THE WEEKLY SUN

EAST BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 1865.

"Treason Defined Again"

In the case of Mr. Brown, "Rebellion" we have rather severe of the atrocities of the rebels applying to a punishment of treason not rebellion. Gorrie is the Southern Wilkes, who, a few years before the close of the war, attempted to assassinate President Lincoln and other leading officers of the Government. The attempt was made at a time when the rebellion was at its height, and it was a part of the general plan of the rebellion. Gorrie was to be "rewarded" in the accomplishment of treason like Booth and other leading assassins of the Government. The attempt was not successful, and Gorrie was arrested and brought to Washington. After being confined awhile at the Capitol, he was taken here to Alexandria for trial, and we now learn that he has been set at liberty, under bail, and is now indefinitely postponed. The alleged crime of this prisoner of the United States in Court is treason, and a grand jury had been impanelled, and consequently an indictment was found against the prisoner. The proposition which Gorrie made was carried out by Booth and his accomplices, and it is not at all improbable that Booth was led to adopt his assassination plot at the instigation of that very alleged "treasonable" attempt. Thus we "read treason defined."

Immigration to the South—What Must be Done to Secure It.

The Virginia Legislature has passed a joint resolution providing for the appointment of a Committee "to take into consideration the subject of immigration, and what encouragement it may be deemed necessary and proper for the State to give to the same." This is a subject in which Virginia, and every other Southern State, is deeply interested, for the aid of Northern capital, industry and enterprise, are almost essential to the upraising of the South from its prostrate condition. But from the tenor of the resolution above referred to, we apprehend that the Virginia Legislature does not exactly comprehend what kind of "encouragement" Northern people require to induce them to remove Southward. Legislative invitations will not answer; glowing accounts of the soil and climate will not have the desired effect; nor will even the inducement of very cheap land alone be potent to start the stream of emigration from the North. But we will tell the Virginians how they may induce immigration: Prove by your manner and conversation, by your private and public actions, by your official and unofficial conduct, by your press and public speakers, that it would be desirable, in a social and political point of view, for Northern men to come among you. People in this latitude look upon all questions affecting themselves personally in a practical, common sense light. A "Yankee" who has any notion of emigration would reason thus, in considering the above mentioned action of the Virginia Legislature: The people of that State lately elected ex-rebels to Congress in preference to avowed Union men; their Legislature has just deposed a number of officers on the sole ground of their fealty to the Union during the war; their press generally manifests a malignant and vindictive spirit against the Government; their public men very thinly disguise their old hatred of the North; and, in short, the whole class of ex-rebels evince a strong antipathy to everything pertaining to the Union, and an equally strong regard for the ashes of the rebellion. With such signs as these before him, the cautious "Yankee" would very naturally revolve the question in his mind whether it would be expedient or even safe for him to go among such a people; particularly would this be the case if he happened to be one of that class who lately pierced the Confederate bubble with the bayonet. Therefore, we recommend the Virginians not to expend time in legislating for the promotion of immigration. Let them give the kind of "encouragement" that we have suggested, and they will soon discover a strong tide of Northern emigration flowing toward the Old Dominion.

Reception of the Message South.

We have closely scanned the comments of the Southern journals upon the President's Message, and we find that nearly all, so far as they have been heard upon this topic, are inclined to indorse the general policy of the Administration. They seem to infer that the President is inclined to hold the Radicals in check, and it is in connection with this theory that the Message is commended. The only feature which seems particularly unpalatable is the statement that Congress has full power to decide upon the qualifications of its own members. There was evidently a strong hope in the South that the President would make a decisive stand relative to the test-oath, and it is possible that there was also some hope of a political split between the President and the ruling party in Congress. The general advice of the ex rebel press is for the Southern people to stand by the President, the apparent object being to win his confidence and alienate him from the dreadful "Radicals."

OUR IRON-CLAD NAVY.

The Puritan—Change in Her Plan.

The so-called iron-clad, seagoing, ocean-ram, monitor Puritan, built at the Continental Iron Works for John Ericsson, and afterwards purchased by the Navy Department, is now receiving her boilers—six in number—at the Allaire Works. The Puritan was to have been launched on the 22d of June, 1864, and again on the following day, but it was not until the 2d of July that she touched the water. She has lain at her wharf from the time of her launch until a few days ago, when she was towed to the dock of the Allaire Works. The Puritan belongs to the Dictator class, and may be considered a grand failure, especially if she had been completed according to the original plans. It is now decided to place only one turret on her deck instead of two as originally intended, and to place in this turret two twenty inch smooth bore guns. These guns will measure about 20 feet in length, maximum diameter 60 inches, and weighing each 115,000 lbs. We can scarcely credit that such enormous pieces of ordnance can be used on ship-board; but five years ago who dreamt of a 15-inch gun, and yet they are easily handled and of great service. The public must not expect that the Puritan will make an excursion trip to Europe until after the Dictator goes. The latter started last summer, but has only arrived at Philadelphia. These vessels are adapted solely for harbor defence, and in their place cannot be equalled, and foreign foes will find it rather troublesome to open our port doors for an *entree* when barred by such crafts as the Puritan with her two 20-inch guns.

Gen. Grant is again on duty at his headquarters, but proposes to make another Southern tour within a few weeks, extending his journey as far South as New Orleans and the different military posts on the Rio Grande.

IRELAND.

The Boston Pilot says: The "Loyal Publication Society" have a letter from Ireland. They know what it represents, and know the influences by which it is made.

Religious politics, or the conquest for the Rev. Dr. Cummings, is proved. In fact, with the Orangemen, Republicanism and Protestantism are identified, and they will rally in its defence, if necessary, to the last man.

In a country where the common religion of England and Scotland is Episcopacy, and of Ireland is Catholicism, the Republican Party is the representative of Protestant Rule and its opponents and we can easily see why it is supported by Protestants in such a variety of ways can not and ought not to be. Ever since the planting of persecution within a few months after the battle of the Boyne, the Irish people have been deprived of their rights, and the Protestant Ascendancy has been supported by the Government of England. The Irish are nothing in the way, when they are in the way, they have been, for generations, crushed down, and, in fact, treated with as little ceremony as the Indians have been treated in their wilds. They have repeatedly rebelled against the oppressors of their country, and, with one exception, without success. The long years of England's war against Napoleon, the Irish people were taxed to the extent of their ability, and, in fact, beyond their ability, to support the English Government, and, when the war was over, the Irish people were left to pay their own debts, and, in fact, to pay the debts of the English Government, which had been incurred in their behalf. They have repeatedly rebelled against the oppressors of their country, and, with one exception, without success. The long years of England's war against Napoleon, the Irish people were taxed to the extent of their ability, and, in fact, beyond their ability, to support the English Government, and, when the war was over, the Irish people were left to pay their own debts, and, in fact, to pay the debts of the English Government, which had been incurred in their behalf. Ever since, the Irish people have been treated as a conquered people, and, in fact, as a people without rights, and, in fact, treated with as little ceremony as the Indians have been treated in their wilds. The Irish are nothing in the way, when they are in the way, they have been, for generations, crushed down