have prevailed upon a sufficient number to ratify it, without stipulating for previous amendments." The convention of Virginia said, in its ordinance of ratification: "And under the conviction that whatsoever imperfections may exist in the Constitution ought rather to be examined in the mode prescribed therein than to bring the Union into danger by delay in the hope of obtaining amendments previous to the ratification, do ratify," etc.

If the States had stood out in a spirit of distrust till all they wanted was nominated in the bond, instead of reposing this magnanimous confidence in each other, the Constitution would never have been adopted. The disaffected sections into which the country is now divided have learned to respect, and ought as citizens of a common country, to feel a common pride in, each other's valor, heroism, and many endurance; and the naturally generous South would be impressed (if it can be impressed by anything) by an offer from our government like this: "Come, we have had enough of this; we have misunderstood each other's character. Now, instead of going over and discussing the old quarrel, let us be friends at once, and illuminate all our cities in a general rejoicing. When we have feasted together and drunk together, if you want a general convention, we will have a convention. Both sections will go into it in a spirit of fairness, justice, and moderation, and instead of wrangling like a pack of rascals, we will settle our difficulties like patriots and Christians. Meanwhile, let the old Constitution under which we were once so great and prosperous, and which you re-adopted almost word for word, be the basis of our Union."

If there would be anything in a frank, manly, generous offer like this, inconsistent either with patriotism, justice, Christianity, sound policy, or good morals, we are unable to perceive it. If any appeal to the South, which honor does not forbid us to make, would be listened to, this would. If this were rejected, it would be clear to all that an honorable peace is not attainable without further carnage. But to make to the South the most odious tender which, coming from the North, could be offered them, is not to test the possibility of peace, but to furnish a new provocation to war. Influential friends of Mr. Lincoln found it necessary to explain away his Niagara manifesto, lest it should defeat his election in the North; and now an abolition manifesto which even the North would not stand in opposition to the South as an olive branch!

NEVER DESPAIR. That stanch and able Democratic journal, the Hillsboro' (Ohio) Gazette, in replying to a discouraging letter, uses the following noble and patriotic language:—"Our former friends, exclaiming, 'all is lost, it is no use to try any further.' Not so, my friend, all is not lost; nor is your condition half as deplorable and grinding now, as it will be if you cease your efforts to stay the flood of despotism that rolls mountain high to engulf you, and all of us, Democracy and Union alike, in its deluge. It is a remorseless surge. The number of those battling these advances of despotism is an immense host; when all its efforts are exerted, it is a great power, and never can, unless we will it so, be obtained to an impetuous remain there are battles to be fought at the ballot-box, and if the form shall be struck down, the contest will only be adjourned to a field where fraud will not win the day."

The Abolition papers seem to be divided on the question of the western franchise. The Tribune goes for extending it to the negroes. The Times favors taking it away from "ignorant" white men.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

The Abolition journals are busily engaged in fixing the position of the Democratic party on the slavery question, and marking out the future course of that ancient organization. Some say it is a pro-slavery, others an anti-slavery party. We can inform these fanatics that it is neither the one nor the other, and that the Democratic party can take care of itself, and that they shall mind their own business.

The Democratic party always held the doctrine that whether slavery was right or wrong, the National Government had nothing at all to do with it; that each State had to regulate that matter for itself. For seventy years, (as the Somerset Decree well remarks,) the nation acquiesced in this opinion, and a number of the twelve original slave States abolished slavery by State legislation, and this the Democratic party says is the only lawful and constitutional mode of abolishing slavery anywhere.

We would urge upon the Abolitionists that they should not expect the Democratic members of Congress to oppose Abolitionism at every step. The Abolitionists have not the power to adopt the proposed amendment this session, and if they dare let them execute their threat to convene the new Congress in special session for the purpose. The Democratic party must in the future, as it did in the past, for nearly three quarters of a century, stand squarely upon the doctrine of non-intervention. It was the means of preserving the Union, and upon it alone can it be restored and perpetuated. We repeat, then, let the Abolitionists not give themselves any trouble about the position of the Democratic party on slavery. It is a constitutional party, and as such it must stand by the doctrine of non-intervention with the domestic institutions of the States. Its motto will be—"Here we stand, we know nothing else."

