

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, MARCH 4, 1863.

The War. We have still but little record of the doings of the army and navy. About Vicksburg there has been more activity than in any other quarter. The party which has been endeavoring to force the Yazoo Pass and get behind the city, is having some success, with prospects of more. It is now likely that the canal will be adequate to the passage of the gunboats, and then it is expected that Gen. Grant will go down the river and unite with Gen. Banks in an attack on Port Hudson. A dispatch just received, says that the canal is already a success, and that the gunboats were passing through it. The canal to connect the Mississippi with Lake Providence is also near completion, and hopes are entertained that by this way Red River will be approached. If these three passes, the Yazoo, the Pointe-oupe Vicksburg, and the Lake Providence, shall all be successful, there will be an immense gain.

But we have sad tidings from the same region, in the loss of the Queen of the West, and the Indianola, both of which, as we have stated, had run the blockade. The Queen was first captured, up the Red River, by batteries, and then she was used by the rebels in capturing the Indianola. Thus have we lost two of our best river men-of-war, and the enemy has gained them. This comes of recklessness. We never trust a man of dash, in our private business. It is the spirit of the gambler, and of the bold speculator, and always leads to damage, if not to ruin. The whole country applauds the enterprise, and thus stimulates adventure. Give us the prudent general. To a daring, reckless man we would never intrust a ship or an army. To such we do not entrust our money and our factories, and why should we venture with them the lives of our brave soldiers, and our country's freedom.

Changes are talked of, in high places, which may greatly affect the conduct of the war. We shall rejoice to find knowledge, skill, energy, and prudence, all combined, in the guidance of our armies.

The South on the Offers of Mediation, and on the Northern Overtures. The people of the South profess to be as spunky about foreign mediation, as the North. They are fearful that a compromise might be proposed which would give the North part of the Territory they claim. How could a mediating Power pretend to take from us, Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware, Maryland, and all that we hold of Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Tennessee? Such a compromise is suggested by a mediating friend, would be a thing unheard of. The South want no mediation, no compromise. The Richmond Inquirer, speaking on this subject, says:

"France would offer to bargain with us for European recognition of our independence on the terms of giving up certain portions of the States forming the Confederacy, and making some kind of engagement concerning our domestic institutions, which might conciliate the contending and snivelling public opinion of Europe. Neither one nor the other of these things are our Government a right to do. No proposal of such a kind has it the right to entertain. The negotiation would necessarily break down, and at the end of six months fighting would begin again. Our army, we believe, would rather make one job of it."

Speaking of the overtures proposed by Southern sympathizers in the North, after an indignant rejection and much opprobrious language, the Inquirer adds:

"We shall not be unwilling to trade with them—holding our noses a little—and to show them all suitable civilities—but at a proper distance.

"If Europe makes overtures of friendship—if the great North-west comes crawling to our feet—it is because you stand there, Confederate soldiers, under your glorious battle-flags, and defy all the ends of the earth to haul it down."

And again it says:

"Nobody will be so happy to hail peace and friendship with the North-west as we shall be; but they must call back and chain up their hell-hounds. This is the first step; after that, as much right-hand fellowship as you please. At this moment, the very name of the 'Great North-west' has become a nuisance."

The Richmond Examiner says:

have some remarks to make hereafter, on the former. The Bankrupt bill is laid over. The Missouri Emancipation bill has a poor prospect. The Letter-of-Marque bill is important, and should be passed into a law. The call for an extra meeting of the Senate, (the new Senate,) is indicative of something important in the President's mind. Possibly it may be a modification of the Cabinet, and the war policy. A few days will reveal the object.

PRESBYTERIAL NOTICES. THE PRESBYTERY OF HIGHLAND, Kansas, stands adjourned to meet in Charles, on Wednesday, April 1st, at 7 o'clock P. M. Sessional Records to be presented for examination. J. G. REASHER, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF IOWA will hold its next stated meeting in the Presbyterian church of Mt. Pleasant, on the second Tuesday of April, (14th day,) at P. M. Statistical Reports and Sessional Records, must be presented. GEO. D. STEWART, Stated Clerk.