It appears that there are yet some doubts in the United States where the supremacy of the law over military usurpation is asserted and maintained. We take pleasure in copying the following statement from the York, Pa., Democratic Press of Friday week:—Among the cases tried at the January session last week, was a prosecution on the part of Dr. William Hefner against Nelson Wisney, Joseph R. Carr and Levi Leck, soldiers in the U. S. hospital at this place, for a riot, and with other soldiers, attacking his house and breaking his doors and windows, and disturbing the peace. The defendants were arrested on a warrant issued by George M. Shaver, Esq., on the 23d day of November, 1864, and committed, and while in custody of the officers of the law, and within a hundred yards of the prison, they were taken from the officers in charge of them by a detachment of the above named corps, and taken to their barracks. Judge of the district (Hon. Robert J. Fisher) promptly demanded the surrender of the prisoners to the civil authorities, we understand, on the ground that the civil jurisdiction had attached and was in process of execution before the military authorities had taken any action in the premises. For that reason the defendants ought to be returned to the civil authorities to be dealt with according to the law of the State. But he wished it to be distinctly understood, that although this particular case was put upon the ground that it did not thereby admit, that in a community like the borough of York, where the citizens are loyal to the Constitution and government of the United States, where the courts are open and the laws of the Commonwealth administered, driving the Confederates from one house and traversing to another, until at ten o'clock in the evening, the entire fort was captured and the garrison driven out. General Whittier and Colonel Lamb, with the Confederate troops, retreated to the harbor. The Federal soldiers could retreat no farther; had no defenses; and were captured. Both Whitney and Lamb were wounded. On the works on Federal Point had been captured by the Federal troops. Seventy-two cannon and a number of prisoners various arms and accoutrements were taken. Twenty-five hundred, had been captured. Wilmington is not yet taken. It is thirty miles north of Fort Fisher. The Cape Fear river is not closed by this capture; for it has another entrance south of New Inlet. The probability is that the most of the Confederates have no longer force to oppose him, Porter may be able to effectually close the entrance, though two large forts have yet to be taken before he can have undisputed possession of the harbor. The Federal troops are now in the harbor, and reported at nine hundred. The magazine of the fort was blown up after it was captured, and two hundred Federal soldiers were killed and wounded.

RETURN OF MR. BLAIR FROM RICHMOND.

WASHINGTON, January 19. Mr. Francis Pickens returned here this evening, from his mission to Richmond, on the government steamer Don (which was placed at his disposal by the Navy Department), which took him up the James river as far as he could go without a flag of truce, and there he landed. Mr. Blair, commander of the enemy's line, met Blair at Richmond on Tuesday night. He intended to go to a hotel; but his visit having been noised about, he was met by several of his old acquaintances, most cordially greeted, and invited by several of them to be their guest. He accepted of the offer of Colonel Ould, the Confederate commissioner of exchange. During his stay in Richmond, he had an interview with Jeff. Davis, Secretary Benjamin, and Mr. Seddon, Secretary of War, besides several congressmen. On Saturday morning Mr. Blair, in company with twenty released Union surgeons and chaplains, several ladies, and Lieutenant Governor Jacobs, of Kentucky, left Virginia, near Richmond, on the regular flag-of-truce steamer, and arrived at our lines in a short time, the distance being about ten miles. After a brief tarry at General Ord's headquarters, he went on board the government dispatch boat and came down to General Grant's headquarters, where he remained some time. Yesterday morning the boat, with Mr. Blair on board, left Fort Fisher, and in due time reached here this afternoon. His arrival in Washington created considerable excitement, and the wildest rumors were soon abroad. Most of them took a shape indicative that Mr. Blair had accomplished something. The most general one was based on the intimation of the Richmond Examiner of Saturday that Jeff. Davis had offered to Mr. Blair to send peace commissioners to Washington. This evening Mr. Blair, Sr., and his son Montgomery, late postmaster-general, called on President Lincoln and upon some time. What passed at the interview is as yet unknown to outsiders, but to the latter Mr. Blair has intimated very decidedly that he went on no official mission, and that he did not receive an official commission while in Richmond, or on his return to Washington. He is reported to have been in Richmond on Tuesday night, and in due time reached here this afternoon. His arrival in Washington created considerable excitement, and the wildest rumors were soon abroad. Most of them took a shape indicative that Mr. Blair had accomplished something. The most general one was based on the intimation of the Richmond Examiner of Saturday that Jeff. Davis had offered to Mr. Blair to send peace commissioners to Washington. This evening Mr. Blair, Sr., and his son Montgomery, late postmaster-general, called on President Lincoln and upon some time. 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