General News. Tax Law Decisions. Henry Miller sends us the Citizens' Edition of the Tax Law Decisions, Alphabetically Arranged, together with a Complete Stamp Directory. It is valuable.

Beaver Female Seminary. Advertised in our columns, is one of our literary institutions which will deserve the attention of parents and guardians. Mr. Mercer is an experienced and successful teacher.

The Continental Monthly. The March number contains many excellent articles. We notice particularly that on Turkey, and the one on the Union, by Hon. R. J. Walker, are valuable contributions on politics.

Western Pennsylvania Hospital. The Annual Report speaks of the transfer of the insane from the building in the Ninth Ward, to the Hospital at Dixon, where they have the best accommodations. The old building has been transferred, for use, to the United States, and is occupied by invalids of the army.

Personal. Our former partner and esteemed friend, Stephen Little, Esq., Auditor of the Northern Central Railway, has just paid us a short visit. We had occasion to pass over the Northern Central a short time since, and found it much improved. A number of new passenger cars have been placed upon it, which are easy and comfortable. Under its present good management it bids fair to be one of the best and most expeditious roads in the country.

Indiana. The opposition party in this State seemed, for a time, to be carrying things before them with a high hand. A reaction is now beginning to be manifested. There was an immense meeting at Indianapolis, a few days ago, estimated at thirty thousand, at which speeches were made and resolutions adopted, of a strongly patriotic character. One of the resolutions declares:

"That resistance to law is revolutionary in its nature, and that no authority is derived from the Government in the execution of the revenue, conscription, or any other law of the United States, which will promptly and suppressed by the loyal people of Indiana."

This language becomes frenzied. Every good man must be a patriot.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 1.—In the United States District Court yesterday, four persons, charged with aiding the military authority in the arrest of deserters, were convicted of treason.

The minority Legislature is still absent, and unless a compromise is effected with the majority, there will be no further legislation the present session.

Attempt to Assassinate Gen. Banks. NEW-ORLEANS, Feb. 12.—This evening, as Gen. Banks was passing out of the ladies' entrance to the City Hotel, for the purpose of attending to the military affairs, and before he stepped into his carriage, a pistol was discharged from the recess in the wall, and a ball whizzed close to the person of the General, and close to the head of the assassin.

The General was notified, and the assassin escaped through the crowd. The police are on his track, and he cannot long evade them. From the report made by the President's signature to be a law.

The President has by proclamation called an extraordinary session of the Senate, to meet at noon the 4th of March, to receive and act upon such communications as may be made to it on the part of the Executive. These mainly, if not altogether, will include military and civil nominations.

The Senate concurred in all the House's amendments to the Conscription bill, and made no new ones. The bill, therefore, needs only the President's signature to be a law.

Soldiers are now discharged here at the rate of two regiments of privates and thirty officers a week; a large proportion of whom are nine months' men, and eighty millions. The civil or miscellaneous bill is still pending.

Commercial. PITTSBURGH MARKET. WEDNESDAY, March 2, 1863. ASHES—Soda Ash, 48 1/2; Potash, 48 1/2. PEAS—Prime White, 22 1/2 per bushel. BEANS—Shelled, 18 1/2; Green, 18 1/2. CORN—Yellow, 18 1/2; White, 18 1/2. FLOUR—Superior, 2 1/2; Extra Family, 2 1/2. RICE—Prime, 12 1/2; Extra, 12 1/2. SUGAR—Cane, 12 1/2; Coffee, 12 1/2. TEA—China, 12 1/2; India, 12 1/2. SPICES—Pepper, 12 1/2; Cloves, 12 1/2. OILS—Lard, 12 1/2; Tallow, 12 1/2. HONEY—Clover, 12 1/2; Orange, 12 1/2. BUTTER—Prime, 12 1/2; Extra, 12 1/2. EGGS—Fresh, 12 1/2; Dried, 12 1/2. CATTLE—Prime, 12 1/2; Common, 12 1/2. SHEEP—Prime, 12 1/2; Common, 12 1/2. PORK—Prime, 12 1/2; Common, 12 1/2. BACON—Prime, 12 1/2; Common, 12 1/2. LARD—Prime, 12 1/2; Common, 12 1/2. TALLOW—Prime, 12 1/2; Common, 12 1/2.

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